

# VIRGINS

by

John Retallack



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[www.schooltours.at](http://www.schooltours.at)

All enquiries regarding the play to:

John Retallack  
johnretallack1@gmail.com  
07776 305270

First performance;  
The Junction Theatre  
Cambridge  
July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
and subsequently at ASSEMBLY, Edinburgh Festival Fringe  
August 5<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>.  
And on tour to October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2006.

[www.companyofangels.co.uk](http://www.companyofangels.co.uk)

**VIRGINS**  
by John Retallack

**Cast**

Nick / Dad about 40  
Suzy / Mum about 40  
Jack / Son 17  
Zoe / Daughter 15

*All four are on the stage, sitting at the side when not in scene*

**Place and Time**

*South of England, present day.*

**Décor**

*Most of the action takes place in a suburban terraced three bedroomed house or in nearby woods.*

*Both these locations should be evident while leaving a clear open space for performance.*

*The house can be represented by a scale model<sup>1</sup> 'Barratts' home, the size of a doll's house.*

*A long bench or similar along the back of the space.*

*Three multi-purpose boxes distributed around the space, otherwise bare.*

**Telephone calls**

*Sadie, Beth, Ben and other callers are performed live by the company*

**Note**

*The play is about a family who live together under one roof in a terraced three bedroomed house. Despite individual tensions, each member has an urge<sup>2</sup> to keep the family together. Yet they often reach a point where they cannot say what they want to say to each other.*

*The idea here is to express what they can't say through dance.*

*The dances will be very short, emotional and clear – they will sometimes coincide or overlap with dialogue.*

**SCENE 1**

**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday morning**

ZOE:

I'm writing my diary for the week while it's calm.

Mum and Dad aren't up yet.

I fed the cat.

Jack is asleep.

And because he forgets to turn his alarm off at weekends

It went off at 7.

It went off very loud

Right next to his ear.

I'm the one who has to go and stop it.

He's lying there fully dressed

With the sun full in his face.

His clothes and his hair stink of smoke and drink -

He's only been back a short time.

I was at the same party

And I left it a whole day earlier.

He's alive.

Just dead till the afternoon.

And I like it when everyone's asleep.

The quiet is different to other quiet.

It's Sunday quiet.

JACK:

I'm trying to behave as normally as I can

So that Mum and Dad won't ask too many questions

When they get up.

It's Sunday and I'm home.

Right now I am on a totally different planet to everyone else.

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<sup>1</sup> a one-to-one representation of the real house in smaller size

<sup>2</sup> strong desire

I woke up in the front garden at six.  
I don't know how I got there.  
I got to my bed without disturbing the snores<sup>3</sup> from their room.

When I woke up  
I never felt so bad in my life.  
My heart was really pounding<sup>4</sup>.

I thought I'd faint<sup>5</sup>  
Then I felt so sick  
I couldn't stand.  
I was so dizzy<sup>6</sup>.

I'm up now and I'm practising being normal.  
But I'm not normal,  
Not anymore.

Last night is a complete blank<sup>7</sup>  
Except for one thing.  
I had sex.  
I had sex with Sadie Bennett on the floor of the bathroom at the party.  
Sadie Bennett.  
I had sex with Sadie Bennett.

I've always fancied<sup>8</sup> her  
And she was there!  
I was away, I was flying, I mean I was totally out my skin<sup>9</sup>.  
And we danced and she laughed at everything I said.  
And she was well gone too.  
And I just knew it was on<sup>10</sup>.  
At last.  
I knew it.

and then what?

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<sup>3</sup> rough, noisy breaths while sleeping

<sup>4</sup> beating hard

<sup>5</sup> collapse out of weakness, lose consciousness

<sup>6</sup> feeling as if everything is spinning around

<sup>7</sup> unknown emptiness

<sup>8</sup> liked, desired

<sup>9</sup> out of my normal self

<sup>10</sup> going to happen

oh God...

What happened after?

What the hell happened next?

*He picks up his phone and calls Ben*

ZOE:  
I met a boy at the party.  
He's got manners.  
He's incredibly polite;  
He's tall and thin with deep brown eyes.  
He's been in England for two years.  
His parents are dead,  
He told me.  
That's why he's here,  
His uncle and aunt live in Southside.  
He came to the party but it's not his scene<sup>11</sup>.  
When you see it through his eyes  
You can see why it's not.  
He doesn't drink for a start and drugs just aren't on his list<sup>12</sup>.  
He's got self-control,  
Not like Jack and his mob<sup>13</sup>.  
They *stampede*<sup>14</sup> the girls,  
They're in such a rush  
They don't know what they're doing.  
This boy – he's beyond all that.  
He's calm; he's not hurried,  
He's not thirsty all the time like the rest of them.  
He doesn't smoke either.  
He has a sweet scent<sup>15</sup> about him.  
I can't work out what it is -  
I want to know.  
I want to buy it and wear it on *me*.  
Calm, calm.  
It'll take time.

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<sup>11</sup> not what he's normally used to

<sup>12</sup> what he normally does

<sup>13</sup> gang

<sup>14</sup> rush, push, force

<sup>15</sup> likeable smell

If he is to trust<sup>16</sup> me  
I will have to be patient and calm too.  
I want to know him better,  
Much better than I do now,  
I've been thinking about him all night.  
I don't know his name.  
He kissed me goodbye.

*Gestures*  
Just here.  
That was so nice.

### Nick & Suzy

NICK: Hullo babe, how are you?  
SUZY: Sleepy, let me sleep a bit more.  
NICK: Oh come on Suzy...it's Sunday morning.  
SUZY: What time is it?  
NICK: Half-past eight – the children won't be awake for ages yet  
*He kisses her.*  
SUZY: Oh don't, I haven't even cleaned my teeth.  
*Pause.*  
NICK: Go on then.  
SUZY: I'm going, Nick, I'm just very comfortable right now.  
*Sigh<sup>17</sup> from Nick.*  
SUZY: I'm going, Nick; you're a bit pushy<sup>18</sup> aren't you?  
NICK: I'm sorry – I've been awake since 6.  
SUZY: You drink too much, that's why, Nick.  
NICK: Jack woke me coming in.  
SUZY: Wine makes you grumpy<sup>19</sup> in the mornings.  
NICK: I am not grumpy. Except with Jack. You're grumpy.  
SUZY: I was asleep, Nick.  
NICK: You said you had to start at 9 and it's now half-past 8 on Sunday morning...  
SUZY: So it is...  
*He kisses her again.*  
Nick don't – please don't start again – I am tired – you just don't understand what work means anymore do you? – Sunday is my only day of rest and I

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<sup>16</sup> have confidence in  
<sup>17</sup> deep intake of breath  
<sup>18</sup> insistent, direct  
<sup>19</sup> bad-tempered

want to *sleep!* When else am I meant to catch up? Get off me, Nick – I want to be safe in my own bed! Not mauled<sup>20</sup>!

*Beat.*  
NICK (*quiet*): Alright.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday morning

*Music*

ZOE:  
I've had my phone on vibrate  
Ever since the morning after the party.  
It's in my pocket ALL THE TIME  
Even when I'm asleep.  
I am on total alert<sup>21</sup>  
And he hasn't called yet.  
I always check in case I missed a call.  
It goes off loads<sup>22</sup>.  
But it's always Sophie.  
It's never him.

JACK (*on phone*): Hi Ben, I been trying to get you. I'm peeing razors<sup>23</sup> man. It's agony<sup>24</sup>. You ever had anything like that?  
BEN: I'm clean. What've you got?  
JACK: Could be gonorrhoea.<sup>25</sup>  
BEN: That's harsh.<sup>26</sup>  
JACK: Or even herpes<sup>27</sup>...or syphilis<sup>28</sup> – I can't believe it. I seem to have the symptoms of everything. It's so nasty.<sup>29</sup> I feel so dirty.  
BEN: You should go to the clinic – see a nurse.  
JACK: Oh man...

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<sup>20</sup> attacked (by a wild animal)  
<sup>21</sup> fully ready (on the watch)  
<sup>22</sup> a lot of times  
<sup>23</sup> It's causing me a lot of pain when I urinate  
<sup>24</sup> extreme pain  
<sup>25</sup> infectious disease given from one person to another through sexual contact  
<sup>26</sup> tough, severe  
<sup>27</sup> see 25  
<sup>28</sup> see 25  
<sup>29</sup> bad, unpleasant

BEN: Careful you don't get a biggy<sup>30</sup> in front of her, like -  
 JACK: Whatever.  
 BEN: It happens. Happened to Craig.  
 JACK: Sadie gave me it.  
 BEN: Not her Jack.  
 JACK: Who else then!?  
 BEN: Don't you remember what happened?  
 JACK: What?  
 BEN: I'm looking at it on my phone now.  
 JACK: What?  
 BEN: You and Beth Green.  
 JACK: Beth Green!?  
 BEN: You did it in the Skoda which was parked at the side of the house.  
 JACK: I can't – that never happened – I – I remember nothing.  
 BEN: Listen up<sup>31</sup> Jack – you don't remember anything because you were so far off your face<sup>32</sup> on everything, you didn't know what you were doing! You were an animal Jack!  
 JACK: Me? I – ? It's a total blank, mate.  
 BEN: There was a crowd of us round the windows trying to stop you – but you locked the doors!  
 JACK: But what about Beth?  
 BEN: She was as far off her face as you man – God knows what you picked up<sup>33</sup> from her, man – you're not really telling me you don't remember – do you want the picture?  
 JACK: No – please delete<sup>34</sup> it, man.  
 BEN: Alright – coming up – you sure you don't want to see?  
 JACK: Sure. Thanks, Ben.  
 BEN: It's done, man. You'll be alright. Just lay low<sup>35</sup> for a bit. Go and see nurse<sup>36</sup>. It'll blow over<sup>37</sup>.  
 JACK: OK.  
 BEN: Later on, yeah.  
 JACK: I still can't believe it.  
 BEN: You better believe it! I did everything I could to stop you but...you were *beyond*<sup>38</sup>, beyond, Jack...

