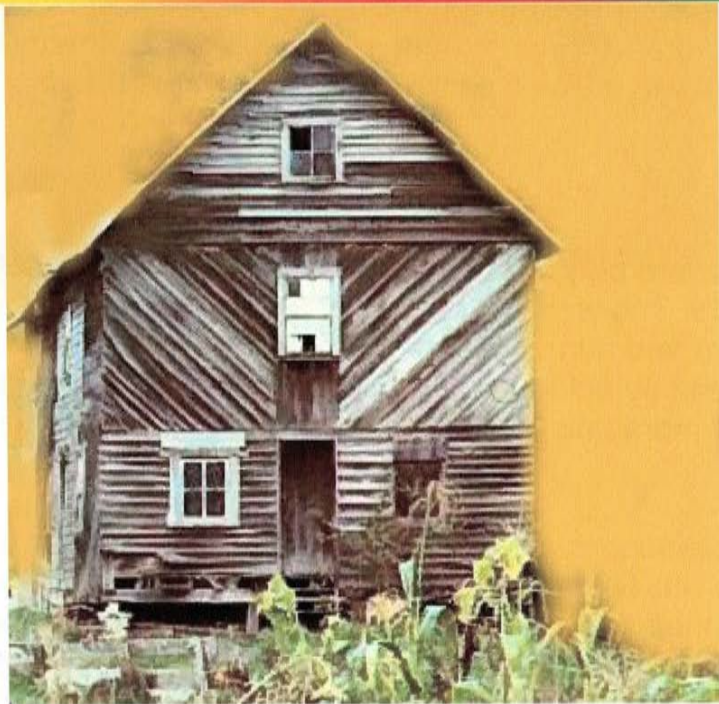


One Act Festival of Plays 2004  
Erin Arts Centre

The Arbory Players present::



**The Key**  
by  
**Bryan Downs**

## The Play.

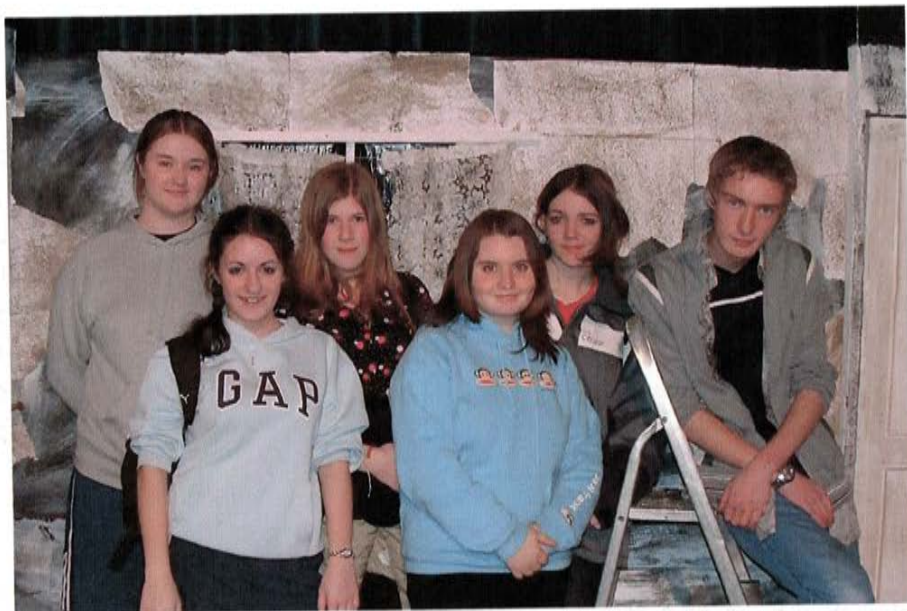
Within the Arbory Players, we have an enthusiastic group of teenagers, first attracted by our pantomimes. But there is the difficulty that few serious plays seem to be written for this age-group. Drama Festivals are normally the domain of adult teams, and the plays reflect this. Those considered for this presentation were either too simplistic, or were considered unsuitable for the cast. So it is very encouraging to have this play, specifically written around a teenage theme, which was fun for the cast to prepare and also allowed some challenges. We hope that you will enjoy it.

