

ARNOLD WESKER

PLAYS, BOOKS - WRITTEN, PUBLISHED and PERFORMED; PRIZES.

- 1950s (Circa) And After Today** – play written for amateur drama group ‘The Query Players’ to which A.W belonged. Never performed. Precursor to *Chicken Soup with Barley*.
- 1951 The Reed That Bent.** A novel. Unpublished but used as the basis for ‘*Chips With Everything*’. Begun 30 April finished 17 August. The novel itself was drawn from assembled letters written to friends and family during 8 weeks of ‘square bashing’ as an RAF National Service conscript.
- 1955 Pools.** A short story. Begun 16th October, finished following month.
- 1956 The Kitchen.** No date on written MS. Probably begun in this year. Entered for The Observer Play competition in original form of two acts with no Interlude. No prizes.
- 1957 Life Is Where You Live.** Musical written for Primrose Jewish Youth Club of which A.W. was the director. Fiona Castiglione, the granddaughter of the composer, Rutland Boughton, wrote four or five songs then gave up! June 1957.
- Chicken Soup With Barley.** First notes, circa early October 1957. The play (first entitled ‘When the Wind Blows’) begun 8 October 1957.
- 1958 Chicken Soup With Barley.** First presented at The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, 7 July for one week, directed by John Dexter. Subsequently at The Royal Court, London on 14th July for one week as part of a four week ‘Guest Repertory Season’.
- Roots.** Begun 20th June. 2nd typed draft completed 29 October.
- I’m Talking About Jerusalem.** Begun 9 December. (1st typed draft dated 1st December 1959. 3rd typed draft dated 11th May 1960.
- Pools.** Printed in The Jewish Quarterly, Winter 58/59. Subsequently published 1963 in a collection ‘Modern Jewish Stories’ edited by Gerda Charles. Faber & Faber.
- 1959 Roots.** First presented at The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry, on 25 May, directed by John Dexter. Transferred to The Royal Court Theatre on 30 June, and subsequently to The Duke of York’s on 30 July. Due to it being the hottest summer in decades the play had to fold after some weeks.
- The Kitchen.** Because of success of ROOTS the George Devine allowed a Sunday Night ‘Production Without Décor’ at The Royal Court Theatre, directed by John Dexter. Due to enormity of cast and effort it played for only two Sunday Nights – 6 and 13 September.

Bursary. From Arts Council of Gt. Britain. £500

Award. Encyclopaedia Britannica, £300.

Award. Evening Standard, for Most Promising Playwright. *Roots*.

1959/

1960 **Life Is A Market.** A musical. Commissioned by Jack Hylton. Music by Dave Lee. Subsequently renamed **Stand Up! Stand Up!** Never performed.

1960 **I'm Talking About Jerusalem.** First presented at The Belgrade Theatre 28 March, directed by John Dexter.

The Wesker Trilogy (so named by The Royal Court not the author) played in rep. over three weeks at The Royal Court 7 June/27 July.

Chips With Everything. Begun 15th September, completed 3 December.

Power of Darkness. TV script adapted from Tolstoy novel. Commissioned by Granada Television. (Film never made.)

Gold Medal. Spectator and Critics award for *Roots*. Madrid.

1961 **Roots – Act 3.** Printed in 'Audience' – A Quarterly of Literature and the Arts. Volume VIII, No. 1. Winter. Pub. Cambridge. Mass. USA.

The Kitchen. Full version performed Royal Court Theatre 27 June, directed by John Dexter.

Film made by ACT films directed by James Hill.

Menace. Original play for TV. Begun 14 May completed 3rd September. Commissioned by Granada who turned it down. Picked up by Herbert Wise who directed it for the BBC in December 1963. Printed in 'The Jewish Quarterly'. Vol. 10, No. 1 (37) Spring, and subsequently in volume called 'Six Sundays In January' (1971).

Their Very Own And Golden City. Notes begun 11 January. Play begun 27 April. Went into eight drafts into 1966.

1962 **Chips With Everything.** Opened 27 April at the Royal Court Theatre, directed by John Dexter, designed by Jocelyn Herbert. Cpl. Hill played by Frank Finlay.. Transferred to the Vaudeville Theatre on The Strand where it ran for a year. Critics Choice 'Best Play of the Year'.

1963 **Chips With Everything.** Opened at The Plymouth Theatre on Broadway. The London production.

1964 The Four Seasons. First handwritten draft begun 21 May. Changes made in Havana in October where it was first performed directed by the author.

Their Very Own And Golden City. Wins the Italian Premio Marzotta prize of £3000. Another part of the prize was money paid towards a premiere which took place in The Belgian National Theatre, Bruxelles.

1965 The Four Seasons. Opened at The Belgrade Theatre, Coventry in August, directed by Henryk Hirsh. Production taken over by author for transfer, via The Golders Green Hippodrome, to The Saville theatre, London, 21 September. Extensively changed over the years.

Their Very Own and Golden City. World Premiere at The Belgium National Theatre in Bruxelles.

The Kitchen in a successful off-Broadway production with Rip Torn directed by playwright, Jack Gelber.

