

## Plays by Bernard Slade

### SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR

**ACTORS:** 1 male, 1 female

One of the most popular romantic comedies of the century, *Same Time, Next Year* ran four years on Broadway, winning a Tony Award for lead actress Ellen Burstyn, who later recreated her role in the successful motion picture. It remains one of the world's most widely produced plays. The plot follows a love affair between two people, Doris and George, married to others, who rendezvous once a year. Twenty-five years of manners and morals are hilariously and touchingly played out by the lovers.

*Winner, 1975 Drama Desk Award, Outstanding New American Play*

*Nominee, 1975 Tony Award, Best Play*

*Hit film, 1978, with Ellen Burstyn and Alan Alda*

### TRIBUTE

**ACTORS:** 3 male, 4 female

Scottie Templeton's a charming, irresponsible fellow. A sometime Broadway press agent and former scriptwriter, he's everyone's friend, nobody's hero and a great womanizer who's managed to live over fifty years without taking anything seriously including love, marriage and fatherhood. Life's been one continuous gag. But at fifty one, he finds the script's been rewritten as a tragedy: he is fatally ill. His son Jud, alienated by years of neglect, comes to visit. Scottie's one concern is to make friends with his son, for everyone else adores Scottie including his ex wife, his friend and boss, and his doctor, and after a bitter, revealing confrontation, father and son are reconciled. And it is Jud who gets Scottie to agree to be rehospitalized for treatment and then organizes a giant tribute to his father in a theatre.

*Hit film, 1980, with Jack Lemmon and Robbie Benson*

### ROMANTIC COMEDY

**ACTORS:** 2 male, 4 female

Arrogant, self centered and sharp tongued Jason Carmichael, successful co-author of Broadway romantic comedies, is facing two momentous events: he is about to marry a society belle and his collaborator is retiring. Enter Phoebe Craddock, Vermont schoolteacher and budding playwright. Quicker than a flash, Jason acquires a talented and adoring collaborator in the mousy Phoebe. Fame and success are theirs for ten years and then Jason's world falls apart. His wife divorces him to go into politics and Phoebe, her love for Jason unrequited, marries a breezy journalist and moves to Paris. Jason goes into professional, financial and physical decline as a newly chic Phoebe returns, solo and successful. Anthony Perkins and Mia Farrow starred on Broadway. *Hit film, 1983, with Dudley Moore and Mary Steenburgen*

### FATAL ATTRACTION

**ACTORS:** 3 male, 3 female

Mystery/Thriller, Contemporary. Setting: Over a period of three days in late October in the living room of a remote Nantucket beach house.

That stellar practitioner of Broadway comedy at its best has here turned his hand, quite successfully we believe, to another genre, the mystery thriller. This gripping play takes place in the beach house of Blair Griffen, movie star. Blair is getting divorced, and her husband Morgan is coming to pick up his painting. Then a paparazzo named Tony Lombardi, who is obsessed with Blair, kills Morgan; only to be murdered, in turn, by Blair. Turns out, it is all a plot on the part of Blair and her lesbian lover to generate a resurgence of interest in Blair's career via all the publicity surrounding the murders. The plotters have not counted, though, on dealing with Lieutenant Gus Braden.

## AN ACT OF THE IMAGINATION

**ACTORS:** 3 male, 4 female

Mystery/Thriller, 1960s. Setting: In the living room-study of a house in Hampstead on the outskirts of London over a period of some weeks in the spring and summer of 1964. This masterful suspense tale by the author of *Same Time, Next Year*, *Same Time, Another Year*, *Romantic Comedy* and *Tribute* involves a successful mystery writer whose latest work has strangely turned into a romance a vivid and adulterous romance. His son, his second wife and his editor marvel at the truthfulness of the work, remarkable since it is inconceivable that he could ever have had such an affair. Enter a woman, who is intent on blackmail and whose story is foolproof and airtight: it appears that Arthur has been trysting away from home. Death stalks: the other woman disappears and evidence incriminates Arthur in her murder. There is a conspiracy to do Arthur in, a conspiracy that entails cunning, deceit and ingenious plotting.

## FLING!

**ACTORS:** 3 male, 3 female

A romantic comedy that takes a light hearted look at sex, love and marriage. Novelist Michael Stratton and his wife Kate seem to have a marriage embodying the old fashioned virtues of devotion and fidelity but staying in New York with their old friends Joe and Hilary it comes to light Michael and Hilary once spent the night together. It happened many years ago, but doesn't prevent Kate from going into a jealous rage and exiting stormily. Michael gets drunk and Hilary feeling if they're to take the blame they may as well play the game tries to repeat their youthful romantic interlude. Then Kate realizing she's blown the "affair" out of proportion returns to forgive Michael only to find them apparently "at it again." The situation causes Michael and Kate to make a searching examination of their marriage and to wonder whether they've been hypocritical in their outmoded standards of sexual behavior. In a surprising conclusion, the Strattons learn although they may be sexual dinosaurs it's too late to change and they're stuck with their old fashioned views on marriage, fidelity and each other.

## I REMEMBER YOU

**ACTORS:** 2 male, 2 female

This unusual love story blends laughter, tears and nostalgic songs to weave a charming valentine to romantic plays of the past. Austin "Buddy" Bedford, a lounge pianist/singer

who has seen better days, is haunted by a short, passionate affair he enjoyed with an English woman twenty five years ago. When a young beauty comes into the lounge one rainy evening, he is stunned by her resemblance to his lost love. The affair that ensues is brought to a screeching halt when Austin meets the girl's eccentric mother: the woman he once loved. Buddy is forced to choose between the two women while a number of twists and turns result in a surprise ending. Romantic songs counterpoint the action which reveals the mix of fantasy and reality that forms our lives.

## MOVING

**ACTORS:** 5 male, 6 female

An endearing family tale full of hope and humor. Studies have concluded that moving is one of the most traumatic events in life. The play covers the journey that eleven characters, drawn together by the life changing experiences, go through in one day that alters all their lives. Touching, insightful and filled with wonderful humor, it provides a full evening of high entertainment.

## RETURN ENGAGEMENTS

**ACTORS:** 4 male, 4 female

An ingenious comedy, the first act is comprised of three vignettes showing separate couples: a tipsy actress and the bellboy who has bedded her the night before, a gutsy Polish woman who has survived World War II and a carpenter whom she chooses to father her baby, and an acid tongued columnist and his cool psychotherapist wife who are about to split up. In Act II, we meet the couples 20, 25 and 30 years later, as we learn much to our merriment how they ended up. And, we learn how, ultimately, their stories are all linked together.

## SPECIAL OCCASIONS

**ACTORS:** 1 male, 1 female

Amy and Michael Ruskin are celebrating their fifteenth wedding anniversary and their upcoming divorce. Michael is a reformed television writer turned playwright. Amy is competitive but inwardly insecure. The play is structured as a series of flashbacks. After the opening scene, the play goes back in time ten years and recreates the various special occasions which make up marriages: anniversaries, weddings, funerals, play openings and other catastrophes. And, after all is said and done, the couple ends as they began on their fifteenth anniversary, dancing to a recording of "Love Is Here to Stay."

## SAME TIME, ANOTHER YEAR

**ACTORS:** 1 male, 1 female

A memorable evening with two of the world's favorite characters, this sequel to *Same Time, Next Year* continues the saga of an extramarital affair conducted one weekend a year into the last quarter of the twentieth century. Maturing into their late sixties, Doris and George share the inevitabilities of aging and the convolutions of parenting and grandparenting as they redefine love outside of their annual tryst and romance within it. Hilarity and tenderness are perfectly balanced against the changing backdrop of life in the United States.