## Setting

This is a modern play, set in a derelict building, somewhere out on the moors. The weather out there, as always, is bleak, with howling wind and rain ... Lots of rain! ( In addition to the normal make-up used by actors and actresses everywhere, our team must use a more unusual form of preparation - a large bucket of water!)

But these teenagers are dedicated, and willing to take on a challenge. This is both in "real life", and within their characters. In this play they are taking part in a hike to gain their "Duke of Edinburgh Award." But is their task too challenging? Have they trained enough? Are they equipped for the journey? ... Or is it all just a means of enhancing their social lives (boys) with parental consent?

They are sure of one thing now - They are lost! They also know that they are wet, tired, and miserable. So when a derelict building looms out of the swirling mist, they gratefully seek the shelter which it offers. But is all as it seems? Is it safety which the old building holds ... Or ... ?



Cast in order of appearance

Kylie : Sophie Costain  
Lauren:: Laura Gill  
Emma: Ellen Garvey  
Neville: John Walker  
Claire: Jessica Turner  
Sophie: Fiona Cain

Directors: Fiona Cain & Carole Bridson

Behind the scenes

Stage Manager:	Juan Bridson
Lighting & Sound Effects:	Mike Lean
Wardrobe Mistress:	Nora Lean





Supported by the  
Isle of Man Arts Council

### The Arbory Players

The Arbory Players are regular contributors to the One Act Festival of Plays at the Erin Arts Centre. This year we are performing two plays. Our Youth Section are submitting "The Key" tonight, while the Adult Section, with the support of the Youth, performed "Bottled Spider" on Thursday.

The Players provide regular entertainment over a wide range of dramatic forms, normally in the south of the Island at their base in Arbory. Most of our teenagers joined us for a Pantomime, and have stayed with us, wishing to try their hand at more serious drama. Many are studying drama at school.

The Group also tours the Island with Murder Mysteries ... A very demanding and exciting experience, acting in close proximity to their audience, and having to undergo cross-examination within their characters and roles.

For the most part, we are in the group for fun, both for ourselves, and hopefully to provide it for our audiences. However the Festival of One Act Plays allows us to test and develop our skills with plays which are beyond our normal repertoire. We hope to learn from the criticism which we will receive at the Festival. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the adjudicator for his guidance and all those involved in the organisation of the Festival.

If you would like to join us, either on stage or in the equally challenging and important activities "behind the scenes", then please contact any member of the Group. You would be most welcome to join the team!

**Festival of One Act Plays,  
2004**

**Erin Arts Centre  
Arbory Players present:**



**Bottled Spider  
by Alistair Faulkner**



## Setting

Apparently it was to be just another routine day at court - not even any cases to hear until the afternoon. But are things really as they seem? Does the light seem a little different? Is this just a case of *deja vu*, or is something more sinister afoot?

Reality becomes surreality as the jury enter - are they real, or just the characters of theatre? What of those who belong to a long-gone era? Are they just in "fancy dress" or has time warped? Is the warp just of time? Who is the man in the dock and how did he get there ... or here? And what happened to Judge Fortiskew? And why?

The play is set with such mysteries for you to consider. We hope that you will enjoy seeking the answers. As for us, the actors ... we are just travellers in this surreal space-time continuum .... mere figments of your own imaginations.

Cast in order of appearance.

Joan: (Cleaning Lady)	Oonagh Walsh	
Derek (Court Usher)	Dennis Cross	
Prosecutor:	Juan Bridson	
Richard:	Steven Brown	
First Murderer:	Chris McFee	
Second Murderer:	Marian Garvey	
Professor:	Diane Brown	
Jurors:	Helen Walker, Carole Bridson, Laura Gill, Jessica Turner, Chris Walker.	Phil Smith, Sophie Costain, Ellen Garvey, John Walker,

Director: Ian Bridson

Casting Note.

In keeping with the surreal nature of this play, the murderers are played by actresses, with the specific agreement of the author.

Behind the scenes

Lighting & Sound Effects:	Mike Lean
Wardrobe Mistress:	Nora Lean
Stage Manager:	Juan Bridson





Supported by the  
Isle of Man Arts Council

### The Arbory Players

The Arbory Players are regular contributors to the One Act Festival of Plays at the Erin Arts Centre. This year we are performing two plays. Our Youth Section will submit "The Key" on Friday, while the Adult Section, with the support of the Youth, are performing "Bottled Spider" on Thursday.