1966 Their Very Own And Golden City. UK premiere opened at The Royal Court 19 May directed by Bill Gaskill, with Ian McKellen in the lead. Not produced as written! Gaskill decided to use one set of actors to play young and old instead of two sets as the script called for.

The Master. Film script commissioned by producer, Mark Robson, and actor, Anthony Quinn, freely based on a short story called 'A Nasty Story' by Dostoevsky. 30th November. (Subsequently made into play 'The Wedding Feast'.)

1967 The Kitchen. BBC TV version made.

Madam Solario. Film script commissioned by producer, James Archibald, from anonymous novel of the same name. Never made.

1968 The Four Seasons. New York off Broadway at Theatre Four on 14th March.

1970 The Friends. Begun writing 1967. World premiere Stockholm, Staatsteatre Jan 24. 5th draft directed by author at The Roundhouse, London in May 14th..

Fears Of Fragmentation. Collection of essays published by Jonathan Cape. Each essay is prefaced by a description of the stage at which CENTRE FORTYTWO had arrived.

The Old Ones. Written in eight days between 30 November and 8 December.

1971 Six Sundays In January. Collection of stories and other things published by Jonathan Cape. Include: Six Sudays In January, long short story; Pools, story; The Nottingham Captain, for voices and orchestra; Menace, original play for TV; The London Diary for Stockholm, a diary,

The Old Ones. Contracted to open at The National Theatre under direction of John Dexter. Ken Tynan, literary manager, unilaterally withdrew play from scheduled program (he and Dexter were quarrelling). AW appealed to Arnold Goodman who spoke with NT chairman, Max Rayne, and Olivier reinstated play in schedule. Meanwhile Dexter had been approached by The Royal Court to open it there.

1972 The Man Who Would Never Write Like Balzac: Short story. Handwritten draft 20th September. Worked on into 1973. Published in Jewish Quarterly Spring 1975. Changes made in January 1977. Minor changes made in 2002 for Omnibus edition of JQ published in 2003

The Old Ones. Opens at The Royal Court 8 August. Dir. John Dexter. Designed by Douglas Heap. Among actors were Max Wall, George Pravda, Patience Collier, & Wanda Rotha.
Published Plays & Players.

The Journalists. Written under wing of the RSC. Contract signed. Three other countries – Belgium, Germany, Sweden – bought rights but told RSC had insisted on world premiere. Actors refused to perform play. Trevor Nunn suggested AW rewrite it and he'd consider it for small auditorium. AW sued for £25,000. Eight years on settled for £4000.

The Wedding Feast. Handwritten MS dated 7 February.

1973 The Old Ones. Directed by author at the Munich Kammerspiel, designed by Rudolph Heinrich. 27 February.
Published Hardback and paperback by Jonathan Cape.

Fatlips. Story for young people. Written between June 1973 and October 1974.

Gold Medal. Spectator and Critics Award for *The Kitchen*. Madrid.

1974 The Wedding Feast. World premiere in Stockholm's Stadtsteatre 8 May, directed by Gun Arvidsson.

Their Very Own and Golden City. Directed in May by the author in its original version with two sets of actors playing the main characters young and old. Aarhus Theatre, Denmark.

The Merchant (later retitled 'Shylock'), while conducting in June a summer school on 'the history of contemporary British drama' in Boulder, University of Colorado, Wesker began thinking about and working with students on this play. (See 'Introduction' to 'The Birth of Shylock and the Death of Zero Mostel').

Say Goodbye You May Never See Them Again. Book of 'primitive' paintings of East London painted by John Allin. Text by A.W. consisted of

Allin talking about his background, and AW talking about his. Published by Jonathan Cape in hardback and (slightly altered) paperback.

Love Letters On Blue Paper. Collection of stories published by Jonathan Cape. Includes: Love Letters On Blue Paper, long short story; The Man Who Became Afraid, short story; A Time Of Dying, a diary story.

The Old Ones. Schools edition (post Munich production) published by Blackie, edited by Michael Marland.

The Old Ones. Off Broadway. December 7th at Lambs Theatre, directed by Ben Shaktman.

1975 The Merchant (later retitled 'Shylock'). Begun writing 7 February.

The Journalists. Jackson's Lane Theatre. Only professional performance in UK was a reading by professional actors to raise funds for the Jacksons Lane Community Centre in Highgate. Two readings in afternoon and evening of 13 July. Directed by Michael Kustow. Designed by Hayden Griffin.

1976 Shylock (known then as 'The Merchant'). World premiere in Stockholm at The Royal Dramatic theatre. 8 October. Directed by Staphan Roos.

Love Letters On Blue Paper. BBC TV 2 version written May 1975, transmitted 2 March.

Words – as definitions of experience. Long essay (written September 1975 and delivered as a lecture in Italy for A.C.I.) printed by The Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative with a long Afterward 'Finding One's Own Voice' written by Richard Appignanesi.

The Brighton Belle. A film script based on a story outline by Peter Wells. Commissioned by him but never paid for, nor made. 16 September to 1 October.

1977 The Wedding Feast. British premiere, greatly revised, Leeds Playhouse 20 January. Directed by John Harrison & Michael Attenborough. David Swift as Litvanov. Designed by John Halle. (Further cut and revised for Peter Farago's production in Birmingham Rep. 5th June 1980.)

