

AYCKBOURN ORIGINALS

Four plays, three premieres, two bittersweet comedies, two short 'farcicals', 11 actors.

A special event for Spring 2014 to mark Alan Ayckbourn's 75th birthday.

World renowned playwright Alan Ayckbourn directs an ensemble company from his home base at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, in two touching and funny studies of the moments that shape our lives; his brand new *Arrivals & Departures* and his first ever revival of the classic *Time Of My Life*. Accompanied by the premieres of his deliciously frivolous *Farcicals*.



Exclusive North American Representation
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Arrivals & Departures

At a London main line rail terminus an elaborate trap is deployed in an attempt to capture a dangerous and elusive terrorist, codenamed Cerastes. Major Quentin Sexton and his hand-picked SSDO (Strategic Simulated Distractical Operations) Unit are poised, ready to pounce. To assist them, civilian witness, Barry Hawkins and Ez Swain, his 'minder' are on hand to confirm final identification. What can possibly go wrong?

For the luckless Major quite a lot really, when his key witness turns out to be a garrulous, suspiciously unreliable traffic warden and the minder, a troubled young female soldier with severe attitude problems. On top of which, is Quentin's so-called elite unit really all it's cracked up to be?

Time Of My Life

"...that was probably one of the best, the happiest moments of our lives. Only the trouble with those sort of moments is that you seldom ever realise that they are - until they've gone."

It is Laura Stratton's birthday and, to celebrate the event, her husband Gerry, their two sons and their partners are gathered for an evening out in the family's favourite restaurant. The dinner turns out to be a significant moment in all their lives with repercussions for years to come.

Time Of My Life was first produced in Scarborough in 1992 and presented a year later in the West End at the Vaudeville Theatre. This will be its first major revival directed by the author.

On the premiere production:

"Immensely subtle, ingenious play"

The Guardian

"a play by an inspired master craftsman and cunning psychologist"

Sunday Times

Farcicals

The Kidderminster Affair

Sexual intrigue at Teddy's garden barbecue.

Is his secret liaison with his neighbour, Penny, about to leak out? Will his wife Lottie discover the awful truth about Kidderminster? Will Penny's husband and best friend Reggie ever get hold of the right end of the stick? Will he burn the barbecue? Or indeed resolve the mystery of the slow puncture?

A frivolous comedy of fun, infidelity and food fights.

Chloë With Love

Teddy's marriage to Lottie is going through a difficult period. Does he still love Lottie? Does Lottie still love him? Cue next door neighbours Penny and Reggie to the rescue. Penny weighing in to help Lottie and Reggie resolving to help his best friend to resist temptation. But with the arrival of the voluptuous Chloe all their best laid schemes are put to the test.

An inconsequential comedy of love, lust and loss of trousers.



"Scarborough should be anointed a mecca for admirers of first-rate, frill-free, acting."
New York Times

"dramatic mastery at work"
The Guardian

