

# Dramatic Arts Teachers: An answer to Bottom and Quince

Robin Malan

You will recognise these characters by this short exchange:

‘Are we all met?’

‘Pat, pat; and here’s a marvellous convenient place for our rehearsal.’

It’s not that teachers of Dramatic Arts complain a lot, but we keep hearing from them: ‘We don’t have easy access to scenes that our students can rehearse and then present.’ ‘Where can we find *scenes*, not just monologues?’ ‘It’s *South African* scenes that we need.’

And then it’s ‘We need scenes for girls only’ or ‘We need scenes for boys only’ or ‘We have to have scenes for both female and male students’.

Also in the picture are independent groups of young people in the townships, who have even fewer resources than Dramatic Arts students.

When we hear such cries from the heart, we feel we have to respond. Can’t have unhappy teachers of Dramatic Arts and frustrated township youngsters.

So, Junkets will be publishing two volumes of scenes from South African plays suitable for rehearsing and acting, for Female-&-Male, Female-only and Male-only performers.

Five compilers – all experienced teachers – have been working on this: Robin Malan, David Fick, Shirley Johnston, Greg Everard and Chireen Stronach.

Each scene has introductory material: an outline of the play, the context of the scene, the setting, notes on the characters, and then some pointers that will help the directors and performers with the best way to present the scene.

It is made clear in the title of these two volumes that these scenes are suitable for older-teens, ‘16+’, almost young adults. They are not age-suitable for younger teens, and certainly not for children.

The selection consists of scenes that will resonate with young people. Of course some of the issues dealt with are contentious, and in the impassioned scenes, there is some strong language. For those who want or need it, we signal this with a discreet warning, together with a suggestion of how to handle the strong language in the class situation.

The two volumes with the title ‘*Are we all met?*’ *Scenes from South African plays for rehearsing and acting, F & M 16+*’ are in the early stages of production, and will be published sometime this year – we hope before students prepare for their final exams.

These two volumes are companion-pieces to the two Junkets volumes of monologues with the title ‘*Now I am alone*’ *Monologues from South African plays, F & M, 16+*, compiled by Robin Malan, David Fick and Diana Wilson. These have proved very popular with teachers, students and community theatre groups.

Junkets has also previously published two volumes titled *Short, Sharp and Snappy – Southern African plays for high schools*, compiled by Robin Malan and Colleen Moroukian.

For more information about the above and particularly these two latest exciting volumes, price and publication-date, please email [info.junkets@iafrica.com](mailto:info.junkets@iafrica.com) .

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