


The criteria for the inclusion of books on the list on **ACTING IS ACTION – Web Pages**  is that the collection must have at least a few ten-minute plays that:

- Take 5 to 15 minutes to perform.
- Are contemporary character-centered plays and usable as acting exercises.
- Have small mixed casts (preferably with more women's roles than men's.)
- Have some selections by authors who have a standing in the contemporary theatre (such as David Mamet, August Wilson, Tina Howe, David Ives, John Patrick Shanley, Jane Martin, David Henry Hwang, Christopher Durang, Wendy Wasserstein, Terrence McNally, and Lanford Wilson).

This list will certainly grow as more and more institutions (such as the EST in New York and the Actors Theatre of Louisville) present evenings of and contests for, and more authors write and publish collections of what are being called “the ten-minute plays.”

*Warning: Strong language and mature themes are used in many of these plays.*

- Franklin Ashley, James I. Schempp, eds. *Bind Them Continually and Other Plays from the New Play Development Workshop*. College of Charleston, 2000.
- The Boston Playwrights' Theatre at Boston University. *Boston Theater Marathon of Ten-Minute Plays*. Volumes 1 to 5. Baker's Plays (publisher). 2001, 2003, 2007, 2010.  
*The plays contained in these collections are chosen from the award-winning Boston Theater Marathon. This ten-hour marathon of fifty new ten-minute plays by local authors, each one produced by a different New England professional theatre company, were all performed in one place in one day.*
- Bert, Norman A., ed. *One-act Plays for Acting Students: An anthology of short one-act plays for one, two or three actors*. Meriwether Publishing Ltd., 1987. (19 plays)
- Bert, Norman A. and Deb Bert, ed. *Play It Again!* Former title: *More One-act Plays for Acting Students: An anthology of short one-act plays for one to three actors*. Meriwether Publishing Ltd. (23 plays)
- Bert, Deb and Norman A. Bert, ed. *New One-act Plays for Acting Students: A new anthology of 25 complete one-act plays for one to three actors*. Meriwether Publishing Ltd., 2003. (25 plays)
- Blizzard Publishing, ed. *Instant Applause*. (26 Very Short Complete Plays) [from Canadian Playwrights] Blizzard Publishing, 1994.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 1997: "The Motel Plays."*, S&K, 2002. 224 pages.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 1998: "The Museum Plays."*, S&K, 2002. 224 pages.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 1999: "The Airport Plays."*, S&K, 2001. 224 pages.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 2000: "The Funeral Plays."*, S&K, 2002. 224 pages.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 2001: "The Hospital Plays."*, S&K, 2003.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 2002: "The Beach Plays."*, S&K, 2003.
- Carden, William, ed. *HB Playwrights Short Play Festival 2003: "The Subway Plays."*, S&K, 2004.
- Chandler, Wilma Marcus and John Howie Patterson, eds. *8 Tens @ 8 Festival: Thirty Award-Winning One Acts from Santa Cruz Festivals I-V*, S&K, 2001. 288 pages.
- Chervin, Stan, ed. *Short Pieces from the New Dramatists*. Broadway Play Publishing Co., 1985. (20 short plays)
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow, ed. *25 Ten-minute Plays from Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French, 1989.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow, ed. *More Ten-minute Plays from Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French, 1992.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow and Michele Volansky, eds. *Ten-minute Plays: Volume 3 From Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French, 1995.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow and Michele Volansky, eds. *Ten-minute Plays: Volume 4 From Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French, 1995.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow and Michele Volansky, eds. *Ten-minute Plays: Volume 5 From Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French, 1999.
- Palmer, Hansel, & Moulds, eds. *Ten-minute Plays: Volume 6 From Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French, 2005.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow et al., eds. *30 Ten-minute Plays for Three Actors, Actors Theatre of Louisville's National Ten-minute Play Contest Series*. S&K, 2001.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow et al., eds. *30 Ten-minute Plays for Four, Five and Six Actors, Actors Theatre of Louisville's National Ten-minute Play Contest Series*. S&K, 2001.

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 **TEN-MINUTE & SHORT PLAY BIBLIOGRAPHY**

The above three volumes are compilations of plays, organized by cast sizes, from the six volumes published by Samuel French listed in this bibliography.

