

Alan Ayckbourn

Playwright


Alan Ayckbourn is one of the most widely performed living English language playwrights and a highly regarded theatre director. He is an Olivier, Tony and Moliere Award winning writer who has written over 80 full length plays, more than half of which have gone on to the West End. His contribution to theatre has been recognised with both the Olivier Special Award and a Special Tony Award.

He has directed more than 300 plays, including the West End premieres of the majority of his writing, and he has also run his own company at the National Theatre. Between 1972 and 2009, he was the Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, where the majority of his work has and continues to be premiered.


He is the holder of a number of honorary degrees, he is also the recipient of a Montblanc de la Culture Award for Europe and a Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence and was the 1992 Cameron McIntosh Professor of Contemporary Theatre at Oxford University. A Fellow of the RSA, he was appointed a CBE in 1987 and in 1997 he was knighted for services to the theatre.

Theatre

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| 2024 | Woman in Mind
[Writer]
Duke of York's Theatre
Directed by Michael Longhurst |
| 2025 | Earth Angel
[Writer and Director]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough |
| 2024 | Show & Tell
[Writer and Director]
The Old Laundry Theatre |
| 2024 | Things We Do for Love
[Writer and Director]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough |


- 2023 **Welcome to The Family**
[Writer and Director]
The Old Laundry Theatre
- 2023 **Relatively Speaking**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1965]; Duke of York's Theatre, London [1967];
Off Broadway [1994]; Wyndham's Theatre, London [2013]; Theatre Royal Bath &
Jermyn Theatre, UK Tour [2023]
Directed by Robin Herford
- 2022 **Woman in Mind**
[Writer]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1985]; Vaudeville Theatre, London [1986]; Off
Broadway [1988]; Vaudeville Theatre, London [2009]; The Bridge Theatre [2022]
Directed by Anna Mackmin
- 2022 **Family Album**
[Writer and Director]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2022 **All Lies**
[Writer and Director]
The Old Laundry Theatre
- 2018 **Better Off Dead**
[Writer and Director]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2018 **A Brief History of Women**
[Writer and Director]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2017]; Brits Off Broadway [2018]; 59E59
Theatre [2018]
- 2016 **Consuming Passions**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2016 **How the Other Half Loves**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1970]; Lyric Theatre, London [1970] &
Broadway [1971]; Duke of York's, London [1988]; Theatre Royal Haymarket [2016]
- 2015 **Hero's Welcome**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2015 **Roundelay**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2014] & Tour [2015]
- 2015 **Communicating Doors**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2015]; Gielgud [1995]; Savoy Theatres [1995];
Off Broadway [1998]; Menier Chocolate Factory [2015]
Writers' Guild of Great Britain Winner Best West End Play
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- 2015 **A Small Family Business**
National Theatre, London [1987] & Broadway [1992]; National Theatre [2015]
Evening Standard Award Winner Best Play
- 2015 **Way Upstream**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1981]; The National Theatre, London [1982];
Chichester Festival Theatre [2015]
- 2015 **Confusions**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1974]; Apollo Theatre, London [1975]; Stephen
Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2015]
- 2014 **Arrivals & Departures**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2013] & Tour [2014]
- 2013 **Surprises**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2012] & Tour [2013]
- 2012 **Neighbourhood Watch**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2011]; Off Broadway Tricycle, London [2012]
- 2012 **A Chorus of Disapproval**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1984]; The National Theatre & Lyric Theatre,
London [1985]; Harold Pinter Theatre [2012]
DRAMA Award Winner Best Comedy Award
Olivier Award Winner Best Comedy Award
Evening Standard Award Winner Best Comedy Award
- 2012 **Absent Friends**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1974]; Garrick Theatre, London [1975]; Off
Broadway [1991]; Harold Pinter, London [2012]
- 2011 **Dear Uncle [from Uncle Vanya]**
[Writer]
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Based on Anton Chekhov's Uncle Vanya
- 2011 **Drowning on Dry Land**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2004] & Jermyn Theatre, UK Tour [2011]
- 2011 **Snake in The Grass**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2002] & The Print Room, UK Tour [2011]
- 2011 **Haunting Julia**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1994] & Riverside Studios, London UK Tour
[2011]
- 2010 **Life of Riley**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
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- 2010 **Season's Greetings**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1980]; Greenwich & Apollo Theatres, London [1982]; Off Broadway [1985]; The National Theatre, London [2010]