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<sup>30</sup> have an erection (through excitement)

<sup>31</sup> (colloq. phrasal verb) pay attention

<sup>32</sup> so different from your normal self

<sup>33</sup> got

<sup>34</sup> get rid of, erase

<sup>35</sup> stay quiet or hidden

<sup>36</sup> (familiar, colloq.) the nice nurse

<sup>37</sup> go away, pass

<sup>38</sup> unable to understand what you were doing

JACK: Jesus. I don't know. Ok. Later on...

BEN: Take my advice – lie low.

*Jack clicks off the phone and doesn't move.*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday morning

#### Nick & Suzy

NICK: You looked at your watch.

SUZY: What?

NICK: We are making love and you just looked at your watch.

SUZY: Nick, you're imagining things.

NICK: No, I'm not – you've a lot to do on your day of rest and making love to me has to be done by 9 am!

SUZY: Nick...

NICK: It does, doesn't it?

SUZY: No, Nick.

NICK: Oh go on, get up and get to work!

SUZY: I will.

NICK (*louder*): You looked at your watch in the middle of sex – Sunday is the only time of the week you admit that you're relaxed enough and not too exhausted<sup>39</sup> to have intercourse with your husband –

SUZY (*hisses*<sup>40</sup>): Nick, you'll wake Jack and Zoe – you did that last week, Zoe actually asked me what you were shouting about – keep your voice down or I will walk out of the door and you won't see me for a week!

NICK (*hisses back*): I won't see you for a week anyway! Just what is the difference? You're just not really there any more are you? The only thing that turns you on in this world is your blasted job!

SUZY: Calm down Nick! Don't talk like this! You'll destroy any feeling between us if you carry on.

*Beat.*

NICK: You don't love me.

SUZY: I do love you.

NICK: But?

SUZY: We need time together. That's all.

NICK: And until we do 'have time'?

SUZY: I don't *know*.

*Beat; Nick sighs.*

SUZY: Hold me, Nick, just hold me. That's something we can do now.

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<sup>39</sup> too tired

<sup>40</sup> makes a sound like a snake (to stop the other person from shouting)

NICK: Oh for God's sake!

SUZY: How can you call me cold? You won't hold me unless we have sex; it's you that's cold, not me!

NICK: Oh, it's 9 o'clock, time's up...

SUZY: Stop moaning<sup>41</sup>, Nick – that's never going to turn me on – in fact it turns me off more than anything else about you.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning

*Music*

#### Jack and Zoe

ZOE: What are you doing up so early?

JACK: I can't sleep.

ZOE: I didn't hear you come in.

JACK: I didn't go out.

ZOE: What were you doing?

JACK: Stayed in my room.

ZOE: On Saturday night?

JACK: Yes.

ZOE: Is there something wrong with you?

JACK: Yeah, there is.

ZOE: What kind of thing?

JACK: You won't tell anyone?

ZOE: Why are you telling me?

JACK: Who else can I talk to, Zo?

ZOE: Ben?

JACK: No, I can't.

ZOE: Or Craig?

JACK: No.

ZOE: Daniel?

*Jack shakes his head; he shudders.*

ZOE: Tell me.

JACK: Promise you won't tell?

ZOE: Promise.

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<sup>41</sup> complaining

#### Nick & Suzy

NICK: That's better. You smell nice.

SUZY: I don't feel very nice.

NICK: I'll make you feel nice.

SUZY: Will you, Nick?

NICK: Don't sound so doubtful.

SUZY: I'm not...it's just been a long week

NICK: Of course.

SUZY: Including all Saturday.

NICK: And so will next week be a long week.

SUZY: You know I can't help that.

NICK: I know I know.

SUZY: Just stroke<sup>42</sup> me Nick, please.

NICK: Alright.

SUZY: My back.

NICK: Last week I stroked you and you fell back to sleep.

SUZY: Did I?

NICK: Yes.

SUZY: I won't today, Nick, I promise.

*Silence as he strokes.*

SUZY: That's nice.

*He continues*

NICK: It's like stroking a dead body.

SUZY: That's it, I'm getting up.

#### DANCE OF THE FAMILY

*That is, four individuals pulling in four different directions who each aspire<sup>43</sup> to be part of a cohesive and loyal<sup>44</sup> unit called a family.*

#### Suzy, Nick, Jack, Zoe

#### DANCE segues<sup>45</sup> to:

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<sup>42</sup> touch gently

<sup>43</sup> try and wish, have a strong desire

<sup>44</sup> closely connected

<sup>45</sup> moves easily and without interruption from one situation to another (Italian: follows)

## SCENE 2

### 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning

JACK: What! You told Dad!?

ZOE: Yes.

JACK: Why?

ZOE: Because you won't tell anyone.

JACK: I told *you*.

ZOE: But you don't listen to *me*, Jack! Anyway, Dad really understands.

He said he was young too.

JACK: You told him everything?

ZOE: I had to.

JACK: He'll go nuts<sup>46</sup>!

ZOE: He'll be fine.

*Enter Nick.*

NICK: Zoe says you haven't been to the doctor yet?

JACK (*shocked*): I'm going tomorrow.

NICK: You should have gone there by now, right?

JACK: Yes, Dad.

NICK: Have you considered that one of the girls might be pregnant too?

*Beat.*

JACK: Of course I have –

NICK: Of course you haven't.

ZOE: Don't get stressed Dad, you said you wouldn't!

NICK (*to Zoe*): If Jack has made a girl pregnant, then Jack is responsible. As a

17-year old father it will be *his* duty to look after both mother and child.

ZOE: Dad, you said you would *discuss* it with him.

NICK: Jack should know a few things, that's all.

*Beat.*

JACK: I'd be 18.

NICK: What?

JACK: I'll be 18 if she had a baby, not 17, Dad; it's nine months.

NICK: Don't try and be funny Jack. Goodbye uni, goodbye future, goodbye freedom...

JACK: Yes, Dad.

ZOE: You promised you'd help him Dad!

NICK: Do you hear me, Jack?

JACK: I know, Dad. I know now.

NICK: But you should know better – shouldn't you? Then you wouldn't be in

this mess<sup>47</sup>.

JACK: Alright, Dad. Thanks, Dad.

*Beat.*

NICK: Don't try to stop me talking about it.

JACK: It's just you never talked about it before, Dad...

NICK: Oh, so is this my fault?

JACK: No it's not your fault, Dad.

NICK: And now it's all happening, you don't want to talk about it? You just want to go round sticking it in<sup>48</sup> when and where you like, and when you feel like it – is that it?

*Jack's phone goes off loudly in his pocket.*

NICK: It's impossible to talk to you for five minutes without that going off!

JACK (*into phone*): Hi.

*While Jack is on phone, the following between Zoe and Nick at the same time:*

ZOE: Dad, this is definitely not what Jack needs.

NICK: Zoe, excuse me but I think I know what I'm doing.

ZOE: He's upset<sup>49</sup> enough as it is.

NICK: He doesn't seem upset in the slightest bit.

ZOE: That's just Jack, you should know that, Dad.

NICK: He needs to be taught a lesson.

VOICE OF GIRL: Jack, this is Tara.

JACK: Sorry, I can't talk now I'm sorry.

VOICE OF GIRL: You can't talk to me?

JACK: I can call you back in an hour, how's that?

VOICE OF GIRL: Don't forget.

JACK: Call back later then – bye.

VOICE OF GIRL: Bye.

NICK: Who was that?

JACK: Just a friend.

NICK: What friend?

JACK: Tara.

NICK: Who's Tara?

JACK: No one – just a girl I know.

NICK: Someone you slept with at this party?

JACK: I don't remember exactly what happened at the party, Dad.

NICK: What do you mean you don't *remember*?

JACK: I can't remember...

NICK: How can you not remember having sex with someone?

JACK (*looking at Zoe, panicking a little*): Dad, I took some drugs. Leave it – I

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<sup>47</sup> serious situation

<sup>48</sup> having sexual intercourse

<sup>49</sup> worried, unhappy

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<sup>46</sup> mad (with anger)

know I was wrong –  
NICK (*can't stop*): You go out to a neighbour's house – in two hours you get so stoned<sup>50</sup> –

*Jack's phone goes off in his pocket.*  
(*sotto voce*) Bloody bloody phones...

*Nick starts to fume*<sup>51</sup>  
ZOE: Turn it off, Jack!

*Jack takes the call.*  
JACK: Can't talk now.  
*Jack snaps phone shut.*

NICK: Who -?  
JACK: Just Ben.

*Nick stares at him and shakes his head..*

JACK: Wants me to play pool<sup>52</sup> – it can wait, Dad – look – here I am – I'm listening.

*Pause*

You said I can use the car tonight...

ZOE: Oh Jack...

*Nick surveys*<sup>53</sup> *Jack long enough to make him uncomfortable.*

NICK: Look at you; you're a mess.

ZOE: Dad, stop...

NICK: And your room is a rubbish heap<sup>54</sup> and you don't go to bed at night and you never get up in the morning on top of<sup>55</sup> which you spend the money we give you on drugs. Now I find you don't even know who you've had sex with...

JACK: We can talk about it, Dad.

ZOE (*pulling at Nick*): There's no need to get so angry.

NICK (*louder, pulling away*): You are a waste of time and a waste of space.

My father would have beaten the hell out of me if I'd been like you.

You're lucky I've not taken after<sup>56</sup> him aren't you, Jack?

*Jack's phone goes off again. Nick explodes.*

ZOE: Oh my God – I told you to turn it off!

JACK: I thought I had!

NICK: Give it me! You heard! Give it me!

JACK: What are you going to do with it?

NICK: Never mind! Give it me!

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<sup>50</sup> high on drugs

<sup>51</sup> really get angry

<sup>52</sup> a game like billiards or snooker

<sup>53</sup> looks him up and down

<sup>54</sup> untidy pile or mass of things

<sup>55</sup> in addition to

<sup>56</sup> become like

*Nick snatches*<sup>57</sup> *at the phone*

JACK: Dad! That's my phone!

