

## **Some information about the plays written by Linda Messham.**

### **1. Ladies only eat one biscuit, 10 parts**

The scene is the living room in an ordinary suburban house. The occasion is a meeting of a local women's group. A speaker has been booked for the evening and ten members are looking forward to hearing her talk.

Upstairs, a small boy has been watching as the ladies arrive. He has counted them carefully. He wants to know how many chocolate biscuits will be left for him. He can work it out because he knows that "Ladies only eat one biscuit."

Downstairs the meeting is definitely not going to plan.....

### **2. Our own Miss Bertram, 12 parts**

The play takes place late on a Sunday afternoon in the lounge of a small hotel. The guests are all old girls of St Hilda's, a prestigious local school. They have spent the weekend at a school reunion.

The reunion finished with a talk by Felicity Bertram, a famous singer and former music teacher at the school. The talk was inspirational and finished with everyone joining in a rousing song. Everyone left the school "on a high" with the music still ringing in their ears.

Most of the people went home but a few are staying an extra night at the hotel intending to travel home in the morning. They are in the lounge looking forward to a cup of tea and a relaxing evening.....

### **3. False Alarm, 10 parts.**

It is Saturday morning in a small hotel. The hotel guests are on an organised tour visiting art galleries and museums in and around London. They are accompanied by their tour guide.

The play starts around 5.00am. A fire alarm bell is ringing. The hotel manager is escorting the guests back into the hotel lounge after they have evacuated the building. They have been told to wait there while the fire fighters complete the search of the building. It is just routine, soon they will be able to return to their rooms. Or will they?

### **4. The Semitones, 10 parts**

The action takes place in a coffee bar of a motorway service station. There are settees and chairs round a low table. Chloe, the leader of a close harmony singing

group, is sitting reading. Her group, The Semitones, are on their way home after taking part in a Sweet Adeline competition. (Sweet Adeline competitions are the female equivalent of Barber Shop contests). The group were disappointed to have come second.

They have stopped for a short break at the service station and agreed to meet up in the coffee bar before continuing their journey. Will they get away on time or will they be held up by unforeseen events?

### **5. Treasure Trail, 10 parts.**

The scene is the meeting room of a village hall. A treasure trail has been taking place on a route starting at the village school and ending at the village hall for refreshments.

Heidi, one of the organisers, is sitting at a table marking some of the entry forms. The event is drawing to a close so, one or two at a time, the rest of the organising committee finish their jobs and join her. Everyone is pleased that their first event has been such a resounding success.

In a few minutes, when the last two finish putting away the tables and chairs, everyone will be able to go home, tired but happy.

That is unless something unexpected happens.....

### **6. The show must go on, 10 parts**

The action takes place in the Green Room of a small repertory theatre. It is towards the end of Act 1 of the latest play being staged by the Soames-Abbott Theatre Company, a small professional theatre group.

When the curtains close for the interval, the actors come off stage and gather in the Green Room for a well-earned rest. They complain that the heating system is not working. But before the end of the interval, they have far more serious things to worry about....

### **7. Cherry Trees, 11 parts.**

The action takes place in one of the residents' lounges of Cherry Trees, a privately owned residential and nursing home. This lounge is for the use of the "bed and board" residents who enjoy being looked after but do not require any medical care.

For them, Cherry Trees is just like a four star hotel with the advantage that, should they develop any medical needs, they will be cared for.

The play opens on a Tuesday morning with two of the residents sitting in the lounge.

Cherry Trees is usually a quiet, restful place but soon the peace is disturbed by a series of strange events. When there is a murder on the premises, the sharp witted residents decide it is down to them to solve the crime.

### **8. A most Bizarre Case, 11 parts**

Mr Mitchell, the head teacher of Ashfield Primary School, is in his office with his "Do not disturb" sign lit up. The teaching staff are sitting waiting for him to start a staff meeting. Their patience is wearing thin, they all have better things to do with their time. What can he be doing?

They don't find out until the next day when they become involved in a most bizarre case.

### **9. The Mad Professor, 11 parts.**

The action takes place at Preston railway station. The train to Glasgow has been terminated at the station because an incident further north has blocked the line. All the passengers on the train have been told to disembark, but passengers from carriage K have additional instructions to assemble in the staff rest room on platform 3. Why have the passengers from carriage K been singled out? What has an incident further north to do with them? They are soon to find out!