- 2010 **Joking Apart**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1978]; Globe Theatre, London [1979]; Off Broadway [2010]
Plays and Players Award Winner Best Comedy
- 2010 **Bedroom Farce**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1975]; The National Theatre, London [1977]; Prince of Wales Theatre, London [1978] & Broadway [1979]; Aldwych Theatre, London [2002]; Duke of York's Theatre, London [2010]
- 2009 **My Wonderful Day**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough; Off Broadway
- 2009 **Life & Beth**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2008] & Tour [2009]
- 2009 **Living Together; Table Manners; Round and Round the Garden
(Collectively: The Norman Conquests)**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1973]; Greenwich & Globe Theatres, London [1974] & Broadway [1975 & 2009]; The Old Vic, London [2008]
Tony Award Winner Best Revival of a Play
Outer Critics Circle Award Winner Outstanding Revival
New York Drama Critics Award Winner Circle Special Citation
Drama Desk Award Winner Outstanding Revival
Plays and Players Award Winner 1974 Best Play
Evening Standard Award Winner Best Play
- 2008 **Awakening Beauty**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Music by Denis King
- 2007 **If I Were You**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2006]; Off Broadway [2007]
- 2007 **Intimate Exchanges (Eight Play Cycle)**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1982]; Greenwich Theatre, London [1984]; Transfer Ambassador's Theatre [1985]; Off Broadway [2007]
- 2007 **Absurd Person Singular**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1972]; Criterion & Vaudeville Theatres, London [1973] & Broadway [1974 & 2005]; Garrick Theatre, London [2007]
- 2006 **Improbable Fiction**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2005] & Tour [2006]
- 2005 **The Girl Who Lost Her Voice**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
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- 2005 **Private Fears in Public Places**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2004] & Tour [2005]; Off Broadway [2005];
Orange Tree, Richmond [2005]
- 2004 **Miss Yesterday**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2004 **Miranda's Magic Mirror**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2004 **Sugar Daddies**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2003] & Tour [2004]
- 2003 **My Sister Sadie**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2003 **Orvin – Champion of Champions**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Music by Denis King
- 2003 **The Ten Magic Bridges**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2002 **The Jollies**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2002 **The Princess and The Mouse**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 2002 **Gameplan, Flatspin, Roleplay (Collectively the Damsels in Distress Trilogy)**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [2001] & Duchess Theatre, UK Tour [2002]
- 2002 **House & Garden**
The National Theatre [2000]; Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1999]; Off
Broadway [2002]
- 2001 **By Jeeves**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1996]; Duke of York [1996]; Lyric Theatre
[1996]; Broadway [2001]
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Olivier Awards Nomination 1997 Best Musical Revival
- 2000 **Whenever**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Music by Denis King
- 2000 **Virtual Reality**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough; Tour
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- 2000 **Comic Potential**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1998]; Lyric Theatre, London [1999]; Off Broadway [2000]
- 1999 **The Forest**
The National Theatre, London
Based on Ostrovsky's The Forest
- 1999 **Gizmo [Companion Play to House & Garden]**
The National Theatre, London
- 1999 **Callist#7 [Revised Callisto 5]**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1999 **Body Language**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [revised 1999]; Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1990]
- 1998 **The Boy Who Fell into A Book**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1998 **Cheap and Cheerful**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Denis King
- 1998 **Things We Do for Love**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1997] & Gielgud & Duchess London, UK Tour [1998]
Moliere Award Winner 2003 Best Comedy
Lloyds Private Banking Award Winner 1997 Best New Play
- 1996 **The Champion of Paribanou**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1996 **It Could Be Any of Us [Revised in 1996]**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1986] & [1996]
- 1995 **A Word from Our Sponsor**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1995]; Chichester Minerva Theatre [1995]
Music by John Pattison
- 1994 **The Musical Jigsaw Play**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Music by John Pattison
- 1993 **Wildest Dreams**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1991]; RSC at The Pit, Barbican, London & The Swan Stratford [1993]
- 1993 **Mr A's Amazing Maze Plays**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1988]; Polka Theatre, London [1989]; National Theatre, London [1993]