Love Letters On Blue Paper. World premiere Syracuse Stage USA 14 October, directed by Arthur Storch, designed by Eldon Elder, with John Carpenter and Myra Carter.

The Journalists. First UK production was an amateur one given by the Criterion Theatre, Coventry, 27 March 1977.

Shylock opened in at The Forrest Theatre, Philadelphia, 2 September with Zero Mostel in the lead. He fell ill, and a six days after his first and only (preview) performance, died. Re-rehearsed with understudy, Joseph Leon, in

the lead. Played The Kennedy Centre for five weeks. Moved to Plymouth Theatre on Broadway (where Chips With Everything had played in 1963) and after mixed reviews and five previews and four performances, folded.

Journey Into Journalism. Journal based on notes taken during two months in the offices of The Sunday Times for play 'The Journalists.' Published by Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative.

1978 One More Ride On The Merry-Go-Round written between 17 May and 16 June.

The Wesker Trilogy revived at the Shaw Theatre, London under the umbrella of Michael Croft's Youth Theatre but with a professional cast directed by Anthony Cornish. April to June.

Love Letters On Blue Paper. UK premiere presented by The National Theatre on its Cottesloe stage 15 February, directed by author, Designed by Bernard Culshaw, with Michael Gough and Elizabeth Spriggs.

The Journalists. First professional production took place on 15 June on French radio under auspices of Lucien Attourn's France-Culture.

Attoun wrote: En ce qui concerne Les Journalistes que j'avais programmée le 15 juin 1978 dans mon émission le Nouveau Répertoire Dramatique à France Culture, la traduction avait été faite par Pascale de Boysson et Jill Nizard.

Jugoslav TV presented a TV version of the play, setting it in a TV house instead of a Sunday newspaper.

Shylock. (Previously known as The Merchant.) UK premiere Birmingham Rep. 12 October, directed by Peter Farago, set designed by Christopher Morley, costumes by Ann Curtis, with David Swift as Shylock.

Fatlips. Published simultaneously by Harper & Row in U.S. and Writers and Readers Publishing Cooperative.

Said The Old Man To The Young Man. A collection of stories published by Jonathan Cape. Includes: The Man Who Would Never Write Like Balzac, a short story; The Visit, a long short story; Said The Old Man To The Young Man, a long short story.

1979 Chicken Soup With Barley wins Gold Medal in Spain for best foreign play.

The Journalists. A Triptych published by Jonathan Cape consisting of the play, the diary of writing the play, and 'Journey Into Journalism'.

I'm Talking About Jerusalem. Film script of 'The Wesker Trilogy'. Written with money from Film Finance Corporation. Further assisted to work with director, Ted Kotcheff, in Hollywood. Never made.

1980 Lady Othello. Original film script. Subsequently bought by Goldcrest Films. Never made.

The Old Ones. First Penguin edition published together with 'Chips With Everything', 'The Friends', and 'Love Letters On Blue Paper'.

When I Was Your Age – 10 or thereabouts. Written for 'The School Times' in 1980. Magazine of U.C.S. (University College School) Vol. 1 No. 2., Published and Edited by Jonathan Bickerdike (A.W's Godson). Twenty one years later developed into a children's book. See entry in 2001.

1981 Caritas. Premiered at The Cottesloe Theatre, London 7 October. Directed by John Madden. Designed by Andrew Jackness. Patti Love played Christine.

The Journalists. World premiere on stage, Wilhelmshaven, Germany 10 October. Directed by Klaus Hoser.

1982 Four Portraits - of mothers. Written for the Tokyo Festival of One-act Plays (commissioned by Koichi Kimura's Chijinkai Theatre Company. First performed on 2 July 1982 at the Mitzukoshi Royal Theatre, Tokyo, by Michiko Otsuka, directed by Tsunetoshi Hirowatari.

1983 Annie Wobbler. First heard adapted for radio as 'Annie, Anna, Anabella' on Sddeutscher Rundfunk, Germany, 3 February.

Stage premiere 5 July directed by author for the Studio of The Birmingham Rep. with Nichola McAuliffe. Designed by Pamela Howard. Subsequently transferred to the New End Theatre, London, 26 July. Revived later on 13 November, 1984 for transfer to The Fortune Theatre in the West End.

The Entertainer by John Osborne. AW's production. Theatr Clwyd, Mold, Wales. 12 March. Designer: Pamela Howard. Archie Rice played by Frank Barrie.

1984 Sullied Hand. Premiered 10 Aug. Edinburgh Festival: Theatre At The Netherbow. Dir. Donald Smith.

Four Portraits - of mothers. UK premiere. 20 Aug. Edinburgh Festival. With Anne Lacey dir. by Donald Smith.

Yardsale. First heard as a play for radio broadcast on BBC 3, 6th October, with Sheila Steafel. Directed by Margaret Windham.

Thieves In The Night. Four part TV script commissioned by German and Israeli TV companies. Never made.

1985 One More Ride On The Merry Go Round. World premiere Phoenix Theatre Leicester April 25. Dir. Graham Watkins. Des. Anthony Dean. Leads: Ian Hogg, Pauline Yates.

Distinctions. Collection of essays, lectures, journalism covering 25 years. Pub. Cape. April 25.

