

Scripts

Two one-act plays: *Arthur: Boy-King of Britain* and *Brief Lives* by Andrew Beattie Sarah Lambie



Two good plays for boys, one with a large cast, the other small, and written with school groups in mind.

Playwright Andrew Beattie has written these two one-act plays for teenage boys, and while neither has any female characters (apart from the role of the dead elderly clarinet teacher in *Brief Lives*), it would of course be possible for both to be mounted with some, or all, female cast members, so this needn't rule out the plays for those teachers with mixed or all-female student groups.

Arthur: Boy-King of Britain is a classic coming-of-age story about one of the nation's favourite heroes, incorporating the tale of the Sword in the Stone and Arthur's discovery of his right to the throne. There are three particularly strong roles for Arthur, his brother Kay and the

Arthur Boy-King Of Britain

by Andrew Beattie

Read the complete script on line. All the scripts on this site are copyrighted and may not be printed, quoted or performed without the permission of Lazy Bee Scripts.

A one act play for children, with various (simple) settings.

Cast: Minimum of 18M. All parts written as M, but could be adapted if insufficient M cast available.

Estimated run time: 1 hour 13 minutes.

Brief Lives

A one act play

by Andrew Beattie

Read the complete script on line. All the scripts on this site are copyrighted and may not be printed, quoted or performed without the permission of Lazy Bee Scripts.

Two teenage boys are presented with a difficult situation when, arriving for his regular music lesson, one of them discovers the dead body of his elderly music teacher.

Cast: Minimum of 1F, 3M. Estimated run time: 47 minutes.

magician Merlin, though in total there are 32 speaking roles which can be spread across a minimum of 18 cast members. The play is touching and while not particularly cutting-edge, includes themes of sibling rivalry, magic and disguise, and swashbuckling adventure which will appeal to young groups (in the props list I counted a need for 19 swords and six daggers); as well as elements of real and literary British history which add an educational element to the process: it is aimed at students aged 10–14.

Brief Lives is more appropriate for older groups – around ages 15–19. Much smaller, with a cast of only three boys, and rather harder to re-cast as girls, given the content of some of the lines, though possible of course for girls to play the boys, this too

is a coming-of-age story of sorts. It charts the discovery by teenager Alex that his elderly clarinet teacher has died at home in her sleep, and his decision to wash her, dress her, put her in her wheelchair and take her out to the seafront where he believes she would prefer to be discovered, and which he considers more dignified than the squalid surroundings of her house. The play is a dark comedy: Alex elicits the help of his friend Paul and the humour lies in both the latter's responses to the situation and their encounters with homeless lost soul Dodge at the sea front. While amusing, confronting issues which many prefer to avoid (rigor-mortis, post-mortem bladder/bowel voiding...) the play is also heart-warming, presenting Alex in a touching light as his care and concern for his erstwhile teacher becomes increasingly evident.

Both scripts are available to download free from www.lazybeescripts.co.uk, where performance rights can also be obtained.

Sarah Lambie is the editor of *Teaching Drama*. Having studied English at Cambridge University and acting at Bristol Old Vic Theatre school, she is also a working actress, tutor and drama workshop leader.