The Players provide regular entertainment over a wide range of dramatic forms, normally in the south of the Island at their base in Arbory. Most of our teenagers joined us for a Pantomime, and have stayed with us, wishing to try their hand at more serious drama. Many are studying drama at school.

The Group also tours the Island with Murder Mysteries ... A very demanding and exciting experience, acting in close proximity to their audience, and having to undergo cross-examination within their characters and roles.

For the most part, we are in the group for fun, both for ourselves, and hopefully to provide it for our audiences. However the Festival of One Act Plays allows us to test and develop our skills with plays which are beyond our normal repertoire. We hope to learn from the criticism which we will receive at the Festival. So we would like to take this opportunity to thank the adjudicator for his guidance and all those involved in the organisation of the Festival.

If you would like to join us, either on stage or in the equally challenging and important activities "behind the scenes", then please contact any member of the Group. You would be most welcome to join the team!



**FESTIVAL OF ONE ACT PLAYS 2004  
ERIN ARTS CENTRE**

Dramatis Personae  
presents

**'Of Mice & Men'**

John Steinbeck

Act 1, Scene 1

**Michael Sorrell**  
*Lennie*

**Mark Clift**  
*George*

Directed by: Phil Baird  
Prompt: Aalin Cunningham  
Lighting & Sound: Mike Lean & Ian Galloway  
Costume & Props: Cast & Crew  
Programme Design & Photographs: Richard Patterson  
Acknowledgements: Isle of Man Arts Council  
Empress Hotel  
Erin Arts Centre  
Richard Patterson

Clinging to each other in their loneliness and alienation, George and his simple-minded friend Lennie dream, as drifters will, of a place to call their own. But after they come to work on a ranch in the Salinas Valley their hopes, like "the best laid schemes o' mice an' men," begin to go awry.

