

**Catalogue of Titles And Synopses Of All Current Children's Shows,
Pantomimes, Musicals And Plays By Tony Edwards
As At August 2005.**

Most of the following children's shows were written for small casts, (excluding the 5 – 9 age group) but there are plenty of opportunities to increase if required, e.g. Munchkins, townsfolk, courtiers, insects, fish, trees, flowers etc. to accommodate schools and larger children's sections of drama groups. The shows can also be performed by adults to children.

**(CHILDRENS SHOWS. (KNOWN CHARACTERS)
(APPROX. RUNNING TIME 40-50 MINS.)**

1. THE WIZARD OF WOZ 10 + extras

A worried Munchkin comes back over the rainbow to find Dorothy. She is needed to help her old friends again. This time, Scarecrow has lost his sense of humour, Lion has lost his memory, and the Tinman has lost his kindness. With help from her magic doll, Jerrapip, Dorothy takes the Scarecrow to see Dr. Laughachuckle, the daftest doctor in the world who lives in the Land of Laughs. Then she takes Lion to see Mr. Magicalis Mogg, the Memory Minder in the Land of Memories – and finally the Tinman sees Mr. Tockity in the Land of Tickers. But can Dorothy succeed in curing her friends?

2. ALICE IN FUNDERLAND 14 + extras

Alice dreams her way back to Wonderland – but just a minute, it's not Wonderland – it's Funderland, on the other side of Wonderland, where all her friends are much funnier! See how good the Cheshire Cat is at chasing mice! And what happens when he meets King Rat! Why don't the Mad Hatter and the March Hare like the taste of their tea? See the White Rabbit and the Queen of Hearts dance the Funny Dance Dance! What on earth is a clown doing in the story? And just who is the Two of Spades?
(SEE ALSO "FULL LENGTH MUSICALS – CHILDRENS")

3. HUMPTY DUMPTY'S INCREDIBLE CURE. 8 + extras

What exactly *is* the truth behind the Humpty Dumpty story? Well, before his accident, Humpty worked in the kitchens of the Palace of the King and Queen of Hearts. He helped Cook, who, when she wasn't cooking, was always worrying about something! And what about the naughty Knave of Hearts – pinching tarts and pushing people off walls! – ah, so it was him! Then we meet Captain Hall of the King's Horses and Men, who is very sweet on Cook. But how do they get Humpty mended? And how can Old Mother Hubbard help?
(SEE ALSO "FULL LENGTH PANTOMIMES")

4. OLD KING COLE AND THE FIDDLED FUNDS. 7+ extras

Old King Cole might be a merry old soul, but he is also a very selfish one. He is always so busy counting his money that he never remembers to give any back to his subjects so that they can build schools and roads and so forth. That is, until some thieves steal all his money, which means he, his wife, Queen Fossy and their daughter, the scruffy Princess have to go out to work to earn their living. They quickly learn that life can be hard when there is very little money to buy food. It's then they discover that their money may not have been stolen after all!
(SEE ALSO "FULL LENGTH PANTOMIMES")

5. SNOW WHITE AND THE MISSING DWARFS. 6 + extras

The nasty Witch spirits four of the dwarfs off to the Land of Tomorrow, which leaves Snow White, Grumpy, Bashful, and Sneezzy to rescue them. Poor little Bashful isn't much help because he keeps fainting at the very mention of the word "witch"! Grumpy has found the Witch's Wobbly Wand, but how can he make its magic work? How can Gypsy Mama help? However, the Witch is very clever. She gets her Wobbly Wand back and captures the others – all except Grumpy, that is. Only he can save them now. He needs lots of goodness to beat the Witch's badness – but where can he get it from? And even if he gets it, will it work?

6. ALADDIN AND THE JEALOUS GENIE 6 + extras

The Genie has to do all the chores while Aladdin wanders around all day with the beautiful Princess Jasmine. The Genie hasn't got time to practice his magic, and so has lost nearly all of his magical powers. Abanazer sees this as an opportunity to get rid of Aladdin, steal the magic lamp and force Jasmine to marry him. But how will he get past the formidable Widow Twanky? And what other evil plots will he hatch?

7. THE "BIFF BANG IN THE GANG" SHOW. 4 3male 1 female (Best Adult to Children)

Meet those colourful characters from the Beano – Smudger, Spike, Walter and Zoe. They are "The Gang", and they blast through a fast moving and hilarious series of games and sketches. See them in a visit to "The Haunted House", "Walter's Birthday Party", "The Magic Lollipop", and many more!

