

Players Playwrights, Autumn Season, 2018

Every Monday, 7.30pm start

Upper Room, North London Tavern, Kilburn

Date	Title	Author/speaker	Type	Chair	Mentor
Monday, 1 October	In a Time of Crisis	Robert Frew		Mary Conway	Peter Thompson
Monday, 8 October	St Etheldreda's Day	Iain Johnstone		Kevin Mandry	Peter Thompson
Monday, 15 October	Carers	Terry Sanderson		Denise O'Leary	Denise O'Leary
Monday, 22 October	Writing radio plays	Martin Jameson	Talk	Francis Beckett	-
Monday, 29 October	#Me Three	Marc Blake	Dark comedy	Lynne O'Sullivan	Peter Vincent
Monday, 5 November	Annual General Meeting			Mary Conway	
Monday, 12 November	Short Play Competition				
Monday, 19 November	Playwriting	Danny Robins	Talk	Phil Philmar	
Monday, 26 November	Eveline And Frank Are In Buenos Aires	Richard Woulfe		Denise O'Leary	Denise O'Leary
Monday, 3 December	Player Playwright Christmas Party				

Monday, 1 October

In a Time of Crisis by Robert Frew

Schools are closed, doctors are on strike and motorists have to queue for hours for a litre of fuel. A once great democracy is in crisis and rehabilitated former President, Orlando, believes he is the man to save it. Problem is, he has a further skeleton in his closet in the form of secret daughter, Marta, who turns up begging for his help. Can Orlando save democracy before his murky past once again catches up with him? And is democracy worth saving when the government literally can no longer keep the lights on?

Monday, 8 October

St Etheldreda's Day by Iain Johnstone

A comedy in one act. The carefree annual tournament at the Saffron Walden Lawn Tennis Club is marred only by the occasional shower – and the hearings of the Disciplinary Committee. A new Australian member arrives who is initially helpful in sorting out the structure of the event but goes on to reveal the dark side of individual members which ultimately threatens the very existence of the club itself.

IAIN JOHNSTONE produced programmes for BBC TV, devising 'Film '72' and directing the Bafta nominated 'Snowdon on Camera'. He was Film Critic of The Sunday Times and left to co-write 'Fierce Creatures' with John Cleese. He has written 12 books but this is his first play.

Monday, 15 October

Carers by Terry Sanderson

As people live longer and institutional care in old age becomes harder to find, a new generation of carers – mostly women – has emerged.

Hilary is the daughter on whom the task of caring for her aged mother has fallen. Doris, the mother, ungrateful and cantankerous, takes her daughter's care for granted.

Hilary is now trapped by guilt in a household that is ruled by banality, repetition and grindingly heavy physical routine. After her mother dies, a new burden falls on her that traps her once more on the same treadmill.

These are modest people with little education, getting through life as best they can on the small reserves they have. It is a comedy about a situation that is not funny and is becoming the story of an increasing number of women as austerity bites even harder.

Monday, 22 October

TALK: Writing radio drama by Martin Jameson

Martin Jameson is an award winning radio playwright with over eighty credits for BBC Radio 4 and Radio 3 spanning three decades. His most recent work is *First World Problems*, an everyday story of British folk based caught up in a UK civil war breaking out some time in the next five years. He recently won a BBC Audio Award for his work on a major twenty part adaptation of Emile Zola novels starring Glenda Jackson. He is also a lead writer for the Radio 4 drama favourite, Manchester police procedural, *Stone* starring Hugo Speer. Martin also writes regularly for prime time television (*Holby*, *Casualty*,

Emmerdale, EastEnders, The Bill) as well as working as a theatre director and radio producer.

His talk on the art of writing for radio drama is illustrated with extracts exploring the techniques of radio writing and showing how the medium can be pushed to its limits.

Monday 29 October

#Me Three by Marc Blake

A man wakes, trussed to a table in a cellar. Behind him is a woman with a knife and an agenda.

It is his ex-girlfriend, Fiona. She has slipped rohypnol in his drink and brought him here to obtain an apology for dumping her in a Parisian suburb some years ago. More importantly, she wants to see remorse. Via social media, she's discovered that he is a serial monogamist. A 4th wave feminist, she is willing to hurt him. Castration, or even murder, is up for grabs.

Dark comedy. 50 mins.

Monday, 12 November

Short Play Competition

Theme: Undiscovered gems

The competition this term is to write a scene which has lain undiscovered in a vault for years, but which experts have concluded was actually written by Shakespeare, or Sheridan, or Pinter, or some other famous playwright, and which adds to our understand of that writer's oeuvre.

The reading time for each competition piece, from beginning to end, must not exceed ten minutes or fall short of five, on pain of disqualification. Scripts should include a list of characters (with ages). Competition pieces must have a maximum of three actors, including at least one male and one female part.

They must be emailed to the competitions secretary, Giles Armstrong, at gkarmstrong@ukhome.net by Monday 29 October 2017 and hard copy scripts (one for each reader) must be brought along by the author on the night of the competition.

Authors may suggest casting, but the final choice will be absolutely at the discretion of the casting secretary. Writers may also come along at 6 pm and have ONE read through with the cast, and give the cast brief notes. The cast are asked not to reveal the names of authors, so that as far as possible, the authors' names are not known.

Only the first ten entries to be received will be accepted for the competition but we may be able to arrange readings of surplus scripts on another occasion.

Monday, 19 November

TALK: Playwriting by Danny Robins

Danny writes scripts for TV and Radio, from sitcoms to plays as well as documentaries. His stage play *End of the Pier* recently played to acclaim at the Park Theatre

He is host of the 'Haunted' podcast on the Panoply Network and the writer/creator of BBC Radio 4's *The Cold Swedish Winter*. His credits include *We Are History* (BBC2), *Young Dracula* (BBC 1), *Rudy's Rare Records* (Radio 4) and *The Museum of Everything* (Radio 4).

Monday, 26 November

Eveline And Frank Are In Buenos Aires, by Richard Woulfe

Eveline has escaped her humdrum life in Dublin to live with Frank in Buenos Aires. However, Frank is not the success she believed, and they both take lowly-paid jobs.

An opportunity arises for Eveline at Frank's workplace, and she takes it. She is moving up whereas Frank is not.

Eveline's friend at work tries to persuade her to leave Frank in favour of her employer, who proposes marriage. He is younger, and offers security. Her alternative is Frank, whose behaviour is increasingly erratic.

The truth and fictions of emigration are the central theme, and also woven into the structure of the drama as alternative versions of the same event are presented.

The play is suggested by *Eveline*, a James Joyce short story. The play can stand alone without any knowledge of Joyce's work.

Richard Woulfe's radio script, *His Most-Obedient Servant*, was produced in 2011 by *The Wireless Theatre Company*. In June 2012 *A muse is it I am?* a play based on the relationship between James Joyce and his partner/wife was broadcast by *RTE Radio*.

A stage play, *The Civilised*, was given a reading in Belfast in 2012 by *Accidental Theatre*. In June 2105, there was a staged reading of *Just Words* by *Player/ Playwrights*. In 2018 *A La Carte* was performed by *Underexposed Theatre* at the Old Red Lion Theatre.

Monday, 3 December

Player Playwright Christmas Party

An evening of wine, skits, songs and short plays, along with finger food. There will be hats. All are most welcome.