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 Unpublished but used as the basis for ‘Chips With Everything’.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.


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 ‘drama 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 Theatre, 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.


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 Britanica, £300.

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

1959/1960


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.)


1961


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

Film made by ACT films directed by James Hill.


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 with Paul Roebling and Barbara Hayes, directed by Arthur A. Seidelman; des. By C.Murawski; music Frangipane & Dante. Produced by Bruce Stark.


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


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.


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’).

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


**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.


**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.

**The Merchant** (later renamed 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.

**The Journalists.** 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.

**Fat lips.** 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’.


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

1982 **Four Portraits - of mothers.** Written for the Tokyo Freestival 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 Suddeutscher Rundfunk, Germany, 3 February.


**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.


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


**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.


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


**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.

Jackie Pilfold. Both plays published in PLAYS INTERNATIONAL, April issue.


**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.


**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.


**Caritas.** In Feb. completed libretto for opera of this play, commissioned C

**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.


**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.


**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.


**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’.


**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.


**Three Women Talking** (Working title). New play. 2nd typed draft completed 30 July. (Later re-titled MEN DIE WOMEN SURVIVE.

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.


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.


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


**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.


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


**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 rehearsals 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.


**1997**


**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.


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


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 therefore..

**Barababbas:** 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!


**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.

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.


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.


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.

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.

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


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


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.

**Groupie:** Rights bought by third producer, James Todd.


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


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. 75 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.

Grief. Opened 8th April for one performance at Suntory Hall (vast) with Yuki Morimoto conducting ad hock orchestra of mainly young musicians. Enthusiastically received by 1500 strong audience though it was Michiè Nakamaru’s worst performance. DVD made of the event.

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 playing Sarah Kahn. Letter contract signed (5 June 2009) for £3000 advance.

The Rocking Horse Kid. Stage adaptation from radio version completed September 12th.


Wesker’s Social Plays. Published April by Oberon Press. Includes The Kitchen; Voices On the Wind; Denial; The Rocking Horse Kid; When God Wanted a Son.
2010  Wesker on Theatre – occasional writings on theatre, part of ‘Oberon Masters’ series. Assembled with introduction during February, for publication later this year.

Wesker’s Political Plays. Published by Oberon Press. Includes Chips With Everything, Their Very Own and Golden City, The Journalists, Badenheim 1939, Phoenix, Phoenix Burning Bright, with introduction by Michael Billington.

The Four Seasons wins BEST PLAYOF 2009 from ‘The Annual Awards of Circle of Theatre Journalists’ in Mexico.


2011 Deliverance. 15 minute play commissioned by YaD Arts, an arts consultancy and event production house. We want to create a SECULAR response to "Liberation" the specific provocation being the four cups of wine drunk throughout the course of the Seder celebration: ‘Freedom, Deliverance, Redemption, Release. Three other writers are Amy Rosenthal, Ryan Craig, and Eve Ensler. Written between 17 December 2010 and 1 January 2011.

One performance at the Tricycle Theatre, Kilburn, Sunday 10th April.

Barabbas. Printed in ‘Plays International’ summer 2011, vols 7 & 8

Chicken Soup With Barley. Single edition printed by Methuen with Royal Court cast list to coincide with their production June/July.

The Kitchen. Single edition printed by Oberon Books with The National Theatre cast list to coincide with their production September/October.

Ambivalences – a portrait of Arnold Wesker from A to W, interviewed by Chiara Montenero, published by Oberon Books.

Shylock. Performed by Tokyo Engeki Ensemble. Not sure which month.

2012

Chicken Soup With Barley and I’m Talking about Jerusalem performed by Tokyo Engeki Ensemble September 2012.

2013