8. DOCTOR WHAT AND THE WHOOSITS. (A SPOOF ON DR. WHO!) 9 + extras

Dr. What is called by the Lord of the Time Lords to seek out two mischievous Whoozits who are apparently creating chaos around the Universe. He sets out in an old spacecraft, The Cartis – and with an even older robot called Cat-ten. They chase the Whoozits from planet to planet, meeting the cuddly Klanet and solving his Mousicle problem, to the wateroid where Globble and Blobble live. They finally catch up with the Whoozits and teach them how to have fun without hurting people.

**(CHILDREN'S SHOWS. (ORIGINAL CHARACTERS)
(APPROX. RUNNING TIME 40-50 MINS.)**

10. THE WACKY WEATHER SHOW. 11 + extras

What happens when the North Wind decides to blow from every direction? It would certainly upset the Seasons. So the Weatherman gathers the Seasons together to try to find the answer. Their efforts are not helped by Jack Frost who realises it could be very beneficial to him to team up with the North Wind. In fact, the "Goodies" are caught up in an ice net from which there is no escape – or is there? (SEE ALSO "FULL LENGTH MUSICALS – CHILDRENS").

11. THE SPOOKY SPIDER AND CO. SHOW. 5 + extras

Things were fine down at the "nice" end of the garden where Mr Bee and Mrs Moth lived. Even Mr Gnome was happy fishing in the garden pond – that is until Spider came from the "nasty" end of the garden to spin his web on Mr Bee's house. Mr Bee cuts down the web. Spider is furious and is bent on revenge. With a light, he lures Mrs Moth to his lair. Blowfly is most upset. With Mrs Moth gone, where is he going to get his breakfast from? So he offers to help Mr Bee rescue Mrs Moth – but Spooky Spider doesn't give up that easily!

12. CAPTAIN CROSSBONES AND HIS CRAZY CREW. 8 + extras

After being chased out of his favourite pub, The Stagger Inn, by the King's soldiers, Captain Crossbones set sail in his ship, the Fannie Annie, to seek out the secret of Ship Shape Island, where, it is said, the sky keeps changing colour. He and his crazy crew meet up with man-eating fish, snakes and cannibals, but his biggest problems are his constantly nagging wife, Harold the Hero, and Bert, the Giant Parrot!

13. QUENTIN CRAB AND THE PRICELESS PEARL. 10 + extras

Bobby Jellyfish and Archie Sea Urchin always laugh at Quentin Crab because he walks sideways and is not very bright. But Quentin sees his chance to become rich and famous when he finds a huge pearl. However, Bobby and Archie get to hear about the pearl and trick Quentin out of it. Then the silly pair go and drop the pearl down a deep, dark hole in the seabed. Starella Starfish agrees to help Quentin find his pearl. But even if they do find it, how can they get it away from the Big Sea Monsters?

14. CHUBBY CHERUB'S EARTHLY ADVENTURES. 10 + extras

Chubby Cherub is not yet a Proper Angel, only a Trainee. God sends her down to Earth to find and bring back a very special book. Chubby is thrilled at the chance of helping. She arrives on Earth, finds the book, then realises she doesn't know how to get back to Heaven! She asks various characters, namely Monty Moneybags, Griswald Greedy and Larry Lazybones where Heaven is, but they mislead her and end up tricking her out of her possessions. But there's worse! She gets caught by the Devil – but she cleverly escapes his clutches. It seems that she will never find her way back to Heaven – but then something rather unusual happens!

(SEE ALSO "FULL LENGTH MUSICALS – CHILDRENS")

15. PRINCE PERFECT AND THE WIZZLE TWIZZLE WITCHES. 6 + extras

Grobble is the servant of the Wizzle Twizzle Witches, namely Aggie the Hag, and Bertha the Battleaxe. He accidentally finds the greatest and most powerful spell of all – The Final Spell! Aggie and Bertha can now rule the world, except that they need one more ingredient before they can cast the spell. They need some mucky mushrooms from Dragon Mountain, and they set out to get them. Who can save the world from their evil plan? Why, none other than Prince Perfect! He is the epitome of all that is clean, upright and good. He sets out after Aggie and Bertha, aided by the turncoat, Grobble. After many hair raising adventures with spells, crocodiles and a dragon, Prince Perfect manages to foil the Witches and save the world!