*Jack cancels the call.*

JACK: Look it's off, Dad!

*Nick grips the phone still in Jack's hand.*

*Both have it in their grip and neither will let it go.*

JACK: It's my phone!

NICK: Paid for with my money –

JACK: You gave it to me –

NICK: I'm taking it back –

JACK: It's not yours to take back –

NICK: Let go!

JACK: It's mine! Fuck off<sup>58</sup>, Dad!

*Beat*

NICK: Don't you dare speak to me like that! Let go of that phone or I will –

*Jack gets the phone away from Nick.*

*Nick launches*<sup>59</sup> *himself at him and grabs him by the shirt.*

*Jack cannot move and Nick explodes an inch from his face.*

*Suzy enters – what she sees roots*<sup>60</sup> *her to the spot.*

NICK: You careless brat – do you know what all this means to us, to this family

– I don't want you in the same bathroom as me – I don't want you touching the same towel and using the same soap – you've got a sexual infection and you haven't seen a doctor – you are 17 and you are totally slack, you're a complete waste of space and time, I'm ashamed of you – do you hear that, Jack? Do you hear what I'm saying?

JACK: Yes.

NICK: You lose things don't you? You've always lost your bag, your money, your phone – well now you've lost my *respect*.

*Nick shakes him hard at the shoulders.*

*Jack is really shaken and drops his head.*

You make me sick. You *infect* our home. Go on – fend for<sup>61</sup> yourself – get out of it! Out!

*Nick finishes by contemptuously*<sup>62</sup> *releasing Jack and turns to find himself face to face with Suzy.*

SUZY: What's going on?

*Suzy goes straight to Jack and puts her arm around him.*

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<sup>57</sup> takes hold of it suddenly, by force

<sup>58</sup> (vulgar expression) Leave me alone!

<sup>59</sup> jumps with great force at him

<sup>60</sup> fixes

<sup>61</sup> look after, provide for

<sup>62</sup> with a show of cold disrespect

What is going on, Nick?  
 NICK: We were having a reasonable discussion together about a recent party Jack went to where he appears to have behaved very stupidly – then his phone kept ringing, I objected<sup>63</sup> and Jack tells me to ‘F off’ – at which point I lost it completely I’m afraid. Sorry.  
 SUZY: Jack doesn’t usually swear at us.  
 NICK: *Whatever* happens with Jack, you take his side – *that’s* why he has no respect towards others. He’s just had unprotected sex with two girls – and he can’t remember anything about it!  
 SUZY: I want to know what happened, now come on, Jack.  
 JACK: What do you want me to say?  
 SUZY: I want you to tell me what happened!  
*Jack looks at Zoe; did you really get me into this?*  
*During his ‘statement’ to Suzy, he frequently looks at Zoe.*  
 JACK: I went to a big party three weeks ago.  
 SUZY: And?  
 JACK: I had a couple of lines<sup>64</sup> on the way to their place.  
 SUZY: Sorry, a couple of lines of what?  
 JACK: Coke, Mum. Cocaine.  
 SUZY: Oh. And then what?  
 JACK (*quiet, shamefaced, not bragging*<sup>65</sup>): I danced with Sadie and we had sex in a room upstairs and though I had a condom with me I forgot to use it. Craig gave me a pill and Ben opened a bottle of vodka and we smoked. I can’t remember anything else after that. Not till I woke up on the Sunday morning in the front garden.  
 SUZY: I think you’re lucky to be alive Jack.  
 JACK: Other people do much more than me, Mum.  
 SUZY: Is that all you can say?  
 JACK: Ben told me he saw me having sex with another girl during the party.  
 SUZY: Did you?  
 JACK: What?  
 SUZY: Have sex with this other girl!  
 JACK: That’s it. I can’t remember anything about it, nothing at all – I’ve never spoken to her.  
 SUZY: What’s her name?  
 JACK: Beth.  
 SUZY: Beth what?  
 JACK: Beth Green, what does it matter?  
 SUZY: So you didn’t?

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<sup>63</sup> protested angrily

<sup>64</sup> took cocaine (which is inhaled in lines)

<sup>65</sup> boasting proudly

JACK (*exasperated*<sup>66</sup>): I can’t say, Mum. The thing is I’ve forgotten more than I remember.  
 SUZY: Is that it?  
 JACK: What more do you want?  
*Suzy looks to Nick.*  
 NICK: See? See what we’re dealing with?  
*Suzy ignores Nick and turns back to Jack.*  
 SUZY: When was the party?  
 JACK: Three weeks ago.  
 SUZY: Ben is sure he saw you with this other girl!  
 JACK: That’s what he told me.  
 NICK: And I suppose he enjoyed watching that.  
 SUZY: Can we just focus on Jack?  
 JACK: We were on a binge<sup>67</sup> that night. It was stupid. I know that.  
 NICK: Oh, he knows that now.  
 SUZY (*assertive*<sup>68</sup>): I want to hear Jack speak. About the party. He was there. You weren’t. Sadie or Beth may be pregnant...  
 NICK: Or they both are...  
 SUZY (*to Nick*): It’s unlikely – but it’s possible... we can sort it out! No one’s dead. Let Jack speak.  
*Suzy looks to Jack.*  
 JACK (*shrugs*): I got nothing else to say.  
*Beat.*  
 SUZY: If Sadie had an infection then she has infected you. So you could have infected the other girl. Beth.  
 JACK: But Mum, I’m not sure –  
 SUZY: Or you might have been infected before the party. You might have infected Sadie and Beth yourself.  
 JACK: Mum, I definitely know I wasn’t infected.  
 SUZY: Is it a rash<sup>69</sup> or is it a swelling?  
 JACK: Mum, I’m not discussing it with you, right.  
 SUZY: Is it on your penis?  
*Zoe nods to Suzy.*  
 JACK (*angry*): I am not discussing it anymore!  
 NICK: You are talking to your mother –  
 JACK: Or with you!  
 SUZY: You must see the doctor, Jack.  
 JACK: I’ll decide when I go to a bloody doctor! It’s my body, it’s my life, I am

---

<sup>66</sup> extremely annoyed

<sup>67</sup> wild drinking and drug taking

<sup>68</sup> confident, not frightened, speaking up strongly for herself

<sup>69</sup> red spots on the skin

not an extension<sup>70</sup> of you or you, I am an independent – human – being – with a will of my own – and a life. *(To Nick)* Unlike you!

NICK *(to Suzy)*: Oh just let him go out and screw someone else.

SUZY: Oh, shut up, Nick! You're so crass<sup>71</sup>.

JACK: Oh, just have your own stupid arguments! Again...

*Angry and upset, Jack walks to the exit.*

*Suzy, stops him.*

SUZY: You must see the doctor. You have to talk to the girls.

*Jack's phone goes off in Nick's hand.*

*Jack freezes, he'd forgotten it.*

JACK: Dad!

NICK *(answers phone)*: Hullo – Jack is not available<sup>72</sup> right now.

JACK: Give it me!

NICK: Can you ring back in an hour?

*Jack tries to take the phone from Nick.*

*Mum holds back Jack.*

SUZY: You can't do that, Nick, let him have his phone back –

NICK: Thank you – goodbye –

*Nick snaps the phone shut.*

*(To Suzy)* It never stops.

SUZY: Just ask him to turn it off.

NICK: He refuses.

SUZY: Give it to me.

NICK: He shouldn't be allowed out, Suzy –

SUZY: Give it to me, Nick or I am going to get so angry.

NICK: Take it – I don't want it.

*Nick gives it to Suzy. Suzy gives it to Jack.*

SUZY: Where are you going, Jack?

JACK: Out!

SUZY: Please don't go, we can all talk about this calmly, I'm sure we can.

JACK: I'm not talking to Dad again, not EVER<sup>73</sup>!

NICK: You don't have to, just GO!

*Jack exits, Zoe follows him to exit.*

*Zoe remains listening to her parents talk; they don't see her.*

SUZY: Are you trying to drive your son out of the house for good?

NICK: Yes! It's time he went! He's gone way too far! He makes me sick.

SUZY: Too much for you, is he?

NICK: Yes, he is. I live with him; you don't.

---

<sup>70</sup> an additional part

<sup>71</sup> stupid and insensitive

<sup>72</sup> ready to take a call

<sup>73</sup> never (reinforced)

SUZY: I do.

NICK: Oh? What do you do? I get him up, I get his breakfast, I make him do his homework, I wash his clothes, I write his frequent letters of absence, I lend him money I don't get back, I stay awake in bed until he comes home and fret<sup>74</sup> if he's been knifed or mugged<sup>75</sup>. But what's he doing all that time? Drink, drugs and random<sup>76</sup> sex. The boy's an animal. Sure I want him out.

*Beat*

SUZY: How many girls did you have sex with before we met?

NICK: I forget; I didn't count.

SUZY: Yes, you did, you said that you'd been to bed with 106.

ZOE *(off)*: Oh my God!

NICK: That was a long time ago I said that. And I was drunk.

SUZY: But it was a lot, wasn't it? You actually told me how you'd 'done the language schools'<sup>77</sup> when you were at college – remember? You never used a condom then. Or am I wrong?

NICK: Long time ago.

SUZY: You actually boasted<sup>78</sup> about it on our first night.

NICK: It was a different world then, you know that.

SUZY: Women still had babies, Nick.

NICK: Not from me they didn't.

SUZY: But you don't actually have a clue<sup>79</sup>, do you? Did you ever go back to those one-night stands and check?

NICK: 'Course not, no one did.

SUZY: Jack had a condom with him.

NICK: But he didn't use it!

SUZY: But he will. Unlike you, he will. You're such a hypocrite<sup>80</sup>. Jack is only a beginner...

NICK: Not a beginner at getting trashed<sup>81</sup> that he's got a hangover<sup>82</sup> that goes on for two days! Not a beginner at getting completely mashed<sup>83</sup> when he goes out on a Saturday night!

