

Contents

Introduction	1
Foreword	3
Plays for Men and Women	5
Uptown/Downtown	7
Joan	17
Going Down!	27
The Park Bench	35
The No-Fault Driving School	51
The Proposal	67
My Friend Never Said Goodbye	77
The Cabbie from Calcutta	85
The Man in the Box	95
The Audition	105
Plays for Men Only	117
Sherlock Holmes: Ten Minutes to Doom	119
A Death in the Family	129
Plays for Women Only	137
The Golden Door	139
My Baby	149
The Day Mother Left Home	157
About the Author	167

Introduction

Chock full of hilarious comedies and moving dramas, *Two-Character Plays for Student Actors* will tickle your funny bone and touch your heart. The sketches are rich and varied and explore the full spectrum of human emotion. In the clever dialog and creative scenes, you'll see and hear what it's like to grow old and to be young, to find love and to lose it and to live and die for one's beliefs. The audience, whether young or old, will experience suspense, intrigue, happiness, sadness, nostalgia and, above all, hope.

The actors performing these plays will have a chance to utilize the full range of their talents, from joy to sorrow. And the many roles range from liberated women to bumbling detectives, from childhood sweethearts to senior citizens.

Therefore, whether it's comedy or tragedy, *Two-Character Plays for Student Actors* is an indispensable collection of works for theatre groups and workshops, a rich source of material for auditions and readings and a valuable training tool for acting classes everywhere. You'll find it all in *Two-Character Plays for Student Actors* — mime, slapstick, modern drama, age-old tragedy and even burlesque.

All and all, get ready to laugh and cry, sense and feel — get ready to act.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Burghoff". The signature is highly stylized and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Gary Burghoff

*“Radar” on television’s M*A*S*H series. Also starring performer of several Broadway plays and musicals including: **You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown!** and **The Nerd.***

Foreword

In the following pages you will see a collection of short plays for two actors. Some of these sketches have two female characters; some have two male characters. Several plays have a male and a female in the cast. Hopefully, all of my plays have men and women in them who will make you think. That is every writer's goal: to make an audience think. Think about what is important in this short drama we are all cast into — life. The importance of understanding, loving and respecting each other is what I have tried to express. And the fact that we are *all* important. For we all have one thing in common whether we're old or young, black or white, disabled or non-disabled: humanity.

I hope *Two-Character Plays for Student Actors* will give the men and women who act in these comedies and dramas a chance to make an audience laugh, cry and, above all, think about their lives and the lives of others. Shakespeare says in Act II, Scene VII of *As You Like It*, "All the world is a stage/ And all the men and women merely players." Conversely, every stage is a small world, but a great arena for the betterment of us all. And no actor is merely a player. He or she is a teacher. And the play is a powerful medium through which the playwright, the actors, the director and the audience all come together to learn.

Think about it ...