16. SCRUFFY THE HELPFUL SCARECROW. 8 + extras

Scruffy doesn't want to scare crows. He even makes friends with one, namely Crow-you-know! So the Farmer takes him home to see if he can be helpful to the Farmer's Wife. Scruffy tries very hard, but everything he attempts to help with turns into a disaster. The last straw is when he helps a burglar, and ends up in prison! He is so upset that he vows never to be helpful again. When he leaves prison, he meets the evil Warty Wizard. Warty has a Master Plan and he tricks Scruffy into helping him. However, Crow-you-know finds them and saves Scruffy from Warty's spell. Then, with the help of the audience, they thwart Warty's Master Plan and cures him of his evil ways.

17. THE PRINCESS AND THE JOLLY JESTER. 9 + extras

The Storyteller tells of a King who won't let his beautiful daughter out of the Palace until he decides when she is to marry. At that time she must marry a rich and powerful Prince. With the help of her maid, Greta, the Princess finds a way to secretly go into the town, where she meets and falls in love with Ali Ha Ha, The Jolly Jester. Ali tricks the King into signing a Wedding Contract, but the King hits back by sending Ali out on a hazardous mission. Ali completes the mission and returns for his Princess, but the King sends him out again to carry out an even more impossible task. Once again, Ali wins through, and the King is soon to learn what riches really mean.

18. THE DAY THEY LOST RAGGETY RUTH. 7 2 male 2 female 3 either + extras

Mandy owns Raggety Ruth, Toy Soldier and Clown. Today is Mandy's birthday and also the day when she is moving to a new house. Mandy gets a brand new china doll for her birthday – Pretty Priscilla, who is very

superior and demands the best of attention at all times. Priscilla becomes jealous of Raggety and pushes her into an empty cupboard, so that Mandy can't find Raggety and has to leave her behind. Raggety gets thrown about by the rough new owners of the house, but she manages to escape into the Big World, determined to find her friends. On her journey she meets with a grumpy old Dustbin, an officious set of Traffic Lights, and a bumbling Signpost who doesn't understand directions! She eventually finds the others, but how will Priscilla react to her now?

(N.B. THIS IS AN AWARD WINNING FESTIVAL PLAY, HAVING WON THROUGH 3 ROUNDS OF THE ALL ENGLAND DRAMA FESTIVAL, AND MISSED GETTING INTO THE FINAL BY 1 POINT!)

CHILDREN'S SHOWS (FOR THE 5 TO 9 YEARS AGE GROUP)

1. MOTHER NATURE'S MAGIC From 20 to 50 - very flexible

This play is a colourful journey through the seasons of the year with Mother Nature herself as our guide. We see the fresh new flowers and life that start with Spring – go on an amusing visit to the seaside in the Summer – help a Squirrel find where he left his acorn in the Autumn – and in the Winter, we feed a Robin, build a Snowman, watch the snowflakes fall, and welcome Santa at Christmas! Simple dialogue with songs, music and dances as required / desired. Ideal for schools and young drama groups. With comprehensive production notes, the show caters for a flexible sizing of cast, accommodating up to 50 players. Each section (Season) could be performed as four separate mini plays.

2. THE THREE CHRISTMAS ROSES. 18 + as many extras as required

This is a delightful Nativity story for the 5 – 9 age group. It has been adapted from an old tale (author unknown) and tells of the shepherds and the three kings making their way to Bethlehem. A child dreams of going with them, and takes three white roses to give to the Baby Jesus. On the way she meets three people who are worse off than she, so she gives each of them one of her roses. This means she now has nothing to give to the Baby, but we learn that a loving and caring heart is the best gift of all! With Christmas carols interspersed at appropriate points, this play can last from 20 minutes to 45 minutes.

3. THE FIRST CHRISTMAS. 20 + chorus

A simple, traditional nativity story for the very young. Easy dialogue, plenty of roles, and when Ox and Ass have a chat, there's fun too! Carols have been suggested at various points throughout the play, but these can be ignored, changed, increased or decreased. Remember also, that the number of carols will help to determine the duration of the play.