SUZY: We don't know if it's true, it's only what Ben says.

NICK: But nor does Jack know! Hours passed that he can't remember because he

---

<sup>74</sup> worry

<sup>75</sup> attacked and robbed

<sup>76</sup> casual, by chance

<sup>77</sup> picked up foreign girls studying at language schools in Britain

<sup>78</sup> talked proudly

<sup>79</sup> any idea at all

<sup>80</sup> untruthful, a person with double standards

<sup>81</sup> smashed with drink and drugs

<sup>82</sup> feeling ill after drinking too much alcohol

<sup>83</sup> see 82

was so far off his face<sup>84</sup>!

Zoe comes forward.

ZOE: He's with a group who are really into using stuff.<sup>85</sup>

NICK: How long have you been there?

ZOE: Since Jack went.

NICK (*rattled*<sup>86</sup>): Oh. I thought you'd gone.

SUZY: She'll cope<sup>87</sup>. Zoe's very mature. Aren't you, Zo?

ZOE: Yes, Mum.

SUZY (*to Nick*): Anyway, you should *talk* to him – not shout and scream – you're close to him and once this blows over<sup>88</sup>, I know he'll listen to you.

NICK: Why me? Why not you?

SUZY: You're his father, Nick. And that's our arrangement.

*Pause.*

NICK: You stay out, I stay in?

SUZY: Put it how you like, it's too late to change now.

NICK: Every time I see Jack I want to throw something at him! Help out – I need help, Suzy. I can't talk to him without losing it. I can't manage him.

SUZY: Just talk *with* him. You don't have to *say* anything. Just ask. And listen. See it from his side. I'll talk to him too.

NICK: When?

SUZY: As soon as I get a chance; I've talked with Zoe a lot. Haven't I, Zo?

ZOE: Yes, Mum.

SUZY: We have our 'kitchen conversations'. They're very frank<sup>89</sup>. We talk about everything. (*To Zoe*) That's right, isn't it?

ZOE: Yes, Mum.

SUZY: The first time when you were twelve and quite often since, haven't we?

ZOE: Yes.

SUZY: Have you ever really done that with Jack?

NICK: No.

SUZY: So try it! It's not too late – it will have a big impact<sup>90</sup>. Especially coming from you.

ZOE: Can I say something?

SUZY: Of course.

ZOE: You do give me a bit of a lecture<sup>91</sup> – is Dad going to do that?

SUZY: No of course not. I don't do that, do I?

---

<sup>84</sup> so different from his normal self

<sup>85</sup> taking drugs

<sup>86</sup> worried, unnerved

<sup>87</sup> manage, deal with it

<sup>88</sup> this crisis passes

<sup>89</sup> open and honest

<sup>90</sup> deep impression

<sup>91</sup> a speech delivered before an audience, for instruction or reproof; "tell me off a bit"

ZOE: Yes, you do – you go on about equipment and all the dangers and risks – I don't think Jack needs that at the moment.

SUZY: And just what do you suggest we should do?

ZOE: Talk to him about how he's feeling.

SUZY: Don't patronize<sup>92</sup> me, Zoe.

ZOE: There you go!

SUZY: What do you mean, 'there I go'?

ZOE: You get impatient with me when I ask questions. You always do the same thing. You start to move around the kitchen, cutting things in half, onions, bread, meat, you start sawing away, you have to be busy – because you won't talk about feelings, you just carry on, chop, chop, chop. 'You must carry a condom. You must go on the pill.' You never stop, Mum. Your talks are lectures, sex lectures and they're actually the same as the ones we get at school every year. All one-way.

SUZY: Right.

ZOE: They're not 'conversations'.

SUZY: I've got the point.

ZOE: Can I say one more thing, Mum?

*Suzy nods tightly.*<sup>93</sup>

He won't trust Dad again for ages.

SUZY: No, I suppose not.

ZOE: So it's important he trusts you.

SUZY: Of course, Zoe.

ZOE: So you have to talk to him.

NICK: Fine by me.

ZOE: He's really really upset by how you were to him, Dad.

*Nick and Suzy both look at Zoe and say nothing.*

I'm going to find him now.

SUZY: Yes, thank you, Zoe.

*Exit Zoe.*

I think you are taking out<sup>94</sup> your sexual frustration on Jack.

NICK: Really?

SUZY: Yup<sup>95</sup>. I think fathers do it a lot when their boys are becoming young men.

NICK: Who else is there to take it out on when their wives are frigid<sup>96</sup>?

SUZY: There is no way I am frigid.

NICK: Yes, you bloody are.

---

<sup>92</sup> talk down to (as if superior)

<sup>93</sup> firmly

<sup>94</sup> express (something) by imposing it on (sb.)

<sup>95</sup> (colloq.) yes

<sup>96</sup> cold sexually, disliking sexual contact

7 Sept – 17 Oct 2015

**ANNAPURNA** by Sharr White

Twenty years ago, Emma walked out on her husband, cowboy-poet Ulysses, after a terrible incident in the middle of the night, never to return again. She took with her, their then five year old son, who now, an adult, wishes to see his father. Emma is determined to track down her ex-alcoholic husband to save her son a shocking encounter. She finds him, living in a Colorado mountain trailer park, where he still works on his epic poem „Annapurna“ and still hasn't figured out why his family vanished on that fateful night. When Emma eventually leads Ulysses through a demon-laden memory ride, she finds herself fighting an emotional battle she'd long since put behind her.

2 Nov – 22 Dec 2015

**PYGMALION** by Bernard Shaw

Professor of phonetics, Henry Higgins, makes a bet with his friend, Colonel Pickering, that he can train an uneducated Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, to pass for a duchess at an ambassador's garden party by teaching her to assume a veneer of gentility, the most important element of which, he believes, is impeccable speech. As the confirmed bachelor strives mercilessly to succeed with his unusual social experiment, Shaw examines with his trademark wit, issues of class and women's independence and presents the audience with a delightful battle between these two iconic characters.

18 Jan – 20 Feb 2016

**GROUPIE** by Arnold Wesker

Matty Beancourt, a life-affirming woman in her late fifties, lives alone in a small town near London. When she reads the autobiography of famous painter Mark Gorman, she becomes so enthused by his childhood memories that she decides to write to him. Weeks later she receives a reply and a correspondence develops with the cantankerous and moody artist. When she spontaneously decides to pay him a surprise visit, she discovers that her idol isn't the shining star she thought him to be. But Matty isn't a woman to shy away from a challenge. A difficult friendship starts to blossom between these two diverging characters and their impact upon each other is startling.

7 March – 16 Apr 2016

**HELLO/GOODBYE** by Peter Souter

Juliet, young, smart, sassy has got herself a fresh start in a new flat after having landed herself in some serious trouble with her boyfriend. But there's a hitch: amidst the boxes, a strange guy is also moving in – and he won't leave. He also has keys and a contract for the flat whether she likes it or not. He says her agency has messed up and her flat is actually his flat. As if that's not enough, the real problem is that, apart from being infuriatingly introverted and pedantic, he's rather attractive and charming too... Soon the witty bantering commences and sparks start to fly...

27 April – 4 May 2016

VIENNA'S ENGLISH THEATRE YOUTH ENSEMBLE presents

**INTO THE WOODS**

Music and lyrics: Stephen Sondheim/ Book: James Lapine

What happens after 'happily ever after'? This season's Youth Ensemble production is the Tony Award winning musical *Into the Woods*; the story intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales and explores the idea of the quest, and the consequences behind making your wishes come true. The musical is tied together by an original story involving a childless baker and his wife and their journey to lift the curse put on them by a vengeful witch. As the couple journeys into the woods to fulfill the tasks laid out for them by the witch, their story becomes tangled with those of Little Red Riding Hood and her Wolf, Jack (of Jack and the Beanstalk fame), Rapunzel and Cinderella, and their Prince Charmings.

23 May – 6 July 2016

**RUN FOR YOUR WIFE** by Ray Cooney

John Smith may seem like an ordinary taxi driver, but he has been keeping a big secret. He has a loving wife in Wimbledon, and ANOTHER loving wife in Streatham and – a knife-edge schedule! By strict adherence to this schedule, he has been a successful, if exhausted, bigamist for three years. But one day he ends up in hospital where both his addresses surface. In the ensuing complications, John tries bravely to cope with a succession of well-meaning but prying policemen, the press and two increasingly irate wives, desperately struggling to untangle the marital mess he has made.

SUZY: Don't 'bloody' me or I'll walk out the door and then you can take out your frustrations in any way you choose.

NICK: I'll talk exactly as I want.

SUZY: You swear too much and you swear at me and at Jack and in front of Zoe. Stop doing it, it's violence and we all know it's that. Of course I freeze up if you come on with all this bloody this and bloody that macho stuff. Keep it for the pub. It is not the language of love as I know it. Carry on like this and you'll turn me off for good!

NICK: My mouth<sup>97</sup> is a *consequence* of your obsession with your work! I look after you and I look after the family; since they were this small I have been a devoted<sup>98</sup> single bloody mother –

SUZY: There you go again! I mean it, Nick – you carry on and I'm going, I'm not staying to be abused by a man who can't talk civilly<sup>99</sup> to his wife – or to his family. Jack is an attractive boy. He is discovering that for himself. If you give him a break – I mean if you don't smash his confidence with your tantrums<sup>100</sup>, he'll gain self-esteem<sup>101</sup>. The drugs will fade out<sup>102</sup>.

NICK: You simply don't know him. You don't know him because you're never here.

SUZY: You do it your way then.

NICK: I've had no choice. I've always done it my way.

SUZY: Then he'll really give you something to worry about. He'll do stuff<sup>103</sup> to spite<sup>104</sup> you. You see how you like that.

NICK: Thanks for your loyal support.

SUZY: You are crass, you do know that don't you?

*Nick looks at her, shakes his head, stares at the floor.*

Can I go now? It may be Sunday but I have some real problems to sort out at work.