Bluey. Radio play first transmitted Cologne Radio May 16. Pub. WORDS magazine August. Recorded for BBC Radio 3 by Margaret Windham 18-21 April. (She had put idea of commission to author). Cast incl. Patrick Stewart, Joe Melia, Mary Wimbush, David Swift, Nichola McAulliffe. Transmission 11 Dec. 1984.

The Kitchen. First draft of a book for a musical, completed 20 May.

Yardsale. Premiered 12 Aug. Edinburgh fringe festival. Jeannie Fisher, dir. by Eric Standige. Sets Inez Nordel. Costumes Rosalind Little.

Caritas. Broadcast on radio 5th, 6th & 7th October. With Patti Love as Christine. Directed by Margaret Windham.

Toys. Provisional title of new play (subsequently named '*When God Wanted A Son*'), first draft completed August.

Yardsale. Three performances by Sheila Steafel (for whom it was written) for the 'Fourth RSC/WH Smith Festival' organised by RSC actors. Dir. by author. Des. Jackie Pilfold.

1986 **Whatever Happened to Betty Lemon.** Written as companion piece to YARDSALE for Sheila Steafel. 3rd draft completed 12 Feb. First perf. Paris 12 Nov. at Teatre du Rond-Pont with Judit Magre, translated and directed by Jean-Michel Ribes.

When God Wanted a Son (previously entitled TOYS). 3rd draft completed 1st Oct.

Annie Wobbler. Opened New York 16 Oct. at Westbeth Theatre Centre with Sloane Bosniak, dir. Gerald Chapman.

Annie Wobbler. First published in programme of 'teatro festival parma' trans. into Italian by Guido Almansi. 5 - 13 April.

Whatever Happened to Betty Lemon.

First pub. in English in early version in 'Englisch Amerikanische Studien' in Munster, FDR.

1987 **Whatever Happened to Betty Lemon** and **Yardsale** opened 17 Feb. Lyric Studio, Hammersmith, London. With Brenda Bruce dir. by author. Des. Jackie Pilfold. Both plays published in PLAYS INTERNATIONAL, April issue.

Award. The Goldie. For *Roots*, best play of year in New York. Awarded by The Congress of Jewish Culture.

Little Old Lady. 20 minute play for young people commissioned by Peter Terson for New Plays 1 – contemporary one act plays for young people – Oxford University Press. Published January 1989.

Four Portraits – of mothers. London opening 20 October at ‘Man in the Moon’ Theatre. Anne Chauveau dir. by Valerie Colgan. Des. Paul Minter. Transferred to Convent Garden Theatre in Theatre Museum. Published in STAND magazine Nov/Dec.

Annie Wobbler. Published in two parts in WORDS INTERNATIONAL. Dec/Jan issue.

Badenheim 1939. Stage adaptation of novel by Israeli writer Aharon Appelfeld.

Shoeshine. 30 minute play for young people commissioned by Peter Terson for second OUP collection ‘New Plays 3’.

Lady Othello. Adaptation of original film script into full length play.

1988 Roots. Revived at National Theatre for touring by National Theatre Education. Opened Cottesloe 16 September.

Mini Autobiography - in three acts and a prologue. Commissioned and published by Gale Research Company, Detroit, USA for a series called CONTEMPORARY AUTHORS. Appeared in vol 7. Written in Jan.

Caritas. In Feb. completed libretto for opera of this play, commissioned by Huddersfield Festival of Contemporary Music. Composer Robert Saxton.

The Mistress. Final one-act play in cycle of plays for one woman. First draft completed 19 June.

Beorhtel’s Hill. Community play commissioned by Towngate Theatre, Basildon via Colway Theatre Trust to commemorate Basildon’s 40th birthday. 4th typed draft completed 4 Dec.

The Diary of Jane Somers. TV adaptation of Doris Lessing’s novel. Commissioned. Never completely paid for, and never made.

1989 Little Old Lady. One-act play for young people. New Plays Vol. 1 ed. Peter Terson for OUP. Published 12 January.

When God Wanted a Son. First performance given as a reading at, and to raise funds for, The Jackson’s Lane Community Theatre. 19 Feb. With Nichola McAuliffe, Elizabeth Spriggs, John Savident, dir. by author.

Beorhtel’s Hill. First night 6 June, Towngate Theatre, Basildon. Dir. John Oram.

The Kitchen. National Youth Theatre production, directed by James Bolam, Bloomsbury Theatre, London. August.

Shylock. First London airing as dramatised reading running for eight performances from 16th to 22nd Oct. at The Riverside Studios with Oded Teomi as Shylock. Dir. by author.

One Woman Plays. Vol. 5. Collected plays. Pub. Penguin Books. 25 May.

Shoeshine. One-act play for young people. New Plays Vol. 3. Ed. Peter Terson for OUP. 25th May.

Shylock. Revised version published in Italian University ed. June. English text on one side, Italian translation on facing page. Trans. Esther Fintz Menasce. Pub. Guerini e Associati.

Honorary D.Litt. Awarded by University of East Anglia July 29th.

Diary of a Good Neighbour. Four-part (one hour) adaptation for TV of Doris Lessing's novel 'The Diary of Jane Somers'.