4. SANTA AND THE MISSING TOYS 14 Principals + as many extras as required

Santa is just settling down for his breakfast when all the reindeer come in asking for theirs! When they go, Santa settles down again, but then all the elves and pixies from the toy factory come and tell him all the toys are missing. Santa thinks he knows who is responsible, so thinks up a plan to trick the two naughty goblins who pinched the toys! The trick works and all the children will get their toys this Christmas! Simple dialogue and settings with many 'one liners' for the youngest.

FULL LENGTH PANTOMIMES

1. CINDERELLA. 13 Principals + large chorus and cameos

The classic tale of the downtrodden Cinderella overcoming the evil plans and schemes of her ugly stepsisters. She is helped by the ever-loyal Buttons, and, of course, by the magic of her Fairy Godmother. Dumbo and Pratt, the rent collectors, fancy the Ugliers (that shows how stupid they are!), but their amorous

advances are constantly spurned – that is until the Ugliers run out of choices! As expected, the story has its happy ending, with Cinderella marrying her Prince, and everyone else finding someone to love! (Ahhhh).

2. ALADDIN. 15 Principals + chorus

Aladdin is the son of Widow Twanky, who owns a Chinese Laundry. They are very poor- that is until a stranger from Africa, a one Abanazer, appears on the scene telling of great treasure locked away in a nearby cave. He enlists the help of Aladdin to find the treasure, but things do not go according to plan. The two Policemen engaged to arrest Aladdin seem to be from another planet, whilst Widow Twanky and Wishee Washee hardly help matters. Many adventures follow, including the forbidden love of the Princess Jasmine, losing the Magic Lamp, hoping the Slave of the Ring will get his/her magic poetry to rhyme, chasing Abanazer to Africa to save the Princess....etc! But of course, all ends happily with Abanazer getting his come-uppance and Aladdin becoming a rich Prince and able to marry his Princess.

3. BABES IN THE WOOD. 16 Principals + large chorus

The tale of good, bold Robin Hood! History is bent and stretched a bit in this fast moving tale of treachery and intrigue. Nursie looks after the Babes, Amy and Adam, but the bad Prince John wants the Babes killed so that he can inherit King Richard's throne. Two wicked robbers, Horace and Humphrey, are hired to kidnap and kill the Babes, but they are not really up to the job, and the Babes escape. The nasty Sheriff of Nottingham tries all sorts of evil schemes to catch Robin Hood and the Merrie Men, but with the help of Fairy Starlight and Monty the Mole, good overcomes evil, and the return of King Richard from the Crusades puts paid to the baddie's plans! Robin marries Maid Marion and all is at peace in Sherwood Forest.

4. HUMPTY DUMPTY. 13 Principals + chorus

The King and Queen of Hearts are very poor, so they can't afford to give their daughter, the rather ugly Princess, a very posh birthday party. They would also like to see the Princess married off - but who would have her? Enter the incredibly rich and handsome Knave of Diamonds. He would make an ideal husband – if he could be persuaded! Meanwhile, Humpty Dumpty is working in the Royal kitchens helping Cookie with the food for the party. The greedy Knave of Hearts steals the jam tarts, and there is no more jam left to make more. Captain Hall of the King's Horses and Men, who fancies Cook something rotten, helps out, but even he can't get it right! Humpty won't give the Knave of Hearts some food, so the Knave is bent on revenge. Just before the Party Parade, Humpty falls off a wall (I wonder how?), and gets badly cracked. How can he get put back together again? How can Old Mother Hubbard help? Who eventually marries the ugly Princess? All is revealed in the exciting finale of this incredible story!
(THIS PANTO. IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SHORTER CHILDREN'S SHOW. SEE SEPARATE SHEET.)

5. OLD KING COLE. 15 Principals + large chorus

Old King Cole might be a merry old soul, but he is also a very selfish one. He is so busy counting his money and telling awful jokes (which only he thinks are funny) that he forgets to give the Mayor money to mend things in the town. However, one day, someone steals all of his money, so the King, Queen and Scruffy Princess all have to go out to work. With the help of Little Miss Muffet and the hungry Spider, the Royals soon learn that life is far from easy when you have to work for a living. It's then they discover that their money may not have been stolen after all! But where has it been all this time, and why? Lessons are learned and a happy ending is assured!
(THIS PANTO. IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SHORTER CHILDREN'S SHOW. SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

POTTED PANTOMIMES

CINDERELLA 6 cast

HANSEL AND GRETAL 6 cast

SLEEPING BEAUTY 5 cast

DICK WHITTINGTON 4 cast

JACK AND THE BEANSTALK 6 cast

These five sketch/pantomimes are each only 5 to 6 minutes long and are written in rhyme. They could be used on a Christmas Dinner and Dance evening as part of the entertainment, or fillers for any seasonal social evening. They could be elongated by adding a couple of funny songs. They could be learnt or read from scripts. They are mildly risqué, so although very funny, are not suitable for children.