NICK: Oh, don't let me hold you up.

SUZY (*exiting*): You won't!

NICK: And don't come back!

SUZY: You imagine I'm even thinking of coming back?! No chance, Nick.

I'm packing a bag right now and I am off. Have a good look Nick 'cos this is the last you will see of me for a long time! This is so overdue<sup>105</sup>!

GOODBYE!

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<sup>97</sup> my swearing

<sup>98</sup> fully committed

<sup>99</sup> politely, in a civilized way

<sup>100</sup> outbursts of anger

<sup>101</sup> belief and confidence in his own abilities

<sup>102</sup> pass, disappear

<sup>103</sup> things

<sup>104</sup> intentionally annoy, upset

<sup>105</sup> This should have happened a while ago.

*Suzy exits*

NICK (*after her exit, to the door*): Goodbye.

*Silence*

GOODBYE!

## DANCE / MOVEMENT

*Music*

### SCENE 3

*Jack outdoors, alone.*

*Enter Zoe.*

*Zoe holds out chocolate to him. Jack ignores her.*

ZOE: I thought you might be hungry.

*Silence*

I'm sorry I told Dad.

JACK: Why did you?

ZOE: I'm worried about you and what's happened and what Ben said. You've been so miserable, not talking for ages and you've done nothing about it. I thought Dad would understand.

*Silence*

I didn't ever think that he'd explode like that.

*Zoe offers chocolate again.*

*Jack declines<sup>106</sup> it.*

JACK: If Dad talks to me like that again I'm going to hit him, Zoe.

ZOE: Right.

JACK: If he starts on me like that again, I'm going to punch<sup>107</sup> him.

ZOE: Mum is furious with Dad.

JACK: She should be.

*He snatches the chocolate and splits it between the two of them.*

JACK: You were at the party, right?

ZOE: Yeah. For a bit.

JACK: Did you see me?

ZOE: No – there were a lot of people. I never saw you. I left about six hours before.

JACK: Who with?

---

<sup>106</sup> doesn't accept

<sup>107</sup> hit, strike with fist

ZOE: I don't know his name. Honestly.  
 JACK: Where'd you go then, Zo? You been sleeping around a bit yourself?  
 ZOE: No. I went home, Jack.  
 JACK: You sure about that?  
 ZOE: YES!  
 JACK: Sure your memory's not playing tricks?  
 ZOE: Just shut up, Jack – you're such an idiot.  
 JACK: I've told *you* so much! *And* you grassed me up<sup>108</sup>.  
 ZOE: I *said* I'm sorry, Jack.  
*Beat.*  
 JACK: So did you?  
 ZOE: What?  
 JACK: You know – the man with no name...?  
 ZOE: No, Jack: I didn't – and I wouldn't – and if I meet him again – we won't.  
 JACK: Alright!  
 ZOE: Why don't you listen? Why do you never listen to me? Why do you only listen to trash<sup>109</sup> like Ben?  
 JACK: I only asked.  
 ZOE: I am not a slag<sup>110</sup> – unlike Beth Green and Sadie Bennett –  
 JACK: Sadie is not a slag.  
 ZOE: Just what is she then, Jack? Just what is any girl who has sex in a toilet with a boy she hardly knows?  
 JACK: It wasn't in the toilet –  
 ZOE: Whatever!  
 JACK: I *do* know her.  
 ZOE: Not really you don't. And you never will now.  
 JACK: And I really like her.  
 ZOE: Which one?  
 JACK: Sadie.  
 ZOE: Then why didn't you wait?  
 JACK: Then Ben would have had her! Or Craig maybe.  
 ZOE: She's a slag – and Ben's a slag – and Craig's a slag – you're all slags.  
 JACK: Don't *you* start!  
 ZOE: You're 'King Slag' ...  
 JACK: What do you know, Zoe?  
 ZOE: I know enough.  
 JACK: No, you don't.  
 ZOE: Yes, I do.

---

<sup>108</sup> betrayed me, passed on information about me

<sup>109</sup> worthless people

<sup>110</sup> cheap woman who sleeps around

JACK: You know zilch<sup>111</sup>.  
 ZOE: How can you call Ben a friend? Don't you see it's him who makes you do stuff?  
 JACK: No one makes me do anything.  
 ZOE: He gives you pills and vodka and watches you have sex with a girl you don't even know – in a car – and that's you doing "your thing", is it Jack?  
 JACK: It was a crazy night.  
 ZOE: Whatever it was, you've got to talk to Sadie and to Beth.  
 JACK: I can't! Even if they were standing in front of me, words wouldn't come.  
 ZOE: Why?  
*Jack shakes his head; if he could tell Zoe, he'd tell the girls.*  
 You don't remember anything Jack?  
 JACK: I remember Sadie and after that it's a complete blank.  
 ZOE: So what's the point? Why bother<sup>112</sup> having sex if you can't remember it?  
 It's supposed to be erotic, Jack.  
*Jack stares at the floor*  
 'Erotic' ...  
 JACK: What?  
 ZOE: You ever heard the word 'erotic', Jack?  
 JACK: Yeah.  
 ZOE: D'you know what it means?  
 JACK: Yeah.  
 ZOE: What?  
 JACK: Porn<sup>113</sup>.  
 ZOE: No, it doesn't. It means subtle. Subtle<sup>114</sup> pleasure. Sexual pleasure.  
 JACK: Oh.  
 ZOE: Don't they do that in Sex Education for boys then?  
 JACK: We did diseases.  
 ZOE: That's why everyone gets wrecked<sup>115</sup>. They're afraid of what they'll catch.  
 Then they're so wasted, they catch it anyway.  
 JACK: Ta<sup>116</sup>, Zo.  
 ZOE: No one'll ever treat me that way. When I first have sex I'm going to remember it. And so will he. Whoever he is.  
 JACK: Just because you've never done it doesn't make you special.  
 ZOE: Yes, it does. I am special.  
 JACK: It's all up here with you. In your head. In your diary. You're ignorant.

---

<sup>111</sup> nothing

<sup>112</sup> go to the trouble or effort

<sup>113</sup> pornography

<sup>114</sup> gentle, delicate

<sup>115</sup> gets extremely drunk; ends up in a mess

<sup>116</sup> Thanks (ironic)

ZOE: I respect myself. I'll stay that way as long as I want. I have a choice.  
Unlike you.

JACK: You make me bloody sick.

ZOE: You ask for it, Jack. It didn't have to happen like this.

*In frustration, Jack starts to jump up and down and to run on the spot.*

*Music starts.*

ZOE: What are you doing? Oh my God, Jack, what are you doing? Jack?!

JACK: I'm not going home tonight.

ZOE: Where will you stay?

JACK: Here.

ZOE: In the woods?

JACK: Back to nature.

ZOE: Why, Jack? Mum and Dad will be worried. I know they will. Don't go,  
Jack!

JACK: Had enough of them. Had enough of you.

ZOE: Jack! Jack! Where are you going? Jack! Come back! Jack – I'm sorry! –  
come back! Jack...

*At the end Jack has run away.*

*Zoe is left alone crying.*

## **DANCE OF THE FAMILY**

### **Suzy, Nick, Jack, Zoe**

*Music*

*Zoe is crying and sits and puts on her shoes.*

*Suzy wheels<sup>117</sup> her suitcase around the space, leaving home.*

*Jack curls<sup>118</sup> up into a ball.*

*Nick pushes the entire house across the stage and then dances a solo.*

*Finally Zoe goes into the house and Nick sits on the top.*

*Each member of the family has now fallen out<sup>119</sup> with every other member.*

---

<sup>117</sup> pulls on wheels

<sup>118</sup> curves, rounds, squeezes himself up tight

<sup>119</sup> quarrelled

## **SCENE 4**

*Music.*

*Night time. In the woods.*

*Suzy enters calling for Jack. She has her suitcase with her.*

SUZY: Jack! Jack! Jack, if you are here, please come out. Please!

*Louder.*

I am getting quite scared in here. SCARED! Jack! JAAACK!!

*Jack, suddenly very close/swinging through branches.*

JACK: How did you know I was here?

SUZY: Zoe texted me you'd run off. That was hours ago. Now my tights are  
ripped<sup>120</sup> and my shoes are soaked<sup>121</sup>. Please can –

JACK: I'm not going home, Mum. I'm not. I'm not going home because I can't  
live with him.

SUZY: You're staying the whole night out here?

JACK: Yeah. I'm going back to nature. I am sick of Dad and Zoe and you; I am  
totally sick of you all.

SUZY: So you really are staying here?

JACK: I want to be a wild boy.

SUZY: You've always been wild, Jack!

JACK: I'm tame<sup>122</sup>. Tame boy. Everyone please dump on<sup>123</sup> me.

*Beat.*

When were you last in a wood? In the night?

SUZY: I don't remember. A long time ago I think.

JACK: Too long ago; you should try it more often. I only ever see you at  
midnight in the kitchen.

SUZY: I work very hard Jack.

JACK: That's all you ever say. And 'I'm tired'. It's your motto<sup>124</sup>.

SUZY: Well, I am. Tonight won't help either.

*Birdsong.*

JACK: You've been crying.

SUZY: I'm upset.

JACK: Because of me?

SUZY: No – because of your Dad.

JACK: You too?

SUZY: Yes.