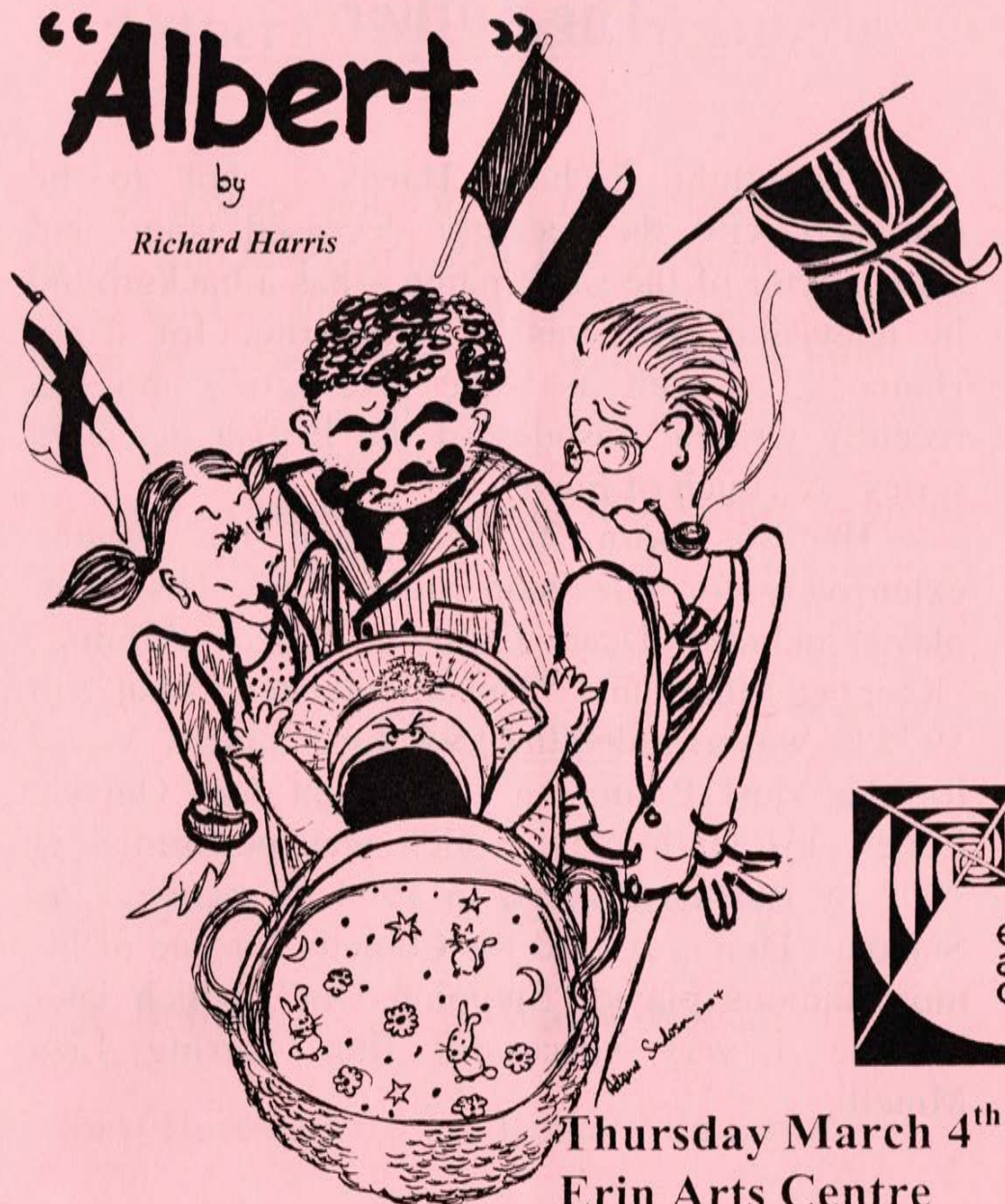
# RUSHEN PLAYERS

Presents..

# "Albert"

by

Richard Harris



Thursday March 4<sup>th</sup>  
Erin Arts Centre

FESTIVAL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS 2004



## The Author

Playwright Richard Harris – not to be confused with the recently deceased stage and screen actor of the same name – has a background in television. He was a scriptwriter for Tony Hancock, as well as “The Avengers”, and has recently written episodes of the British detective series “A Touch of Frost”.

He was born in 1934, and has written extensively for television since 1959. His other plays include “Dead Guilty”, “Local Affairs”, “Keeping Mum” and “The Maintenance Man”. In 1979 he was awarded the Evening Standard Award for the Most Promising Playwright for “Outside Edge”, his tenth play, which was performed in 2002 by Rushen Players. In 1984 he received the Standard Drama Award for Comedy for one of his most famous plays, “Stepping Out”, which later became a very successful film starring Liza Minelli.



## “Albert” by Richard Harris

If it were not for the thoughtfulness of the author who kindly translated the dialogue of two of the characters into English, the audience would be as confused as the actors, who play a Finn, an Italian and an Englishman – none of whom speak a word of the others’ languages.

It is a summer evening in a sitting room in middle class suburbia.