BABES IN THE WOOD 7 (with doubling)

This panto is deliberately written for a small cast. Much of the humour centres around problems from doubling up, when one character leaves the stage and has to return immediately as another – or two characters played by one person have to be on stage at the same time. Yes, it can be done! This pantomime is approximately 20 to 30 minutes long. It is a potted version of the show in the main body of the catalogue. Songs can be added if desired.

FULL LENGTH MUSICALS. (CHILDREN S)

1. ALICE IN FUNDERLAND. 18 Principals + chorus

Alice dreams her way back to Wonderland, except that it's not Wonderland – it's Funderland, on the other side of Wonderland! She meets many of her old friends, and they are much funnier! The Cheshire Cat tries to catch mice, but what happens when he meets King Rat? The Mad Hatter and March Hare are even madder than before, and the Queen of Hearts doesn't chop off quite so many heads! But what on earth is a Clown doing in the story? And why does the Card-in-Chief trick Alice and the Clown to go to the Sadlands where the evil Griffin lives with his Monsters! Lots of excitement and adventure, finishing happily with a Card Guard Parade!

(THIS MUSICAL IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SHORTER CHILDREN'S SHOW. SEE SEPARATE SHEET.)

2. THE WACKY WEATHER SHOW. 13 Principals + chorus and cameos

We open at the Beginning of Time! Mother Nature is looking for someone to look after the weather. The Weatherman is selected after showing Mother Nature the Four Seasons. All is well for many years, until the North Wind decides he wants to blow from any direction at any time! This would, of course, upset the Seasons, so the Weatherman has to try to stop the North Wind's plans. Jack Frost sees a distinct advantage if the North Wind blew all the time, so he teams up with North Wind and all the other Cold Elements. After many tricks are played, North Wind and Jack Frost trap the "Goodies" in an Ice Net from which there is no escape! – or is there?

(THIS MUSICAL IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SHORTER CHILDREN'S SHOW. SEE SEPARATE SHEET.)

3. CHUBBY CHERUB'S EARTHLY ADVENTURES. 11 Principals + chorus

Chubby Cherub is not yet a Proper Angel, only a Trainee. God sends her down to Earth to find and bring back a very special book. Chubby is thrilled at the chance of helping. She arrives on Earth, finds the book, then realises she doesn't know how to get back to Heaven! She asks various characters where Heaven is, but they mislead her and end up tricking her out of her possessions. But there's worse! She gets caught by the Devil – but she cleverly escapes his clutches. It seems that she will never find her way back to Heaven – but then something rather unusual happens!

(THIS MUSICAL IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A SHORTER CHILDREN'S SHOW. SEE SEPARATE SHEET)

4. MADAME CAPONE 11 Principals, cameos + large chorus

Please see note at end of MADAME CAPONE in the Full Length Musical section

FULL LENGTH MUSICALS

1. HUMBUG!! **20 Principals + large chorus**

A new and fresh version of the famous novel by Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol, telling the story of the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge and the lessons he is taught by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present and Future. Whilst remaining true to the original story, there are some unique elements within the play, e.g. Jacob Marley conversing with Scrooge from the doorknocker, and the Ghost of Christmas Future, usually silent, has his say about Scrooge's misdemeanours. The songs are simple but effective and should be well within the range of most drama clubs and societies. This musical was nominated the Best Musical in the local "Oscar" awards.

2. THE COCKNEY BOX. **10 Principals, cameos + large chorus**

This mainly light-hearted look at a few days in the life of a close Cockney community has a mixture of comedy, love, pathos, singing, dancing and fun. The market square is "The Box" in which the many and varied Cockney characters live. The story follows an artist of repute and local benefactor, John Barley, and the consequences of his generosity. We see Harty Pawngold the Jewish pawnbroker touting for business, whilst Ruby Nightingale offers more than just ale at the local tavern! Jack Drake and Emma Barley stumble through the doubts of their love, with Tom Sedgewood waiting to pick up the pieces. Bill Drake stares at the world through an opium haze as the Rev. Rasper denounces drink in between pints! But whatever is happening, the wit and humour of the true blue Cockney shines throughout.