---

<sup>120</sup> torn

<sup>121</sup> wet through

<sup>122</sup> domesticated, not wild

<sup>123</sup> come crashing down, drop

<sup>124</sup> slogan

JACK: He's a monster.  
 SUZY: He is.  
 JACK: You never know when he's going to jump<sup>125</sup> you. Or bite you. Or molest<sup>126</sup> you.  
 SUZY: I know.  
 JACK: I don't know how you put up with<sup>127</sup> him, Mum.  
 SUZY: Nor do I.  
 JACK: See, it's you who's come to find me – not him. He doesn't love anyone else. He just loves himself.  
*Suzy nods.*  
 He's a bloody tyrant.  
 He'll end up living on his own at this rate.  
*Suzy, snaps*  
 SUZY: Jack!  
*Silence*  
 JACK: What's with the bag?  
 SUZY: Oh just some things for the night – my work stuff –  
 JACK (*fazed*<sup>128</sup>): Where are you going?  
 SUZY: I'd just had enough of fighting with your Dad – I packed a bag and I walked out of the house.  
*Beat.*  
 JACK: You've just walked out on<sup>129</sup> Dad?  
 SUZY: Yes. I thought I may not be much of a wife but I'm still your mother. So I came to look for you; but the wood is much bigger at night. I got lost.  
 JACK: You've left Dad?  
 SUZY: Yes.  
 JACK: You've *left* him?  
 SUZY: Yes. Just for now.  
 JACK: Then where are you going to live? What'll happen?  
 SUZY: I don't know Jack. It's just happened. I haven't had time to think.  
 JACK: Where will you live?  
 SUZY: I don't know. A hotel.  
 JACK: Now?  
 SUZY: I suppose it's a bit late to find anywhere now.  
 JACK: But not home?  
 SUZY: I'm not going back!  
 JACK: How can I 'run away' if you follow me, Mum? I'm meant to be running

---

<sup>125</sup> attack  
<sup>126</sup> interfere aggressively with  
<sup>127</sup> tolerate  
<sup>128</sup> surprised, worried  
<sup>129</sup> left

from you – not *with* you!  
 SUZY: I'm sorry, Jack – I didn't see it that way.  
 JACK: How long before Dad comes running after you? And Zoe after him?  
 It's stupid. We'll all end up running away from home. In a group.  
*Suzy seen to be left alone with her suitcase in the wood.*

## SCENE 5

### Nick, Zoe

*At home.*

NICK: Jack will be fine, Zoe.  
 ZOE: How do you know he'll be fine?  
 NICK: It's a warm night.  
 ZOE: He might get attacked or mugged<sup>130</sup>.  
 NICK: He's a smart boy.  
 ZOE: At least we should go and search for him, Dad.  
 NICK: I really want to be here when Mum gets back.  
*Beat.*  
 ZOE (*sceptical*<sup>131</sup>): What I don't get is why you want to wait to say hullo to Mum – who will walk straight past you, make a cup of tea and go to bed, probably without saying more than about four words – rather than go and search for Jack who has just run away from home?  
 NICK: Jack wants to be alone – he'll find his own way back.  
*Silence.*  
 ZOE: When is Mum back?  
 NICK: Not sure – she'll be late.  
 ZOE: And you're staying up?  
 NICK: Why not?  
 ZOE: Do you know when she's coming back? Did she say?  
 NICK: We had a bit of an argument.  
 ZOE: You mean she might not come back?  
 NICK: She'll be back definitely.  
 ZOE: But not tonight?  
 NICK: Like I say, I'd rather be here.  
*Silence.*  
 NICK: Someone called round for you when you were out.

---

<sup>130</sup> attacked, robbed  
<sup>131</sup> doubtful

Zoe looks expectant.

They didn't leave a name.

ZOE: Is 'they' a boy?

NICK: Yes.

ZOE: What did he say?

NICK: He just asked if you were in.

*Silence.*

NICK: You weren't at that party too were you?

ZOE: Which party?

NICK: The one Jack went to?

ZOE: Yes, I was.

NICK: Oh. It's not a complete blank for you as well?

ZOE: I've told you I don't do drugs. About a hundred times.

NICK: So you didn't come to any harm<sup>132</sup> then?

ZOE: 'Come to any harm'; what does that mean?

NICK: You know what I mean.

ZOE: No, I don't, what do you mean?

NICK: Well, you know what happened to Jack.

*Pause.*

ZOE: No; I didn't come to any harm.

NICK: Ask no questions, get no lies?

ZOE: Dad, I'm not lying.

NICK: Or answering questions?

ZOE: What is this, an inquisition<sup>133</sup>? I'm sorry I came to talk to you now.

NICK: Alright.

*He puts his arms out to her; she walks into them, accepts the hug<sup>134</sup>.*

That's more like my girl.

ZOE: Dad?

NICK: Yes, angel?

ZOE: You don't know where Jack is – or Mum is?

NICK: Not at this moment.

ZOE: It's just you and me?

NICK: What do you mean?

ZOE: I mean if they both decided to not come back, you and me would be 'the family' – right?

NICK: Well, it wouldn't happen, Zoe, so there's not much point<sup>135</sup> speculating.

ZOE: But if it did?

NICK: Well, I'd live here and so would you, so, yes, we would go on being 'the

---

<sup>132</sup> exposed to any 'dangers' (e.g. drugs, sex)

<sup>133</sup> investigation or enquiry with detailed, personal questions

<sup>134</sup> embrace

<sup>135</sup> sense

family', yes, I suppose...

ZOE: And if I walked out as well, it would be just you?

*Nick does not find a reply.*

I mean, Dad, if we all left you, 'the family' would just be you?

NICK: I don't know. Perhaps you'd all move back in.

ZOE: And you'd move out?

NICK: Zoe why are you asking this?

ZOE: Just trying to keep up<sup>136</sup>, Dad.

NICK: Let's talk about something else, shall we?

ZOE: I don't mind.

NICK: Good.

ZOE: So – did you really shag<sup>137</sup> 106 women?

NICK: That's enough. It was a long time ago.

ZOE: Were you a real stud<sup>138</sup> in your day, Dad?

NICK: It was a long time ago and I was not a stud.

ZOE: So, who was your real first, Dad?

*Pause.*

Really. I'm asking.

NICK (*sighs*): It was a girl in the country I walked home when I was on a school geography trip. I didn't really know her. Apart from that evening. I remember her name was Gale. And don't ask me if I had any protection<sup>139</sup> – because I didn't.

ZOE: What happened?

NICK: We lay down by a ditch<sup>140</sup> and it was over in one second and I never saw her again.

ZOE: Did you walk her home?

NICK: I said goodnight.

ZOE: Did you see her the next day?

NICK: No, I didn't.

ZOE: Did you send her flowers instead?

NICK: Come on Zoe, I was 17.

ZOE: Don't you cringe<sup>141</sup> when you think about it?

NICK: I was over the moon<sup>142</sup>.

ZOE: Don't you cringe *now*? At yourself? At how you are with Jack?

NICK: My Dad would have been the same with me.

ZOE: What's that got to do with it?!

---

<sup>136</sup> make sense of all this

<sup>137</sup> (colloq., vulgar) sleep with, have sex with

<sup>138</sup> sexually active man (cf. a racehorse)

<sup>139</sup> cf. condom

<sup>140</sup> channel at side of road

<sup>141</sup> feel embarrassed or ashamed

<sup>142</sup> extremely happy

NICK: I've had enough of this.  
 ZOE: Was Mum the 107<sup>th</sup>?  
 NICK: Enough!  
 ZOE: Is she the last one?  
*Nick moves away, refusing to answer.*  
 ZOE: Is she?  
 NICK: I said enough!  
 ZOE: Is she enough? Enough for you? Jack has a lot to learn from you, doesn't he? He can learn how not to treat women!  
 NICK: Look, Zoe –  
 ZOE: You're going to give me some advice? Bring me to my senses? Make me hate you as much as Jack does...  
*Zoe starts hitting him and pummelling<sup>143</sup> him.*  
 We're not stupid, Dad! We know so much more now than you ever did then, you arrogant bloody bastard.  
*Zoe begins to cry. She refuses a hug from Nick.*  
 NICK: Look, Zoe, listen, listen – I love Mum very much.  
 ZOE (*still upset*): How do you think she feels about you?  
 NICK: You ask her that, Zoe; not me.  
 ZOE: Alright. I will.  
*Beat.*  
 NICK: Tell me what she says.  
 ZOE: Hypocrite! You ask her yourself!  
*Zoe walks out of the house.*  
*Nick is alone.*  
 NICK: Oh God. They've all gone.  
*Nick sinks to his knees.*

## SCENE 6

### **Jack**

*Phone call to Sadie Bennett.*

SADIE: Hullo...?  
 JACK: Hullo, is that Sadie?  
 SADIE: Yes, it's me, hullo Jack, I'd given up –  
 JACK: Sadie, I'm sorry, I was going to call you but I lost your mobile number –  
 SADIE: It's alright, how you doing?  
 JACK: I'm alright...you?

---

<sup>143</sup> beating repeatedly with fists

SADIE: Yeah, I'm good.  
 JACK: You know we were together?  
 SADIE: At Carol Smiths?  
 JACK: Yeah, at the party.  
 SADIE: Yeah...  
 JACK: Something I should tell you.  
 SADIE: What?  
 JACK: You know we had sex?  
 SADIE: Yes Jack, what?  
 JACK: I've had one or two problems – down below – and... well...I've got an STI.  
 SADIE: What's that?  
 JACK: A sexually transmitted infection.  
 SADIE: Oh.  
 JACK: I checked it out<sup>144</sup> and now I've got some treatment –  
 SADIE: Is this some kind of horrible joke you're playing?  
 JACK: No, Sadie, not at all, I've just come out of the clinic and the first thing that they tell you is to phone your partner.  
 SADIE: You're not my partner.  
 JACK: I know I'm not but I was then wasn't I? At the time?  
 SADIE: Why didn't you tell me?  
 JACK: I'm telling you now, aren't I?  
 SADIE: I thought you had a condom.  
 JACK: I did have a condom.  
 SADIE: Didn't you use it?  
 JACK: No.  
 SADIE: Why?  
 JACK: I forgot.  
 SADIE: I don't *believe* this.  
 JACK: I'm really sorry, Sadie.  
 SADIE: This is awful.  
 JACK: I can't remember everything properly –  
 SADIE: Already?  
 JACK: But I'm right we did, didn't we?  
 SADIE: Did what?  
 JACK: Have sex? Together?  
 SADIE: Yes.  
 JACK: Right. Just want to be sure.  
 SADIE: What am I supposed to do?  
 JACK: You should go to the clinic at the hospital. It's no big deal<sup>145</sup>. It's round

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<sup>144</sup> i.e. I've had it looked at.

