

## PLAY READINGS – A SUMMARY OF PLAYS READ SINCE THE LAST AGM

03/06/19 ON LOCATION by Stephen Smith

5 Characters

A low-budget sci-fi film is being shot and we are with the extras in the canteen as they await costumes, make-up and filming.

This is Mary's first time as an extra and the reality that she discovers disappoints her somewhat. Two old hands, Malcolm, an embittered failure in life, and Roddy, a right nancy-boy, introduce her to life in the films, but Roddy is troubled by the suspicion that his current boyfriend is having an affair with Samantha (Sam), the (female) assistant director.

They are joined by Victoria, an elderly lady, whose frequent use of 'herbal' cigarettes causes her to see things rather obliquely.

The interaction of this mish-mash of different characters produces some very funny lines, and I'm sure that you'll obtain as much enjoyment from reading it as I did when I chose it.

01/07/19 OLIVE & HILARY by Geraldine Aron

5 Characters

Two ladies, Olive and Hilary, have opted out and live together running a psychic/herbal/tarot group in Dublin.

Monica, Olive's younger sister, arrives from London retreating from her husband, Derek, and a well-paid stressful job. She's cross with Derek as he's just left a pensionable job to start designing chairs.

Monica's not impressed with Olive and Hilary's alternative life-style and attempts to bring them back to reality. Olive & Hilary resist her efforts and deal with her in their own manner.

03/02/2020 ZARTAN by N J Warburton

10 Characters

Two old buffers, Lord Greycoat and Gervaise, are exchanging yarns in a London club. Greycoat starts telling of his infant son, Theo, who fell from an aeroplane into the African jungle. He was uninjured by the fall, and found initially by an ape family. While the apes were arguing about what to do next, the baby was carried off and brought up by ants. After many years, Greycoat launches an expedition, with his assistants Jane and Dr Wadding, an obsessive taxidermist, to find his son. They are successful, and find Theo as a young adult, by this time renamed Zartan, and under the misapprehension that he's an ant, albeit an unusual one having only four legs, no sting in his bum, and being somewhat larger than his foster family members. It doesn't end here: they return to England . . .

This is a most amusing and well-told tale, making much use of flashbacks between England and Africa.

02/03/2020 WAITING FOR ALEC by Frank Eccles

9 Characters

Time certainly flies: Monday, 2nd March will see us at our special table at the Baskerville to read the next play.

This month it is 'Waiting for Alec', by Frank Eccles.

The action takes place in a home for the psychiatrically-challenged as Mrs Wainwright, a well-educated lady, awaits a visit from her husband and her sister with a view to getting discharged. At the same time, Ethel, an elderly patient, is hoping that her son, Alec, will soon be dropping in to see her, as foretold by another patient who read it in her tea-leaves.

The Wainwrights' visit doesn't go exactly to plan: what happens?

Does Alec whisk Ethel away from all this?

Come to the Baskie at 7:30pm and all will be revealed!

There are 9 characters: some have to be M or F, but with others it's not so important.

Peter Crowther