This gentle, raucous, sad, funny story is the vehicle for some wonderful music and songs, ensuring a memorable night out.

(NOW RELEASED AFTER ITS WORLD PREMIERE)

3. MADAME CAPONE. **11 Principals, cameos + large chorus**

A completely new look and approach to the 1920's era of gangsters and molls. Prohibition has just been made law, and the story centres around Al Capone's activities when he is thwarted by a female club owner, one Millie Malone. She refuses to be intimidated by him and his cronies, namely Stan the Stink and Leroy the Leech, so they set out to 'teach her who's boss', with hilarious results. Topsy Topsy, Al's 'night time' girlfriend is nearly always drunk, but with the help of an old schoolboy sweetheart, she attempts to clear her alcoholic haze. Lieutenant Ricks annoys Al by trying to keep law and order, but Al's worst moment is the arrival of his Auntie Gladys! The story carries a wonderful set of new songs and music, and will undoubtedly ensure this musical becomes a firm favourite.

N.B. This musical is also suitable for schools to perform.

4. THE SMUGGLERS SHOW **7 Principals, many cameos + large chorus**

I would call this a Pantocal – a cross between a pantomime and a musical! A brand new show full of fun, laughs and songs. It can be played by 7 players only, with much doubling up, or can use as many as required, giving everyone something to do. A light-hearted, mildly bawdy story of smuggling on the South Coast of England in the mid 18th century. Our motley band of characters consists of the Rector, always with his collection plate at the ready, the voluptuous Nell Paradise, the barmaid, trying to avoid the clutches of the lecherous landlord, Henry Rumble. We meet the enigmatic Lovey Warne and the not-so-bright Herbert Rollocks. Herbert never quite seems to get things right, but that doesn't stop young Alice Ferret from fancying him. Alice is the daughter of Sidney Ferret, the nose-twitching Customs and Excise Man, who vows to catch them all at smuggling. The show is full of other rib-tickling characters like Flounder, the one armed oarsman, King George the Third who is on the 'loo throne' more often than his real one. And who can guess who the Nightjar is? A super fun show for a seasonal outing or at any time.

(THIS SHOW WILL BE READY IN 2005, BUT READING COPIES OF LIBRETTO ARE AVAILABLE NOW.)

5. SOGGY CARDBOARD **4 Principals, many cameos + large chorus**

A story that looks at the problems of the homeless. How people get into such a situation, and how they deal (or don't) with it. What is being done about it, how they are treated from the authorities and by other agencies. We follow Harry, the young son of a rich and successful businessman. Fed with a silver spoon, he yearns to do things for himself, away from the control of his condescending family. His eighteenth birthday

proves to be the catalyst. Dennis, who has had more 'uncles' than hot dinners. He falls into bad company and survives with them, until his money runs out. Amy, who is a victim of a drunken father and a weak mother. She tires of being a punch bag and gets out. The three eventually meet on the streets and discover that, without a proper address, they are entitled to nothing. Old Sammy, a real King Of The Road takes them under his wing and shows them how to survive in Cardboard City. We see glimpses of their experiences with officialdom, soup kitchens, police, and as importantly, with themselves. Dennis decides which route he intends to go, and with the demise of Sammy, Harry and Amy make some life changing decisions, too. (THIS SHOW WILL BE READY IN 2005, BUT READING COPIES OF LIBRETTO ARE AVAILABLE NOW)

ONE ACT PLAYS

1. PERCHANCE TO DREAM. 5 2male 2 female 1 either (Drama) No set scenery required

An unusual love story based on factual experiments into the world of dreams. Adam and Sally meet while working at a clinic that is studying dreams. Both, for their own reasons, are discontent with their lot. Adam soon realises that Sally is looking much further than simple dream experiments and is fascinated by her reckless ideology. Michael, a colleague at the clinic, tries to pull the pair down to earth with his practical arguments and approach – but fails. Adam and Sally can only see a whole new world opening up to them into which they can escape, where no one can ever reach them – and where their love will truly last forever.

2. ONE JOB – ONE PAY DAY. (Both versions) 6 3 male 2 female 1 boy (Drama)

This is a story about a kidnapping and the relationships which develop because of this event between the kidnapper, who seems to be a very nice chap, the victim, who is thoroughly enjoying the adventure, the victim's wealthy parents, who are jerked out of their complacency when faced with a real threat to their child, and the policeman, who has to negotiate a satisfactory conclusion. But after a clever ploy to get the ransom money, will the kidnapper now return the victim unharmed? The play (both one act and three act) has two alternative endings.