<sup>145</sup> no great matter

the back. They just give you a pill. It's simple.  
 SADIE: I haven't got anything.  
 JACK: It doesn't always show – in women.  
 SADIE: Are you saying you got this disease from me?  
 JACK: Not exactly – according to Ben I could have got it from you or someone else.  
 SADIE: Who?  
 JACK: I'm not saying, Sadie, because I don't know if it's true.  
 SADIE: Ben? Ben Mathews?  
 JACK: Yeah, Ben...  
 SADIE: So what did he say?  
 JACK: Ben says that after we were together, I got totally off my face<sup>146</sup> –  
 SADIE: What do you mean you could have caught it from someone else?  
 JACK: According to Ben – after you left the party –  
 SADIE: I didn't leave – *you* vanished<sup>147</sup>! I looked for you everywhere and I left feeling a slag, just a bit of sex in the dark and not a word from you since – till this... "Oh hello Sadie – sorry – you've got Aids<sup>148</sup>."  
 JACK: It's not Aids! The clinic say it's an infection, you'll be alright if you just go to the clinic.  
 SADIE: Oh, shut up about the clinic! What does Ben say happened after I left – who were you with?  
 JACK: Beth. Beth Green.  
 SADIE: *Beth Green!*? Jack!  
 JACK: That's what Ben says. I don't remember a thing about it; I never ever spoke to Beth Green. Ben says that I also –  
 SADIE: I don't want to know, Jack!  
 JACK: You asked me!  
 SADIE: Don't call me again!  
 JACK: Well, now you know. I'm really sorry, Sadie, I didn't want to upset you but now you know.  
 SADIE: And why do you think I gave it to you? – it sounds more like you gave it to me – and half the other girls who were at the party!  
 JACK: Aren't you exaggerating?  
 SADIE: You don't know what you're doing, do you, Jack? You're not even responsible for your own actions – you don't even know where you put it, you idiot!  
 JACK: Look, Sadie –  
 SADIE: I hope you caught it from Beth Green!  
 JACK: Listen...

---

<sup>146</sup> lost myself completely

<sup>147</sup> disappeared

<sup>148</sup> Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome

SADIE: Oh shut up Jack!

*Music*

*Zoe returns home and goes straight to her room.*

*Her parents come to her room together.*

## SCENE 7

### **Movement/ Nick, Suzy**

*Suzy returns home.*

*There is no reunion. It is clear she is 'doing it for the children'.*

*Nick and Suzy put the house back in place together but anxiously wait for news of Zoe and Jack.*

*Enter Zoe.*

### **Suzy, Nick, Zoe**

NICK: Zoe, just where the hell have you been?

SUZY: We've been worried sick<sup>149</sup>!

NICK: We haven't a clue where you've been or what you've done.

ZOE: Where's Jack? Is he back?

SUZY: I don't know Zoe; he's 17, I can't stalk<sup>150</sup> him, you know.

ZOE: Why do you stalk me?

SUZY: We don't stalk you, you're younger and you're a girl and we love you.

NICK: We just want you to be safe.

*Nick goes over and puts his arm around Zoe.*

I'd never have got over it if something'd happened to you. I'm so relieved<sup>151</sup> you're alright.

ZOE: Are you, Dad?

NICK: Did you see that guy that came round? So are we going to meet him?

ZOE: Maybe.

NICK: Then what's his name?

ZOE: That's my business.

NICK: He looked after you, anyway?

ZOE: Yeah, he 'looked after me'.

NICK: I hope he did.

ZOE: You hope he did? Perhaps I did. Perhaps I looked after myself...

---

<sup>149</sup> desperately concerned

<sup>150</sup> follow silently

<sup>151</sup> put at ease

You are so condescending<sup>152</sup>.  
NICK: I am not condescending.  
ZOE: Oh you are, Dad, you are!  
*Nick starts to fume*<sup>153</sup>.  
NICK: Don't speak to me like that!  
ZOE: Both of you now trust Jack but you don't trust me. That shows how little you know about either of us.

*Beat*

SUZY (*peacemaker*): We will talk properly, Zoe, you and I. Talking to Jack last night has made a difference, Zoe.

ZOE: What did you talk about? You and Jack?

SUZY: About us all. About Dad.

*Beat*

ZOE: And how do you feel about Dad?

SUZY: What kind of question is that?

ZOE: Dad asked me to ask you.

SUZY (*looks to Nick*): Did he?

*Nick nods, eyes to ceiling.*

ZOE: Yes, Mum, he did.

SUZY: Dad and I are discussing things at the moment. Very thoroughly.

ZOE: He told me what he feels about you.

SUZY: I don't know if I want to know what he said to you about me and how he feels.

ZOE: He said he loves you very much. He asked me to ask you how you feel about him.

SUZY: When I know how I feel, you'll be the first person to know, Zoe!

ZOE: Don't tell me, Mum. Tell Dad. It's him who needs to know.

SUZY (*snaps*): DON'T TELL ME WHO I AM AND WHAT I AM AND WHAT I'M MEANT TO FEEL! IT DRIVES ME INSANE!

*Zoe explodes to exit and Suzy barricades her.*

SUZY: I know you mean well, but I'm not perfect, Zoe. People like me get it wrong. I want you to accept that. It's strange but sometimes the simplest things are the hardest – like telling the person you love most that you love him. I know I'm not good at talking about emotions but it doesn't mean I don't have any. Quite the opposite sometimes. Don't you see?

*Zoe is upset.*

*She cries, then she nods and then embraces*<sup>154</sup> *Suzy.*

*Suzy holds hard on to her.*

---

<sup>152</sup> politely 'superior'

<sup>153</sup> get really angry

<sup>154</sup> hugs

*Music*

*Nick, Suzy and Zoe move through the house.  
Following scene goes on simultaneously*<sup>155</sup>.

## SCENE 8

**Jack**

*Phone call to Beth Green.*

JACK: Hullo, is that Beth Green? Hi, this is Jack – Ben's mate<sup>156</sup>? Yeah. Hi – you probably know why I'm ringing you – it's about that party a few weeks ago – I really don't know exactly how to say this and I want to say sorry in advance of what I've got to say – because I know it sounds really bad and – anyway to cut to the chase<sup>157</sup>, as they say, I know what happened and I'm sorry, I'm really sorry but because of it I have been to the clinic, the clinic behind the hospital, and I've had a test and I've got a very mild infection that needs just antibiotics. They give them to you on the spot. So you must go there and I have to tell you that – they said I had to. OK? Sorry.

BETH: I wasn't at that party.

JACK: Oh.

BETH: I couldn't go because it was my auntie's birthday party.

JACK: But...

BETH: Her 60<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

JACK: Right...

BETH: I don't know what you're talking about.

JACK: But – but –

BETH: Forget it Jack – I wouldn't have sex with you however<sup>158</sup> drunk I was.

*Beth hangs up on him*<sup>159</sup>.

*Jack explodes in rage*<sup>160</sup>.

## DANCE/ Jack

---

<sup>155</sup> at the same time

<sup>156</sup> friend

<sup>157</sup> to start to talk about the most important thing, without wasting time

<sup>158</sup> no matter how

<sup>159</sup> breaks off the phone call with him

<sup>160</sup> deep anger

*Music.*

*The dance turns into a hectic run on the spot as Jack runs and runs as far as he can from the place where he just had the call with Beth.*

*Noise of street and traffic as Jack collapses in a heap on the pavement.*

*As music continues and ends, we see Nick running to find his son.*

## SCENE 9

*Nick enters, breathing hard*

JACK: What are you staring at me for?

NICK: I've been searching everywhere – I nearly got run over just now!

*He goes to hug Jack who pushes him away.*

I'm so glad I found you – are you alright?

JACK: NO I AM NOT ALRIGHT. NOT AT ALL.

NICK: I'm sorry Jack, I feel I'm to blame -

JACK: YES! YOU ARE!

NICK: What happened?

JACK: The doctor said I had to phone my partner, so I called Sadie and I told her.

NICK: That's good, Jack

JACK: I told her what I'd got and I told her about Beth as well.

NICK: That's good too. What'd she say?

JACK: She said she didn't want to ever see me again.

NICK: Right.

JACK: Then I called Beth.

NICK: What'd she say?

JACK: She told me to get lost<sup>161</sup>. She was never at the party. Ben made the whole thing up.

NICK: I'm not surprised.

JACK: But you believed Ben!

NICK: Maybe I did.

JACK: You did! But one of the reasons I couldn't remember having sex with her is because I didn't have sex with her!

NICK: So Ben made it all up?

*Jack nods.*

NICK: I'd like to get my hands on him.

JACK: So where was your support yesterday, Dad!?

*Pause*

---

<sup>161</sup> (colloq.) go away and leave me alone!

NICK: He's your best friend, isn't he?

JACK: He was.

NICK: I'm sorry, Jack.

JACK: I can't believe he's done this to me.

NICK: Why did he?

JACK: I don't know. What's wrong? With me?

NICK: Perhaps he's jealous of you.

JACK: Ben? I don't think so.

NICK: Why not? You're good-looking; you're funny; you're popular. I'm sure girls find you attractive.

JACK: Are you serious?

NICK: Of course I am. You're going to be a threat<sup>162</sup> to guys like Ben.

JACK: Ben can have who he wants.

NICK: I wouldn't be so sure. Can he have Sadie?

JACK: He doesn't fancy her.

NICK: Oh, doesn't he? A lot of guys are like that. Very cocksure<sup>163</sup> on the surface but when it comes down to it – they're jerks. They're competitive and spiteful<sup>164</sup>. They'll do anything to put one over<sup>165</sup> on you.

*Jack surveys Nick.*

JACK: Maybe he does fancy Sadie.