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- 1992 **Dreams from A Summer House**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Music by John Pattison
- 1992 **Time of My Life**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1992]; Vaudeville Theatre, London [1993]
- 1991 **My Very Own Story**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1991 **Invisible Friends**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1989], The National Theatre [1991]
- 1991 **The Revengers' Comedies [pt. 1 & pt. 2]**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough; Strand Theatre, London [1991]
- 1991 **Taking Steps**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1979]; Lyric Theatre, London [1980] &
Broadway [1991]
- 1990 **Callisto 5**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1990 **This Is Where We Came In**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1990 **Man of the Moment**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1988]; Globe Theatre, London [1990]
Evening Standard Award Winner 1990 Best Comedy
- 1989 **Wolf at The Door**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Based on Henry Becque's *Les Corbeaux*
- 1989 **The Inside Outside Slide Show**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1988 **Henceforward...**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1987]; Vaudeville Theatre, London [1988]
Evening Standard Award Winner Best Comedy Award
Drama-Logue Critics Award 1991 [LA]
- 1987 **Me, Myself & I**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1981]; The National Theatre, London [1987]
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1986 **Mere Soup Songs**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough; The National Theatre, London [1986]
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
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- 1986 **Tons of Money**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1985]; The National Theatre, London [1986]
Based on Will Evans & Valentine's Tons of Money
- 1985 **Boy Meets Girl/ Girl Meets Boy**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1984 **The Westwoods**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1984 **The Seven Deadly Virtues**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1983 **Making Tracks**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1981]; Greenwich Theatre, London [1983]
Music by Paul Todd
- 1983 **Incidental Music**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1982 **A Trip to Scarborough**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Variations on the Original Play by Sheridan
- 1981 **Suburban Strains**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1980]; Round House, London [1981]
Music by Paul Todd
- 1980 **First Course**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1980 **Second Helping**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1980 **Sisterly Feelings**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1979]; The National Theatre, London [1980]
- 1978 **Men on Women on Men**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
Musical Entertainment with Paul Todd
- 1978 **Ten Times Table**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1977]; Globe Theatre, London [1978]
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- 1978 **Family Circles**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1970]; Orange Tree, Richmond [1978]
- 1977 **Just Between Ourselves**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1976]; Queen's Theatre, London [1977]
Evening Standard Award Winner Best Play
- 1975 **Jeeves**
Her Majesty's Theatre, London
TMA Regional Theatre Award Winner Best Musical
- 1972 **Time and Time Again**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough [1971]; Comedy Theatre, London [1972]
- 1971 **Ernie's Incredible Illucinations**
Unicorn Theatre, London [1971 & 1969]
- 1967 **The Sparrow**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1963 **Mr Whatnot**
Victoria Theatre, Stoke; New Arts, London
- 1962 **Christmas V Mastermind**
Victoria Theatre, Stoke
- 1961 **Standing Room Only**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1960 **Dad's Tale**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1959 **Love After All**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough
- 1959 **The Square Cat**
Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

Other Awards

- 2010 Special Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre
- 2010 Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts
- 2009 The Laurence Olivier Special Award
- 2009 Hall of Fame for Achievements in American Theatre

- 2005 Yorkshire Arts and Entertainment Personality Awards [Yorkshire Awards]
- 2004 Variety Club of Great Britain Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2001 Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence
- 1994 Montblanc de la Culture Award for Europe
- 1994 Yorkshire Man of the Year
- 1993 Birmingham Press Club Personality Award
- 1993 Writers' Guild Lifetime Achievement Award
- 1993 John Ederyn Hughes Rural Wales Award for Literature
- 1993 TMA/Martini Regional Theatre Award for Best Children's Show
- 1988 Plays and Players Award for Best Director: A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
- 1974 Variety Club of Great Britain Playwright of the Year