- Dixon, Michael Bigelow, ed. 2004: *The Best Ten-minute Plays for Two Actors*. S&K, 2004.
- Dixon, Michael Bigelow, ed. 2004: *The Best Ten-minute Plays for 3 or More Actors*. S&K, 2004.
- Guare, John, guest ed. *Conjunctions: 25, The New American Theatre*. Bard College, 1996.
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2010: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays*, S&K, 2011  
*The hottest collection of 10-minute plays by American playwrights for 2009*
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2011: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays*, S&K, 2012
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2012: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays*, S&K, 2013
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2013: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays*, S&K, 2014
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2014: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays*, S&K, 2014
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2008: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2 or More Actors*, S&K, 2009
- Harbison, Lawrence (ed.) 2009: *The Best Ten-Minute Plays 2 or More Actors*, S&K, 2010
- Herndon, Janice and Frank Blocker. (ed.) *Stage This! Ten-Minute Plays*. iUniverse, Inc. 2005  
*A collection of ten-minute plays from Creative Mechanics Theatre Company and E Merging Writers' 2005 competition.*
- Humana Festival: 20 One-act Plays from 20 years of the Humana Festival, 1976-1995*. S&K, 1995.
- Lahaie, Scot. (Ed.). *The Best of 24 Hours, New Ten-Minute Plays*. iUniverse, Inc. 2005  
*The thirteen ten-minute plays in this collection-comedies of various length, are the best of the scripts written for Gardner-Webb University's 24 HOURS, a biannual play festival in which the entire event is created in just twenty-four hours.*
- Lane, Eric, ed. *Telling Tales: New One-act Plays*. Penguin Books, 1993. (28 Plays)
- Lane, Eric & Shengold, Nina, ed. *Laugh Lines, Short Comic Plays*. New York: Vintage, 2007.  
*This anthology features thirty-six hilarious short plays by major American playwrights and emerging new voices.*
- Lane, Eric & Shengold, Nina, ed. *Shorter, Faster, Funnier: Comic Plays and Monologues*. New York: Vintage, 2011.  
*This cornucopia of comedy showcases works by major playwrights and emerging young writers, with casts of all sizes and diverse and challenging roles for actors of every age and type.*
- Lane, Eric & Shengold, Nina, ed. *Take Ten, New 10 Minute Plays*.
- Lane, Eric & Shengold, Nina, ed. *Take Ten II, More 10 Minute Plays*. New York: Vintage, 2003.
- Lane, Eric & Shengold, Nina, ed. *Under Thirty, Plays for a New Generation*. New York: Vintage, 2004  
An anthology of plays featuring roles for actors in their teens and twenties, includes full-length, one-acts, short plays, and excerpts.
- Lepidus, D.L., ed. 2005: *The Best Ten-minute Plays for Two Actors*. S&K, 2005.
- Lepidus, D.L., ed. 2005: *The Best Ten-minute Plays for 3 or More Actors Actors*. S&K, 2005.
- Lepidus, D.L., ed. 2006: *The Best Ten-minute Plays for Two Actors*. S&K, 2006.
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- Lucas, Craig, ed. *The Back Stage Book of New American Short Plays 2005, 20 Plays New Voices*. Back Stage Books, 2004..
- Mauro, Robert & Zapel, Arthur L., eds. *On Stage: Short Plays for Student Actors*. Meriwether, nd.
- McKim, Andy, compiled by. *Snappy Shorts at Tarragon Theatre*. Playwrights Canada Press, 2004.  
Forty-five 10 min, plays from the Tarragon Theatre's annual spring fling.
- Mendra, Alex, ed. *House to Half, Anthology of Plays*, Pretty Things Press, 2006  
Collection includes plays by Jessica Goldberg, Gary Garrison, Aoise Stratford, Dawson Moore, Kristyn Jo Benedyk, Cheri Magid, and Scott McMorrow
- Miles, Julia, ed. *The Women's Project and Productions: Rowing to America and Sixteen Other Short Plays*. S&K, 2002.
- Palmer, Tanya, Adrien-Alice Hansel, and Steve Moulds, eds. *Ten-minute Plays: Volume 6 From Actors Theatre of Louisville*. Samuel French.
- Playscripts, Inc. (Publishers) *The Baseball Plays: 7th Inning Stretch*. Playscripts, Inc. 2010  
*Celebrating and exploring themes from America's favorite pastime, a collection of 11 short comedies and dramas from the Mile Square Theatre's annual event.*
- Playscripts, Inc. (Publishers) *Great Short Comedies* (Volume 1 to 6), Playscripts, Inc. 2007 to 2012
- Playscripts, Inc. (Publishers) *Great Short Plays* (Volume 1 to 9), Playscripts, Inc. 2007 to 2011

