

The P G Wodehouse Society (UK)

Information Sheet Number 2

Revised December 2018

Plays Written in Whole or in Part by P G Wodehouse

This information sheet has been completely rewritten to reflect the increased information available about Wodehouse's career as a writer (usually as adapter or joint-playwright) of non-musical plays. It draws the information principally from the book *Second Row, Grand Circle (A Reference Guide to the Contribution of P G Wodehouse to the Legitimate Theatre)*, written by Tony Ring and published by Harebrain Publishing in 2012, which should be consulted for further information.

You will find below seven lists of plays in the writing of which he played a part, showing different combinations of whether the plays were published, whether they were performed, or whether there is merely a copy of an unperformed play in existence.

PUBLISHED PLAYS PERFORMED ON THE WEST END STAGE

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>First Performances</i>
The Play's the Thing		Spiel in Schloss by Ferenc Molnar	Henry Miller's Theatre New York 3 November 1926 313 performances St James's Theatre, London 4 December 1928
Good Morning, Bill		Doktor Juci Szabo by Ladislaus Fodor	Duke of York's Theatre, London 28 November 1927 146 performances
A Damsel in Distress	Ian Hay	PGW Novel A Damsel in Distress	New Theatre, London 28 November 1927 146 performances
Baa, Baa, Black Sheep	Ian Hay	Locum Tenens by Ian Hay	New Theatre, London 22 April 1929 115 performances
Leave it to Psmith	Ian Hay	PGW Novel Leave it to Psmith	Shaftesbury Theatre, London 27 September 1930 156 performances
Don't Listen, Ladies ¹ (as Stephen Powys;	Guy Bolton	N'écoutez pas, Mesdames by Sacha Guitry	St James's Theatre London 2 September 1948 219 performances

Note

¹ For the London Production, Wodehouse took the name Stephen Powys for publicity purposes.

PUBLISHED PLAYS PERFORMED ELSEWHERE

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>First Performances</i>
Candle-Light		Kleine Komoedie by Siegfried Geyer	Empire Theatre New York 30 September 1929 128 performances
Come On, Jeeves	Guy Bolton	Note 1	Arts Theatre, Cambridge September 1957
Arthur		Jemand by Ferenc Molnar	Good Shepherd Faith Church, New York April 1978

Note

- 1 Bolton and Wodehouse wrote this play jointly in 1952. Wodehouse used it as the source of the book *Ring for Jeeves*, published in the UK in 1953, and as *The Return of Jeeves* in the USA in 1954.

PUBLISHED PLAYS FOR WHICH NO PERFORMANCE IS KNOWN

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>
Game of Hearts		Unknown original play by Ferenc Molnar
If I Were You	Guy Bolton	Note 1

Note

- 1 Bolton and Wodehouse completed this play by 1930, but it was never performed in that form. Wodehouse adapted it using the same title for serialisation and publication as a book in both the UK and the US in 1931. The pair then rewrote the play from the book, and it was performed on stage as *Who's Who?* in 1935, see below.

UNPUBLISHED PLAYS PERFORMED ON THE WEST END STAGE

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>First Performances</i>
Brother Alfred	Herbert Westbrook	PGW story Rallying Round Old George	Savoy Theatre, London 8 April 1913 14 performances
Her Cardboard Lover	Valerie Wyngate	Dans sa candeur naive by Jacques Deval	Empire Theatre New York 21 March 1927 152 performances Lyric Theatre, London 21 August 1928 173 performances
Who's Who	Guy Bolton	PGW Novel If I Were You	Duke of York's Theatre London 20 September 1934 19 performances
The Inside Stand		PGW Novel Hot Water	Saville Theatre, London 21 November 1935 50 performances

UNPUBLISHED PLAYS PERFORMED ELSEWHERE WHERE A COPY OF THE SCRIPT EXISTS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>First Performances</i>
A Gentleman of Leisure	John Stapleton	PGW Novel The Intrusion of Jimmy	The Playhouse, New York 24 August 1911 76 performances
(as A Thief in the Night) ¹	Ditto	Ditto	McVicker's Theatre Chicago 30 March 1913
Jill the Reckless	Rowland Morwood	PGW Novel ² Jill the Reckless	MCA Hall, Fargate Sheffield 21 October 1926
Don't Lose Your Head		Lavender Gloves by E P Conkle	Theatre Royal Nottingham 22 May 1950
Joy in the Morning		PGW Novel Spring Fever ³	Studio Theatre Ashburton, Devon 25 August 1954 4 performances

Note

- 1 After being presented in New York, the play was reprised, believed to be with the same script, in Chicago.
- 2 It is possible that PGW was not personally involved in the adaptation of this play.
- 3 This play was about the sixth version of Wodehouse's attempt to adapt his novel *Spring Fever* into a play. He was never able to make a commercially acceptable play from the book; indeed by the end of his attempts the plot had changed so much that he then used it to write another novel *The Old Reliable*. This performance was organised by a correspondent of PGW who had asked for help in raising money to repair the roof of the theatre in Ashburton.

UNPUBLISHED PLAYS PERFORMED ELSEWHERE WHERE NO COPY OF THE SCRIPT HAS BEEN FOUND

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>	<i>First Performances</i>
Piccadilly Jim	Guy Bolton	PGW Novel Piccadilly Jim	1919 US Provincial Tour
Nothing Serious		The House on the Cliff by Erik Martin and Charles Colby	Lakewood Theater Skowhegan 29 July 1950
Brother Fans		PGW story Brother Fans	Palace Theatre New York and tour 1914-1915

UNPUBLISHED, UNPERFORMED PLAYS WHERE A COPY OF THE SCRIPT EXISTS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Co-author</i>	<i>Source</i>
Cricketing	Herbert Westbrook	Sketch written in 1907
Love Among the Chickens	Rudolf Lothar	Undated script
After the Show	Herbert Westbrook	One-Act play, pre-WWI
Wheels within Wheels	Dramatisation of PGW Novel The Luck of the Bodkins by Juan Jose Soler	Written around 1938
Win with Wooster	Guy Bolton by Juan Jose Soler	Written about 1965-67 as a much revised version of Come On, Jeeves
Springboard to Nowhere		PGW was invited to revise the script of a play by Alexander Lidor. A plan to hit Broadway in 1951 had to be aborted when no star was found.
Spring Fever Phipps Kilroy Was There	Guy Bolton Guy Bolton	Between them, these three include 14 versions of Wodehouse's attempt to create a play from the novel Spring Fever
Summer Guest	Melchior Lengyel	A joint script adapting an earlier play by Lengyel, which PGW adapted into 'a nearly new one'.