1989/90 **Directed** first Shakespeare, The Merry Wives of Windsor, for Riksteatre, Oslo, opened 25 January.

1990 **Lady Othello and other plays.** Volume 6 of collected plays published by Penguin Books. Include: Lady Othello, One More Ride on the Merry-Go Round, Caritas, When God Wanted a Son, Bluey. January.

Love Letters and other Stories. Reissued by Penguin Books. With addition of Said The Old Man to the Young Man. January.

The Kitchen and other plays. Volume 2 of collected plays. Re-issued with new version of The Four Seasons.

Chips With Everything and other plays. Volume 3 of collected plays. Re-issued with changes to The Friends, The Old Ones and Love Letters.

Yardsale and Four Portraits win £10,000 prize at 7th Festival Georges Bressens at Sete, France. Performed by Josiane Stoleru, directed by Patrice Kerbrat. June. Later moved L'espace Cardin in Paris.

Three Women Talking (Working title). New play. 2nd typed draft completed 30 July.

Shylock and other plays. Volume 4 of collected plays. Re-issued with changes made to Shylock (new title), The Wedding Feast, and The Journalists. Pub. Oct.

The Kitchen - author directs and substantially revised play at University of Wisconsin, Madison. October.

Letter to a Daughter. New 'One Woman' play requiring songs to be specially composed, for a singer who is also an actress'. Written specially for Norwegian Jazz singer, Susanne Fuhr, loosely based on her biographical notes dictated to the author. First draft begun 4 August completed 6 August. Filmed Oct/Nov 1991, transmitted Norwegian TV Sept.1992.

1991 Barcelona. Re-write of film script for Hudson Films, based on novel 'Homage to Catalonia' by George Orwell. Never made.

Blood Libel. Commissioned to open new Norwich Playhouse in spring 1993. Play completed September 1991

The Mistress. Author directed world premiere of play. Opened at Festival of One Act Plays in Arezzo 18 November with actress Claretta Carotenuto. In Rome, Teatro Flaiano, opened November 23. Des. Hilary Baxter.

Prize for The Mistress (statuette of a horse with golden mane and tail on marble base) at the 'Festivalo Internazionale Atti Unici at the Piccolo Teatro di Arezzo. 18 November.

Caritas. Opera. Music Robert Saxton. Open Wakefield Opera House, produced by Opera North 21 November, director Patrick Mason. Role of Christine: Eirian Davies. Cond: Diego Masson. Des. Joe Vanek.

Understanding Arnold Wesker. An analysis of the plays, stories, lectures by Robert Wilcher, Senior Lecturer of English at University of Birmingham. Published by the University of South Carolina Press, Columbia, S. Carolina. 1991.

1992 Three Women Talking (later renamed *Men Die Women Survive*), premiered 15 January Northlight Theatre, Evanston, Chicago.

Roots, new production filmed and scheduled for autumn by BBC TV2, directed by Simon Curtis, with Jane Horrocks and Pam Ferris.

Letter to a Daughter, world stage premiere, Sanwoolim Theatre Company, Seoul, Korea, 20 March, 1992. Directed by Young-Woong Lim. Singer Suk-Hwa Yoon. Deigned by Dongwoo Park. Music composed by Dong-Jin Cho.

The Kitchen - musical. Author has written book. Music commissioned from Barrington Pheloung, lyrics from Nigel Forde. Projected for autumn 1996.

Wild Spring, play written specially for Brenda Bruce. Began writing 20 February, 2nd typed draft completed 18 May.

Lady Othello. Revised film script. Incorporated some of the changes into the play. Early May.

Voices On The Wind. Revised children's play previously variously named FATLIPS and TAMAK – Island of Lethagy. Based on the book. 20/23 May. Entered for W.H.Smith's Children's Play Competition to be announced in December. **Later:** Won nothing!

Breakfast. Original TV play revised August. Never made.

Phoenix. Originally entitled 'Whitsun' adapted for TV from story *The Visit*. Revised October. Never made.

1993 The Confession. Five minute monologue commissioned via John Francis Lane for Colpo di Scena Company of Mola di Bari. Written January 1993. Never performed.

Shylock. Educational edition to be printed in paperback in English. Licensed to Societa Editrice Internazionale in Italy.

As Much as I Dare. An autobiography. Begun 21 February 1993, final draft 12 July 1994. Commissioned and published by Century. 27 October 1994.

The Wesker Trilogy. Mounted as co-production between eighteen theatres in France.

1994 The Kitchen. Spectacular (if blurred) revival by Stephen Daldry at The Royal Court Theatre, February.

Wild Spring. World Premiere, Bungaku-za Theatre Company, Tokyo, 14 October.

As Much As I Dare. Autobiography publish by Century, Random House.

Wild Spring and other plays. Volume 7 published by Penguin Books. 27 October 1994. Volume includes:

- Badenheim 1939
- Beorhtel's Hill
- Three Women Talking
- Letter to a Daughter
- Blood Libel
- Wild Spring.

Arnold Wesker Revisited. A study of the plays and stories by Reade Dornan (Lecturer in English, University of Michigan - Flint). Published by Twayne (MacMillian) 1995.