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- Playscripts, Inc. (Publishers) Edited by Mark Armstrong and Geoffrey Nauffts. Foreword by Jon Robin Baitz. *Naked Angels Issues Projects: Collected Plays*, Playscripts, Inc., 2009  
*Since 1989, New York City's Naked Angels has collaborated with some of America's most beloved playwrights to create exciting, topical plays for their time-honored tradition: the Issues Project. The short plays within this collection respond to resonant themes from gun control to the environment, faith to human rights. Naked Angels Issues Projects features the innovative writing of today's top playwrights, including Pulitzer Prize finalists Theresa Rebeck, Craig Lucas, Lee Blessing, Warren Leight, Will Eno, Kenneth Lonergan, Jon Robin Baitz, and many more.*
- Playscripts, Inc. (publisher). *Ten-Minute Plays from the Guthrie Theater* (Volume 1), Playscripts, Inc. 2003
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*24 by 24 features the work of today's most celebrated theatrical voices, including Tony Award winner Terrence McNally, Adam Rapp, Tina Howe, Will Eno, David Ives, Theresa Rebeck, Pulitzer Prize winner David Lindsay-Abaire, and many more! In 1995, a group of writers, directors and actors gathered on Manhattan's Lower East Side for what was supposed to be a one-time-only event: write, direct, produce and perform new plays within the span of 24 hours. More than a decade and just over 300 plays later, The 24 Hour Plays have been produced on Broadway, in London, Los Angeles, Chicago and across the globe.*
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*An annual collection from the Ensemble Studio Theatre Festival of New One-Act Plays*. S&K.
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- White, Neil, ed. *Ten Minute Plays from Oxford*. Nautilus Publishing Co., 2002. pbk. 192 pgs  
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- 24 Hours — AM*. Dramatists Play Service, 1983. (12 short one-act plays)
- 24 Hours — PM*. Dramatists Play Service, 1983. (12 short one-act plays)  
*Each playwright wrote a piece of approximately five-minutes in length with two restrictions: each play must involve no more than four actors — two women and two men — and each should be set at a specific hour of the day or night.*
- The Best American Short Plays Series*. 2009-2010 is Barbara Parisi's fifth edition as series editor. Glube, Mark, ed. (2000-2001 edition) Stein, Howard and Glenn Young, eds. (Earlier editions) The Theatre Annual Since 1937. Applause Theatre Books. Including: 1990. (Twelve New American Plays), 1991. 1991-1992. (Thirteen New American Plays), 1993. 1992-1993. (New American Plays), 1994. 1993-1994. (New American Plays), 1995. 1994-1995. (14 New American Plays), 1996. 1995-1996 (12 New American Plays), 1997. 1996-1997, 1998. 1997-1998, 1999. 1998-1999, 2000. 1999-2000, 2001. 2000-2001. (12 New American Plays), 2002.
- Applause books continues the series that for over 70 years has been the standard of excellence for one-act plays in America. As previous series editor Ramon Delgado wrote in his introduction to *The Best American Short Plays of 1989*, the choice of entries for each edition has been based on the same goal: "to include a balance among three categories of playwrights: 1) established playwrights who continue to practice the art and craft of the short play, 2) emerging playwrights whose record of productions indicate both initial achievement and continuing artistic

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productivity, and 3) talented new playwrights whose work may not have had much exposure but evidences promise for the future."

*The Best Short Plays Series*. Delgado, Ramon & Stanley Richards, ed. Applause Books. Yearly collections 1981-1988.

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