WRITE, ACT, DIRECT – UPDATE October 2026

We now have 6 strong pieces, all of which were presented at a get-together evening at the end of September. Next steps are to look at how to get cast, crew and (in some cases) directors involved, with more news to follow over the next month and an update at Barrels and Carols.

Believe it or not, we are actually a month or two ahead of the schedule we set ourselves.

The pieces (with production notes) are summarised here:

Transitions by Kate Thurlow
Summary - A developing story set in the same place at the same time over 10 weeks, in 10 short scenes. 4 characters; 2 'women of a certain age' (Kate's description 😉) which Kate has already cast and a younger male and female couple.
Requirements - Basic staging fine and costumes can be self-provided. We do however need the younger couple (the bigger part being the male) and possibly a director.

The Driving Test by Anne Page
Summary - A mime with an examiner, a younger female taking a test and 2 or 3 female friends.
Requirements - minimal staging; 4 chairs a clipboard. Needs casting. (I'm assuming Anne will direct.)

Mistaken Identity at the Hair Salon by Anne Page
Summary - A mime with two lead female characters in a hair salon and a couple of others to add to the scene.
Requirements - minimal staging; a couple of chairs, perhaps some towels and magazines, requires sound as has specially composed music. Fully cast from the Dixon and Daughters cast.

Here or There by Maddie Anstee
Summary - A piece of physical theatre involving a central character trying to make a decision in a tube station, torn between possibilities. Five other parts represent their conflicting emotions. Possibility for additional parts for passengers at the station.
Requirements - minimal staging though needs further thought. Characters all dressed in black.
Needs casting - unless Maddie/Olivia have people in mind?
I'm assuming that Maddie and/or Olivia will direct.

Too Cold to Snow by Dan Jewell
Summary - A piece involving a middle-aged couple and a nurse in a hospital waiting room.
Requirements - minimal staging - two chairs, small table, clock (sound effect of clock ticking). Stage darkening if possible. Dan - I feel that you'd like to perform this and have an idea about casting. Also, if you're in it, you might like someone else to direct.

Pyramids of Giza by Pip Rolls
Summary - A piece involving two male and three females, set in the Cairo Town Planning Department circa 2550 BCE!
Requirements - minimal staging, a table and five chairs. Might need to think about costumes!
Needs casting. Pip - I think you are happy to direct?

David Perry – Co-ordinator