Happy Coward: ten minute sketch for French TV requested by Michel Ribes, to be (possibly) used in a series in celebration of 'The Coward'. Written 21st December 1994. (Revised 2001, for no reason.) Tape exists of early version read by author and his P.A. Jan Morris. Never performed elsewhere. (See AMAZED and SURPRISED in 2006)

1995 **The Wedding Feast.** Directed by author at the University of Denison, Ohio, in November. During rehearsal further changes were made.

Maudie. Film script based on TV adaptation of Doris Lessing's novel 'The Diary of Jane Somers.' Requested by producer but never made.

As Much as I Dare: Paperback published by Arrow Books 7 September.

Mini-season of readings at Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court:

When God Wanted a Son November 25

Three Women Talking December 2

Wild Spring December 9

The Trilogy: France. Directed by Jean Pierre-Loriol. Tour, and Paris opening at the T.E.P the following year.

1996 **Blood Libel.** Rehearsals began 2nd January, opened 1st February at the new Norwich Playhouse, directed by Irina Brown, designed by Paul Andrews, music by Derek Barnes.

The Journalists. Questors Theatre, London. First London (amateur) production. Directed by Spencer Butler.

1997 **When God Wanted a Son.** Rehearsals began 6th January. First preview 4th February, opened 6th February till 9th March at The New End Theatre, Hampstead, London, directed by Spencer Butler, designed by Andy Wilson, with Julie Clare, Jacqueline Pearce, Lawrence Weber.

The Confession. Five minute monologue commissioned via John Francis Lane for Colpo di Scena Company of Mola di Bari. Written January 1993. Never performed. Slightly extended for a play reading as part of The London 'New Play Festival' dir. Katie Valentine, performed by Victoria Davar at The Lyric Hammersmith Studio 12 April.

Break, My Heart. 30 minute play commissioned by Sherman Theatre Cardiff and Penderyn Films for season of lunch-time plays to be performed 4 to 6th June at lunch times and 6 p.m. With Maxine Evans and Dorien Thomas, directed by Michael Bogdanov who also directed TV version for HTV.

Break, My Heart. Published in single slim booklet by The Drama Association of Wales under general heading 'The HTV Sherman Plays'

The Mistress & Break, My Heart. Open 24th September as a double bill in The Sherman Theatre, Cardiff, directed by Michael Bogdanov, with Maxine Evans and Dorien Thomas playing Break, My Heart, and Denise Black playing The Mistress.

Chips With Everything. Revival, The Lyttleton Theatre, opened September 4, directed by Howard Davies.

Denial. First airing. Read at Hay Festival of Literature 29 May 1997 selected scenes for 45 minutes assisted by playwright/actress (from Hay Festival Masterclass), Tracy Spoteswood.

The BIRTH of Shylock and the DEATH of Zero Mostel. Journal of the writing, marketing, rehearsals and Broadway opening of '*Shylock*' (The Merchant) in 1977. Pub. Quartet Books. (US edition published May 1999)

1998 Roots. UK tour of co-production between Watford Palace Theatre and The Oxford Stage Company. March/June 1998.

Letter To A Daughter: UK premiere 8 August in Assembly Rooms of Edinburgh Festival. Music by Benjamin Till; singer Julie Clare; designer Eric Rehl. Directed by author.

Arnold Wesker: A Casebook edited by Reade W Dornan, published by Garland Publishing. Eighteen essays on various aspects of Wesker's plays by lecturers from different countries.

The King's Daughters. A collection of erotic stories about twelve princesses inspired by the fairy tale of the brothers Grimm. Begun May 1979, completed seven years later in June 1987. Rewritten over the years till published by Quartet Books. October 1998. (One of them, Dionis, published in The Erotic Review Nov-Dec 1998)

1999 Texas University at Austin purchase archives – 90 boxes. Bulk despatched from Welsh home on 9 December.

The BIRTH of Shylock and the DEATH of Zero Mostel: film option purchased by BBC for a film to be scripted by Martin Sherman and directed by Simon Curtis. (Never made.)

Award. Last Frontier Lifetime Achievement Award from Edward Albee, Valdez, Alaska.

2000 Badenheim 1939 and **Lady Othello** 'world premieres' performed (cut versions) in tandem at The Miskin Theatre, Dartford 10th – 13th May. The first directed by Rachel Bennett, head of Drama at North Kent University; the second for his MA degree at RADA by Jeremy Samuels. Stanton played by Andrew Wheaton, Rosie by Mae-Louise Robinson. Both plays severely cut, hardly premieres.

Barabbas: 15-minute monologue for TV commissioned by Norman Stone of 1A Productions for BBCTV Easter slot. 6 other writers commissioned. The idea is to explore what happened to the minor characters in the gospels. *Barabbas* is the ramblings of an aged and disillusioned revolutionary. Written 27th January to 2nd February. Joss Ackland played the role. Guy Slater directed. Transmitted Easter Week.

Denial: World premiere 16 May at The Bristol Old Vic, directed by its artistic director, Andy Hay; designed by Tom Piper; music by John O'Hara.

The Kitchen, musical: Music by Derek Barnes and Barrington Pheloung, lyrics by Nigel Forde. World premiere 14 July near Nagoya city, Japan, directed by Koichi Kimura and Kiyomi Maeda, musical director Billy Yamaguchi. Tour till August 11th. Opened Tokyo 26th August to 10th September. Second tour 12th to 23rd September.