(THIS PLAY IS ALSO AVAILABLE AS A 3 ACT).

3. SWEET CAROLINE SWEET. 4 1 male 2 female 1 small male part (Drama)

Percy Middleditch is, as they say, one of lifes losers. An insignificant man, with nothing going for him in the looks or personality stakes. So when an advertisement in the Lonely Hearts column brings the beautiful Caroline Sweet into his life, he is besotted. His shrewd and neighbourly landlady warns him not to raise his hopes too high – and is proved right when Caroline turns out to be rather different to what she first appeared. Percy is shattered, and his uncharacteristic reaction carries the full weight of his feelings.

4. THE RETURN. 6 4 male 2 female (Drama)

Newly weds Penny and Tom Gilbert are entertaining Tom's colleague James and his wife Alice to dinner, when they are unexpectedly interrupted by one Harry Barton, a character from Tom's past. Harry has seemingly come to offer Tom a job; not so surprising since Tom is a high flyer in the computer world. But why should Tom be so alarmed at Harry's offer? What gives Harry the power to threaten Tom if he refuses? And what is the "past" that Tom is so desperate to evade? The crushing truth of Harry's visit is made known in the final minute of the play with shattering and dramatic effect.

5. THE SHELF. (A Frank & Aggie story) 4 2 male 2 female (Comedy) Basic scenery required

Tea slurping Aggie wants her husband Frank to put a shelf up for her in the lounge, but Frank doesn't fancy the idea and keeps putting it off. Frank's best mate Alf commiserates with Frank at the pub where they discuss the situation at great length, if not in great depth. Daughter Monica doesn't help when she starts wailing, having discovered that she was born five years earlier than planned. Aggie gives Frank a hard time, so Alf makes an incredible suggestion. Why not simply put the blasted shelf up and have done with it! It takes a long time for this to sink in to Frank's brain, but he agrees, since Alf points out that Frank has not 'backed down' because *he* has decided to do it. The two friends go to much trouble getting all the necessary tools together, but Frank is not ready for Aggie's reaction when he says he's ready to do the job!

6. A BIT ON THE SIDE. (A Frank & Aggie story) 5 2 male 3 female (Comedy) Basic scenery required

Frank being out of work isn't helping the family budget, so Aggie threatens to cut back on spending, including Frank's beer money, unless he gets a job. Alf's garden needs weeding and the lawn cutting, so he suggests Frank helps out – for his beer money. It seems a good compromise, but they have forgotten that daughter Monica has been upsetting the neighbours, especially Mrs Clegghorn, by coming home drunk every night and creating a racket. So it's only after a few days in Alf's garden that the man from DHSS arrives with information that Frank is moonlighting. There doesn't look any way out of a certain prosecution, until Monica arrives home early and reveals some information of her own which changes the whole situation!

7. DINNER IS SERVED, MY LADY. (A Frank & Aggie Story) 6 2 male 4 female (Comedy) B.s.r.

Snooty Mrs Clegghorn has the lead in the local play, written and directed by the vicar's wife, mousy Mrs Connors. Aggie is offered the part as maid to Mrs Clegghorn, with just one line to say. However, Aggie believes this could be the start of something big and accepts. Husband Frank and daughter Monica are not very happy with the situation because Aggie says she wants them to help her learn her lines....sorry...line! Frank, because it is going to affect his drinking time with his mate, Alf, and Monica because it may affect her love life. Aggie rehearses and works hard to perfect her part, only to be told a week before the play that she is no longer wanted because the person cast as the maid originally wants the part back – and it just happens to be Mrs Clegghorn's sister. Aggie is devastated and even Frank and Monica think it unfair. However, with just a few days to go, Mrs Clegghorn develops flu and laryngitis, and is bedridden. So Mrs Connors offers the lead part to Aggie, which means all social appointments are put on hold to help Aggie learn her lines!