NICK: You should feel good about yourself. You're a great lad<sup>166</sup>.

JACK: Why didn't you talk with me like this yesterday, Dad? Why did you have to behave like a mad dog?

NICK: I don't know.

JACK: I'm not like you, Dad.

NICK: I know. I know that now. You're completely different.

*Nick helps Jack up off the pavement, puts his arm around him and they go home.*

## **FAMILY DANCE/ Nick, Jack, Suzy, Zoe**

*Music*

---

<sup>162</sup> dangerous competition

<sup>163</sup> self-confident (especially sexually)

<sup>164</sup> hurtful, revengeful

<sup>165</sup> trick you into believing something that is not true

<sup>166</sup> guy, young man

## SCENE 10

### 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday

*Zoe to Audience.*

ZOE:  
It's Sunday.  
I'm writing my diary for the week while it's calm.  
Mum and Dad aren't up yet.  
I fed the cat.  
Jack is asleep....

It seems the more sex that people have  
The less they know what to do about it.  
Perhaps the less you know the more you see.

I like my boyfriend.  
He respects me.  
The way I am.  
He makes me feel so good.  
I wear his aftershave.  
Smell of him.

Mum and Dad think I stayed out all night with him  
But I didn't.  
He drove me to Sophie's house  
And I stayed there.  
We chatted all night and watched 'Grease'.

## SCENE 11

JACK:  
I'm trying to behave as normally as I can.  
It's Sunday and I'm at home.  
I went to the park with some mates yesterday,  
Just to play a game of football.  
Our side lost.  
Saw Ben there.  
He said hi.

I just kind of<sup>167</sup> nodded back.  
Zoe said I should have punched<sup>168</sup> him.  
*He shrugs<sup>169</sup>.*  
Got a letter yesterday.  
It was delivered by hand.

'Dear Jack,  
I know I was upset when you called.  
Who wouldn't be?  
But after what you said, I went to the clinic.  
I did have an infection. I was so surprised.  
I've only ever been with one other boy.  
*Jack knowingly looks at the audience, then he goes back to the letter.*  
I really want to say thank-you.  
I don't think anything could have happened with Beth cos she wasn't even at that party.  
I reckon Ben was just having a laugh when he told you that.  
Maybe we could see a film or something – call me if you like.  
Love  
Sadie (Bennett)  
*Jack smiles.*

## SCENE 12

### Suzy, Nick

SUZY: I understand that you might have had enough. Of me, I mean. Always needing more sleep.

NICK: Not really.

SUZY: You might want to have an affair?

*Nick is silent.*

I mean you probably are having an affair and you're not going to tell me.

NICK: I haven't got the time.

SUZY: Is that it? You just haven't the time?

NICK: I did try to start up an affair, Suzy. Once.

SUZY: Did you?

---

<sup>167</sup> (colloq.) sort of

<sup>168</sup> hit with fist

<sup>169</sup> raises his shoulders out of lack of interest

NICK: Yes. What's the point in lying? I did. It never got started though.

SUZY: Oh?

NICK: And it never will.

SUZY: Why?

NICK: You're always in the way. You're always there...

SUZY: Oh.

*Beat*

NICK: Have you had an affair?

SUZY: I wouldn't do that, Nick. If I wanted someone else, I'd leave you. It's as simple as that. And I don't want someone else. I want you.

*Music*

**DANCE OF THE FAMILY/ Suzy, Nick, Jack, Zoe**

**THE END**

VIENNA'S *English* THEATRE

- 1966 MAN OF DESTINY by George Bernard Shaw  
1967 THE HAPPY JOURNEY by Thornton Wilder  
1968 VILLAGE WOOING by George Bernard Shaw  
1970 THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST by Oscar Wilde  
1971 THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams  
1972 MAN OF DESTINY by George Bernard Shaw  
1973 LOVERS by Brian Friel  
1973 AN INSPECTOR CALLS by J. B. Priestley  
1974 THE HAPPY JOURNEY by Thornton Wilder  
1975 OF LOVERS AND FOOLS, scenes from Shakespeare as arranged by Manfred Vogel  
1976 A SLIGHT ACCIDENT by James Saunders  
LOOK BACK IN ANGER by John Osborne  
1977 THE HAPPY JOURNEY by Thornton Wilder  
ARMS AND THE MAN by George Bernard Shaw  
1978 FAMILY ALBUM by David Newby  
AN INSPECTOR CALLS by J. B. Priestley  
1979 THE CANTERVILLE GHOST by Nicholas Allen, based on the story by Oscar Wilde  
ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller  
1980 THE HAPPY JOURNEY by Thornton Wilder  
MAN OF DESTINY by George Bernard Shaw  
1981 FAMILY ALBUM by David Newby  
RELATIVELY SPEAKING by Alan Ayckbourn  
1982 THE CANTERVILLE GHOST by Nicholas Allen, based on the story by Oscar Wilde  
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS by Robert Bolt  
1983 ROBIN HOOD by Nicholas Allen. An entertainment with music  
LOVERS by Brian Friel  
1984 THE HAPPY JOURNEY by Thornton Wilder  
1984/85 KING ARTHUR by Nicholas Allen. An entertainment with music  
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST by Oscar Wilde  
1985/86 THE CANTERVILLE GHOST by Nicholas Allen, based on the story by Oscar Wilde  
THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams  
1986/87 SONGS AND DREAMS by Nicholas Allen  
SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR by Bernard Slade  
1987/88 DICK WHITTINGTON AND HIS CAT by Sean Aita  
LOOK BACK IN ANGER by John Osborne  
1988/89 THE WIDOW'S DIAMONDS by Nicholas Allen  
THE PRIVATE EAR by Peter Schaffer  
1989/90 ROBIN HOOD by Nicholas Allen. An entertainment with music  
IN PRAISE OF LOVE by Terence Rattigan  
1990/91 THE HAPPY JOURNEY by Thornton Wilder  
DANGEROUS OBSESSION by N. F. Crisp  
1991/92 RICHARD THE LIONHEART by Nicholas Allen  
THE FOUNTAIN OF YOUTH by Sean Aita  
THE ZOO STORY by Edward Albee  
1992/93 SONGS AND DREAMS by Nicholas Allen  
STAGE BY STAGE by Jennie Graham  
I OUGHT TO BE IN PICTURES by Neil Simon  
1993/94 TREASURE ISLAND by Sean Aita  
SHERLOCK HOLMES INVESTIGATES by Ingrid Statman  
RELATIVELY SPEAKING by Alan Ayckbourn  
1994/95 FAMILY ALBUM by David Newby  
FREDDY AND THE CLOVEN HOOF by Adam Bridges  
LOVERS by Brian Friel

1995/96 THE CANTERVILLE GHOST by Nicholas Allen  
     DRACULA by Sean Aita  
     MY CHILDREN! MY AFRICA! by Athol Fugard  
 1996/97 CRUSOE by Nicholas Allen, based on the novel by Daniel Defoe  
     LOVE HURTS by Sean Aita  
     THE GLASS MENAGERIE by Tennessee Williams  
 1997/98 HUCKLEBERRY FINN by Sean Aita  
     SUGAR AND SPICE by Philip Dart  
     ALL MY SONS by Arthur Miller  
 1998/99 THE SWORD AND THE CROWN by Sean Aita  
     BOTTLING OUT by Philip Dart  
     BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE by Leonard Gershe  
 1999/00 BANANAS by Sean Aita and Nicholas Allen  
     DANCE CLASS by Clive Duncan  
     THE BROWNING VERSION by Terence Rattigan  
 2000/01 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS by Sean Aita  
     MILLENNIUM by Sean Aita  
     BLUE GIRL by Deborah Aita  
 2001/02 HOTMAIL FROM HELSINKI by Judy Upton  
     ROMY AND JULIAN by Clive Duncan  
     THE LAST YANKEE by Arthur Miller  
 2002/03 A PERFECT MATCH by Sean Aita  
     A DOG'S LIFE by Sean Aita  
     DANGEROUS OBSESSION by N.J Crisp  
 2003/04 STREETS OF LONDON by Sean Aita  
     WILD WEEKEND by Clive Duncan  
     BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE by Leonard Gershe  
 2004/05 THE CANTERVILLE GHOST adapted from Oscar Wilde by Clive Duncan  
     SUGAR AND SPICE by Philip Dart  
     MACBETH adapted from Shakespeare by Clive Duncan  
 2005/06 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS by Sean Aita  
     ROMY & JULIAN by Clive Duncan  
     THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND a Woody Guthrie Folk Musicale devised by David M. Lutken  
 2006/07 REVOLTING BRITONS by Clive Duncan  
     DANCE CLASS by Clive Duncan  
     LOOK BACK IN ANGER by John Osborne  
 2007/08 VIRTUAL HEROES by Clive Duncan  
     WILD WEEKEND by Clive Duncan  
     PITCH BLACK by Clive Duncan  
 2008/09 PERFECT MATCH by Sean Aita  
     LITTLE GIRL LIES by Claudia Leaf  
     VIRGINS by John Retallack  
 2009/10 FAME GAME by Philip Dart  
     SACRIFICE by Claudia Leaf  
     MACBETH by William Shakespeare adapted by Clive Duncan  
 2010/11 ROB AND THE HOODIES by Sean Aita  
     ROMY & JULIAN by Clive Duncan  
     BUTTERFLIES ARE FREE by Leonard Gershe  
 2011/12 THE SWITCH by Philip Dart  
     DISCONNECTED by Adam Barnard  
     PITCH BLACK by Clive Duncan  
 2012/13 AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS by Sean Aita  
     JEKYLL'S POTION by James Cawood  
     A PICTURE by Clive Duncan  
 2013/14 VIRTUAL HEROES by Clive Duncan  
     POPULAR by Philip Dart  
     PRETTY SHREWD by Clive Duncan  
 2014/15 SPOOKED! by Sean Aita  
     DANCE CLASS by Clive Duncan  
     THE MAKEOVER by Clive Duncan