### The Cast

Karin Rust... .. Vicky Aspden

Nico Bellini... .. Wayne Kelsall

Albert Burroughs... .. Richard Patterson

## Back Stage

Set Design

John Moon  
John Hayes

Lights and Sound

Ian Galloway

Back stage

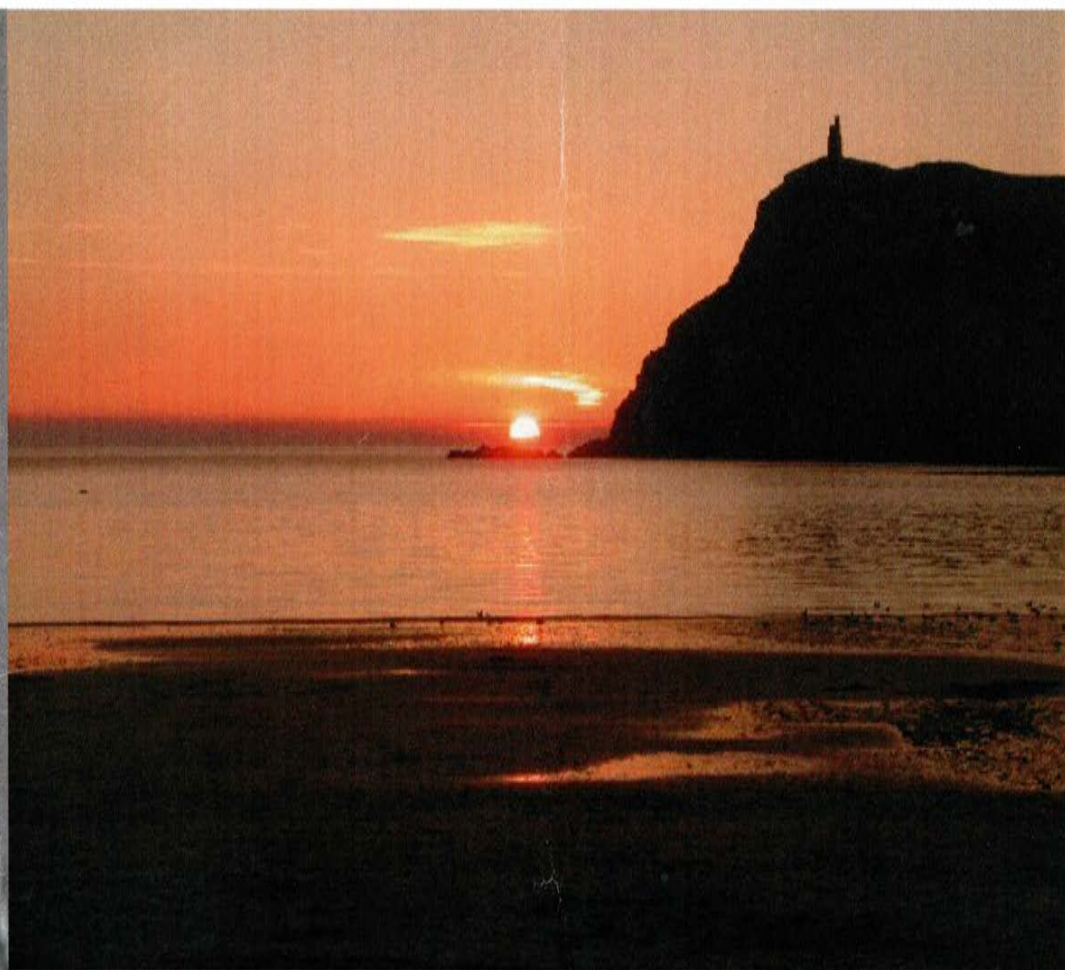
Edna Pilkington  
Sandra Lowry

Director

Vera Moon

---

The next full-length production by Rushen Players will be “Night Must Fall”, so mark your diary now to ensure you do not miss this famous play by Emlyn Williams. There will be a performance at 8pm on Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat, 12<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup>, and a matinee on Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> here at the Erin Arts Centre.



**The Service Players  
Present**

**Seascape by  
Tony Rushforth**



## The Isle of Man – 1940

The Island's population was increasing daily as boatloads of internees arrived to fill the Manx internment camps during the war.

Our story concerns four people who are brought together because of the existence of the internment camp at Port Erin.

## Cast

Mary	Caitlin Evans
Hans	Danny Keehan
Magda	Una King
Kurt	Howard Caine

## Crew

Director	Carole Bairstow
Set	David Higgins
Technical	Chris Caine
	Andrew Kelly
Costumes	Elaine Higgins & Cast
Continuity	Bernard Wood
Stage Crew	Ann Hardinge
	Simon Caine
	Jane Cooper
	Andrew Bairstow
Programme	Deborah McCann



Our grateful thanks to anyone who has helped with this production in anyway. If you are interested in joining The Service Players please contact Deborah McCann email: [iom@bigfishhooked.com](mailto:iom@bigfishhooked.com) or tel: 661 331 (work).

**Printers may be boring but we are certainly not !!**

**Come and see us at our pla(i)ce for all your, printer supplies, hardware and Apple Mac needs.**



BigFish 62a Main Rd, Onchan, Isle of Man. Tel: 661 331 Fax: 661330 e-mail: [iom@bigfishhooked.com](mailto:iom@bigfishhooked.com)