

ALAN AYCKBOURN

Three Plays

Absurd Person Singular
Absent Friends
Bedroom Farce



"The most remarkable British dramatist to have emerged since Harold Pinter."—*The Sunday Times* (London)

Three Plays Absurd Person Singular Absent Friends Bedroom Farce

Alan Ayckbourn



Three Plays Absurd Person Singular Absent Friends Bedroom Farce:

Three Plays Alan Ayckbourn, 1986 **Three Plays - Absurd Person Singular, Absent Friends, Bedroom Farce** Alan Ayckbourn, 2010 Painfully funny plays set in 1970s suburbia from one of the UK's leading playwrights *Bedroom Farce* Alan Ayckbourn, 1977 **Three Plays - Absurd Person Singular, Absent Friends, Bedroom Farce** Alan Ayckbourn, 2011-12-31 What is remarkable about Alan Ayckbourn's comedy is that it contrives to be simultaneously hilarious and harrowing Literally it is agonisingly funny Daily Telegraph In *Three Plays* Ayckbourn's perfectly pitched dialogue slices into the soul of suburbia The settings are simple a kitchen a bedroom a party but the relationships between the husbands and wives are more complicated Fraught relationships are exposed with humour bathos and a sharp understanding of human nature **A Companion to Modern British and Irish Drama, 1880 - 2005** Mary Luckhurst, 2008-04-15 This wide ranging Companion to Modern British and Irish Drama offers challenging analyses of a range of plays in their political contexts It explores the cultural social economic and institutional agendas that readers need to engage with in order to appreciate modern theatre in all its complexity An authoritative guide to modern British and Irish drama Engages with theoretical discourses challenging a canon that has privileged London as well as white English males and realism Topics covered include national regional and fringe theatres post colonial stages and multiculturalism feminist and queer theatres sex and consumerism technology and globalisation representations of war terrorism and trauma Confusions Alan Ayckbourn, 2013-12-04 A student edition of five one act plays by Britain's most popular playwright Ayckbourn's series of plays for 4-5 actors typify his black comedies of human behaviour First produced in 1976 the plays are alternately naturalistic stylised and farcical but underlying each is the problem of loneliness The Mother Figure shows a mother unable to escape from baby talk in The Drinking Companion an absentee husband attempts seduction without success in Between Mouthfuls a waiter oversees a fraught dinner encounter A garden party gets out of hand in Gosforth's Fete whilst A Talk in the Park is a revue style curtain call piece for the five actors Whether the comedies concern marital conflict infidelity or motherhood and take place on a park bench or at a village fete the characters are familiar and their cries for help instantly recognisable Principally he is respected as a radical re-inventor of form Dominic Dromgoole Modern Dramatists Kimball King, 2013-04-03 This comprehensive collection gathers critical essays on the major works of the foremost American and British playwrights of the 20th century written by leading figures in drama performance studies **Library Journal**, 1979 Alan Ayckbourn Michael Holt, 2018 This book explores the range of Ayckbourn's work covering light comedy farce theatrical cartoon musicals and plays for children It defines the early influences and the developing themes concentrating on the playwright's technical skills and his challenges to Aristotelian unities Drama Criticism Linda Pavlovski, 2000-10 Criticism of the most significant and widely studied dramatic works from all the world's literatures *Modern British Drama: The Twentieth Century* Christopher Innes, 2002-11-28 Publisher Description Laughter in the Dark Albert E.

Kalson, 1993 In *Laughter in the Dark* a comprehensive study of the plays of Alan Ayckbourn Britain's most prolific contemporary dramatist Albert E Kalson demonstrates that a recurring character is a development of the persona of the author himself The protagonist with a divided personality in Ayckbourn's first play *The Square Cat* a reluctant rock star who longs for a conventional life splits into opposing characters in his later works In the recent *The Revenger's Comedies* a man sharing his author's offstage diffidence finds himself in the control of a flamboyant woman who is as Ayckbourn himself has been both performer and director as she manipulates her way to the top of a multinational corporation mirroring the Britain of the Thatcher years Once considered a mere farceur Ayckbourn has won critical respect as his plays reflect the breakdown of self family and community The moving portrait of a woman on the brink of insanity in *Just Between Ourselves* is a development of *The Square Cat*'s dissatisfied housewife who reemerges as the giddily bewildered wife of a philandering husband in the delightfully frothy *Relatively Speaking* *Madness* is more fully more darkly etched in *Woman in Mind* and leads to the more disturbing madness of the world at large in *The Revenger's Comedies* even to that of the universe itself in *Wildest Dreams* Ayckbourn has explored the encroachment of evil within the social and political contexts of *Way Upstream* *A Small Family Business* and *Man of the Moment* and his nightmare vision of the future in *Henceforward* seems uncomfortably close to the contemporary automated world in which man is replaced by machine Kalson explores what he calls the Ayckbourn A effect Like Bertolt Brecht's *Verfremdungseffekt* Ayckbourn's method insists on an audience's awareness of the actor at once as character and performer but unlike Brecht's didactic works aimed at rousing an audience to action Ayckbourn uses his A effect to heighten an audience's exhilaration Laughter he knows does not preclude the engagement of the mind Brecht distances his audiences by suggesting unperformed alternate possibilities Ayckbourn engages his audience by providing those alternates In *How the Other Half Loves* the overlapping of time and place provides a telling commentary on Britain's class structure The technique leads Ayckbourn to expand the limits of theatrical presentation even further with alternate scenes in *Sisterly Feelings* even alternate plays in *The Norman Conquests* climaxing with *Intimate Exchanges* an extraordinary work for two performers that moves in sixteen directions stemming from a woman's seemingly trivial decision whether to have or not to have a cigarette The role in our lives of chance and or choice is a recurring concern for a playwright who never loses sight of his primary function to entertain his audience Remarkably as Ayckbourn's plays darken that audience continues to roar with laughter but after the laughter comes a contemplation of a less than perfect world

BOOK JACKET Title Summary field provided by Blackwell North America Inc All Rights Reserved Contemporary British Drama, 1970-90 Hersch Zeifman, Cynthia Zimmerman, 1993-04-27 This book focuses exclusively on the exciting and provocative plays produced in England in the last two decades The primary aim of the collection is to celebrate the truly remarkable range of British drama since 1970 by examining the work of fourteen important and representative playwrights This emphasis on range applies not only to the dramatists chosen for inclusion but to the critics as well specifically to the

diversity of critical methodology demonstrated in their essays **World Literature Today** ,1978 **Contemporary English Drama** C. W. E. Bigsby,1981 John Osborne Harold Pinter Joe Orton Tom Stoppard Edward Bond John McGrath Caryl Churchill Trevor Griffiths **Contemporary Dramatists** ,1993 British Dramatists Since World War II Stanley Weintraub,1982 Gambit ,1976 **The Theatre Guide** Trevor R. Griffiths,2014-07-04 With over 500 entries on the most important plays and playwrights performed today The Theatre Guide provides an authoritative A Z of the contemporary theatre scene From Aristophanes to Mark Ravenhill The Alchemist to The Talking Cure the Guide is both biographically detailed and critically current while an extensive cross referencing system allows for wider perspectives and new discoveries Stimulating observant and informative The Theatre Guide is an essential companion and reference tool for anyone with an active interest in drama **Joking Apart and Other Plays** Alan Ayckbourn,1982

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