Shylock. Yiddish premiere end of September at 'Teatrul Evreiesc De Stat Bucuresti. Director: Grigore Gonta.

Said Woman Said Child: Song from *Letter To A Daughter* in Portugal composed by Jorg Palma is to be included in his new CD, his first for ten years!

2001 The Wesker Trilogy. New edition with specially written introduction by AW published by Methuen 15th March.

When I Was Your Age. A book for young people. Original version written for 'The School Times' in 1980. Magazine of U.C.S. (University College School) Vol. 1 No. 2., Published and Edited by Jonathan Bickerdike (A.W's Godson). Originally entitled 'When I Was Your Age – 10 or thereabouts'. Subsequently addressed to Werner aged 10. First draft, a few pages, written 8 November 1980. Six drafts written between 12 January 2000 and 9 March 2001.

Groupie. 'The Friday Play' for radio, commissioned by Ned Chaillet for Radio 4. First, handwritten, draft begun 21 January, completed 27 February. First typed draft completed 22 March. Second typed draft 3 April. Third typed draft 20 May. Fourth typed draft 28 June. Public reading at Chichester Festival Theatre, Minerva Theatre, Sat. 28th July. Fifth draft 29/30 July. Sixth draft 9 October. **Transmitted 23rd November.** Directed by Chaillet with Barbara Windsor and Timothy West.

Groupie. For the stage. First typed draft based on third typed draft of radio version, written between 3rd and 5th July. Second typed draft completed 2nd August. Third typed draft written between 18/20 November. Stage rights bought by Duncan Weldon of Triumph Entertainment Ltd. Dropped after one year.

Groupie. Later bought by The Old Vic Company under Kevin Spacey. Held for nearly two years without being performed.

Longitude. Commissioned by Green and Langen, to be directed by Roy Marsden. Adapted for the stage from Dava Sobel's book 'Longitude', but owing much (if not more) to Raymond Humphrey Quill's book 'JOHN HARRISON: The Man Who Found Longitude'. Research begun 6 January. Handwritten draft begun 5th September, completed (with typed sheets) 6th December. Second to fourth typed drafts worked on between 10/19 December. Fourth submitted to

producers. Fifth draft completed 7th January 2002 after talks with producer and director. Emailed 10th Feb.

2002 Shylock. Turkish theatre awards for best actor (Shylock), best director, best costume designer of Ankara State Theatre production. April.

Chips With Everything. British Council award to Odeon Theatre, Bucharest, for best production of a British play. April.

Catching Up With Wesker. Brochure listing all plays with synopsis, a passage of dialogue, reviews, and a listing of other writings. 1000 copies printed to coincide with 70th birthday. Not for sale. Distributed to theatre directors, critics, arts journalists, and others.

Prologue to Shylock, dramatised by Michael Andron of Hillel College, Miami, for his production of 'Shylock' (12 December), extensively rewritten by AW 12/13 June.

Grief. Working title of proposed libretto for one woman opera commissioned by Japanese composer, Shigeaki Saegusa . Begun research in early May in Hove. Begun writing 9 July. Final 8th draft completed 9/10 February 2004.

Groupie. (*Quando torna la primavera*) World Premiere presented 21st July by Company Gli Ipocriti of Naples at the Festival di Todi, Italy. Directed by Memé Perlini, performed by Simona Marchini and Luigi Diberti, designed by Bruno Buonincontri.

The Four Seasons. Reworked version 12 November at Theatre Clywd, Mold, directed by Terry Hands.

2003 Honey. A novel. Begun 19 May.

Letter To Myself. A short play written for 13-year-old Isabel Rabey¹ at her request! She wants to be an actress. Can't be talked out of it. The 'letter' is written by Marike, the daughter from 'Letter To A Daughter'. She's writing to herself aged 18. In the process responds to the 'life advices' put to her by her singer/mother in that letter her mother had written to her. Begun 7th September, finished 10th September. Reworked over 13th and 20th September.

Award. Royal Literary Fund. £7000 a year pension for life (reviewed every five years), plus £10,000 grant.

2004 Letter to Myself. 'World premiere' at Aberystwyth University Studio theatre. May 27th. Then MAMA Wales in Machynlleth on 28th, followed by a performance during 'Wesker Reads Wesker' at Hay Festival on 30th May.

Grief: Final 8th draft completed 9/10 February.

¹ Daughter of David Rabey, Senior Lecturer in Theatre at Aberystwyth University. Met both on the occasion of Machynlleth Festival during a couple of dinner parties hosted by wife, Charmian Rabey.

Denial – ‘Souvenirs fantomes’: opened 16th March in Paris, Teatre 14. Directed by Jacques Rosner, translated by Jean-Michel Deprats. Scheduled to run for seven weeks. Hervé de Saint Hilaire in Le Figaro wrote on 17th March a long profiles of AW and the play: “At 71, Arnold Wesker remains one of the most celebrated living Anglo-Saxon playwrights in the world.”

Honey: First handwritten draft completed **21st October** at 18:47hrs, Blaendigeddi.