8. 'MORNIN' VICAR. (A Frank & Aggie story) 10 6 male 4 female (Comedy) Basic scenery required

Frank and Aggie get a visit from the new vicar and his wife. They are trying to encourage people to go to church on Sundays. Frank is not happy since it would interfere with his Sunday morning dominoes down the Pig and Whistle, while Monica would still be in bed getting over the night before! However, Aggie thinks they should go, if only to try to save Monica from her questionable lifestyle. Mrs Clegghorn, the stuck up neighbour hears that Aggie has shown interest and calls to 'break the ice' by introducing a singing rehearsal of a Sunday hymn. Her banshee wailing actually gives the next-door cat a fit and a heart attack. Aggie has now changed her mind, but how can they get out of going to church? Frank's friend, Alf comes up with a corker. They claim to have been converted to Buddhism, and dress accordingly, with plastic bald wigs and incense sticks. The vicar is not convinced but can do nothing about it. They are about to celebrate when a ring on the doorbell reveals two genuine Buddhists who have heard of Frank and Aggie's conversion and invite them to their temple! They are saved from an unusual source – Monica's aforementioned lifestyle!

9. BECAUSE OF THE CHILDREN. 4 1 male 3 female (A love story) No set scenery required

Beth Rolston is a single mum since her husband walked out eighteen months ago, but she is content on her own, bringing up her daughter Amy. Her best friend, Karen Hobbs tries to make her think of finding a man, especially when Gregory Carter turns up in the area. Gregory takes his son Elliot to Amy's school, and, after a bad start, the two children get on like a house on fire. Amy invites Elliot to her birthday party. Beth is surprised she feels excited and flustered when Gregory says he will bring Elliot. Why not his wife – if he's got one? Elliot wants to see Amy again, so Gregory suggests a day out, finishing it by asking Beth out for a meal in the evening. Beth's mother baby-sits, but is sceptical about her daughter dating a stranger. However, Gregory soon wins her over with his charm. Beth hadn't been looking for romance, but she finds it, and all because of the children!

10. SCHOOL BELLES. 7 4 male 3 female (Comedy) No set scenery required

This play is simply a light-hearted romp that suggests the possible initial reaction of three grammar school lads when they hear, for the first time, that girls are to be allowed to attend the school, due to the introduction of Comprehensive schools. Can the girls win the boys over? Do they need to? Their argument ends in three hilarious cameos – but will they work? There is an interesting mix of stylisation, choreography, verse, cameos and straight play, which should make for an unusual production.

11. NIGEL'S LAW **8** **5 male** **3 female** **+ extras** **(Comedy)** **Basic scenery required**

Nigel is a walking disaster area. He says that Murphy's Law, 'when all that can go wrong, does,' has nothing on him, so he has re-named it Nigel's Law. Which is why he is amazed when the gorgeous Louise asks him for a date. He decides to take her for a meal. Nigel's parents are very surprised to the point of assuming he's mixing with druggies! Of course, he arrives late for his date, knocks on the wrong door and annoys Louise's neighbours, but he finally gets her to the restaurant. An ordinary French waiter is then turned into a gibbering nervous wreck by Nigel's antics, and Louise doesn't look too pleased, either. Nigel soon learns that it wasn't his good looks or macho image that prompted Louise to ask him out, but he is philosophical about it and returns to work the next day. A new girl, who has started working in the packing department, drops a box on his foot. Could Nigel have found a soul mate.....?

PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS. A SKETCH **2** **1 male** **1 female** **(Comedy)** **No set scenery required**

A husband and wife sit thinking many and various thoughts about each other, but audibly say something entirely different! A hilarious "filler" for any revue evening.



About The Author

Tony Edwards began his theatrical career over 30 years ago when he was asked to write a children's show for the Balloon Theatre in Christchurch, Dorset, England.

Since then, he has written over 20 children's plays, all of which have been performed in the Balloon Theatre between 1975 and 1993. They are still being performed locally, throughout the country, and now, with the advent of the Internet, throughout the world. Other works include short stories, one act plays, and a number of musicals and pantomimes, including the music and lyrics for the numerous songs involved in such shows. A number of these works have been and still are, being published. Some of his plays have won awards, and he himself is an award winning actor and director. He was Chairman of the Balloon Theatre for 4 years.

He has made films with the local University, training films for local companies, and a TV drama. He was also involved in 2 films for the deaf that have been distributed worldwide.

Tony currently acts with and writes for All Saints Dramatic Society (www.allsaintsdramaticssociety.com) and the professional theatre company, The Olde Tyme Players (www.oldetymeplayers.co.uk), both companies being based in the South of England.

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