The Kitchen, film script. Begun 25 October in Blaendigeddi. First rough handwritten draft completed 2nd December in Champions Row.

Shylock, radio adaptation. Begun 27 January 2005 in Champions Row, completed 3 February 2005. Worked over 8/9th February.

2005 Honey. Novel. Published by Simon & Schuster 19 September.

Longitude. Opened Greenwich Theatre, directed by Fiona Laird, 10 October.

Chicken Soup With Barley. Nottingham Playhouse revival transferred to The Tricycle Theatre, London, 17 October where it played six weeks.

Much Ado About Nothing. Abridged version (down to 30 minutes) commissioned for Shakespeare Schools Festival. First version written 15th June. Performed 14th September 2006 at The Hackney Empire, London.

Henry V. Abridged version (40 minutes) commissioned by SSF. First version written Performed 14th September 2006 at The Hackney Empire, London

2006 Their Very Own and Golden City. 27th January 2006. Rehearsed reading as part of Royal Court’s celebration of 50 years. Directed by Fiona Laird. Fifty plays were given readings.

Knighthood. Investiture 22nd February at Buckingham Palace. Guests: wife Dusty, Sister Della, Brother in Law Ralph. Lunch at Wolesley followed.

Longitude. Printed version published on 23 February by Amber Lane Press.

Their Very Own and Golden City. Performed in The Corbett Theatre of E15 acting school. 22 to 25 of February. Directed by John Gillet.

Shylock. Radio version transmitted Radio 3 on 5th March, with Henry Goodman, Juliet Stevenson, Ronald Pickup, Sheila Steafel, Toby Stevens et al directed by David Hitchinson

Amazed and Surprised. Originally (1994) a ten minute sketch called HAPPY COWARD for French TV requested by Michel Ribes, to be

(possibly) used in a series in celebration of 'The Coward'. Not taken up. Written 21st December 1994. (Revised 2001, for no reason.) Tape exists of early version read by author and his P.A., Jan Morris. Never performed elsewhere. Reworked 4th to 8th February for a Radio 3 Commission in collaboration with Royal Court Theatre as part of the Court's 50th anniversary. Other writers approached for a play between 10 and 15 minutes long: Wole Soyinka, Timberlake Wertenbaker, Joe Penhall and Laura Wade. **Later:** Transmitted 2nd April. Directed by Fiona Laird.

Roots. Radio version transmitted Radio 4 on 8th April, with Eleanor Tremain in the role of Beatie Bryant, directed by Peter Leslie Wild.

Shylock. Mexico City. Rehearsed reading on 26 April. Directed by Roberto D'Amico at the 'Festival de la Palabara'.

Phoenix Phoenix Burning Bright. Stage adaptation of TV adaptation of story 'The Visit'. Begun Blaendigeddi 30 September, finished 10th October.

2007

Arnold Wesker - Lifetime Achievement Award - Theatre, Prose, Poetry, announced 26 January 2007. Ceremony took place 13th February at The Canal Café Theatre, London, where AW was given a bottle of champagne and a certificate!

The Four Seasons. 27 February to 23 March 2007 directed for a company called Version Theatre at the Arcola Theatre, Hackney, by James Copp, designed by Dora Wade, with

The Rocking Horse. 60 minute play for radio commissioned by BBC World Service as part of their 75th Anniversary celebrations. Begun Blaendigeddi 5th April, first handwritten draft finished there at five past midnight on 10th May, 2nd printed draft 8th June. Powers that be finally agree it can be 75 minutes long as it's a 75th Anniversary. 6th printed script ready 20 September. CAST: Clive Swift, Prunella Scales, Amanda Root, Sheila Steafel, Alex Lanipekun. Music by Benjamin Till. Directed by David Hitchinson. Transmission 2nd December.

Grief. Saegusa has booked Suntory Hall, Tokyo for first performance of the one woman opera on 8th April 2008 with singer Michiè Nakamaru. Saegusa has invited AW to direct the production in Tokyo, rehearsing two weeks in March/April for 8th April opening.

The Mistress, opened at Edinburgh Festival from 2nd to 27th August, directed by Guy Masterson, performed at Wildman Room in The Assembly Rooms by Martha Lott, Artistic Director, Holden Street Theatres, Hindmarsh. S. Australia. Had planned to perform this play throughout Australasia starting in her Adelaide Theatre but, despite good reception, changed her mind.

2008

Wesker's Love Plays published by Oberon Books 6th February. Includes *The Four Seasons, Love Letters on Blue Paper, Lady Othello*

All Things Tire of Themselves. Collection of poems published 1 March 2008 by Flambard Press.

Wesker's Monologues published by Oberon Books 11th July. Audition Speeches from the plays.

Roots revived Manchester Royal Exchange 31st January to 1st March, directed by Jo Combes with Claire Brown as Beatie and Denise Black as Mother Bryant.

Break, My Heart. Published May 2008 in a collection of 'New Welsh Drama' called 'transitions'. Five plays edited by Phil Clark.

Chicken Soup with Barley. Letter dated 9th September from Dominic Cooke, artistic director of The Royal Court, saying he'd like to direct this play 'either here or in The West End' in 2010, with Samantha Spiro.

www.arnoldwesker.com