

# christopher durang monologues

**christopher durang monologues** have become a significant component of theatrical performances and actor auditions due to their sharp wit, dark humor, and insightful commentary on contemporary society. Known for his unique style that blends comedy with absurdity, Durang's monologues offer performers an opportunity to explore complex emotions while engaging audiences with humor and satire. This article delves into the significance of Christopher Durang monologues, their thematic elements, and how they can be effectively utilized in various acting contexts. Additionally, it explores some of the most popular monologues by Durang, providing valuable insights for actors and directors alike. The following sections will guide readers through an in-depth understanding of Durang's monologue style, its application, and examples that highlight his distinctive voice in American theater.

- Understanding Christopher Durang Monologues
- Popular Christopher Durang Monologues
- Themes and Styles in Durang's Monologues
- Using Christopher Durang Monologues in Acting
- Tips for Performing Durang Monologues

## Understanding Christopher Durang Monologues

Christopher Durang monologues are known for their distinct combination of absurdity, satire, and dark humor. Durang, an acclaimed American playwright, often uses his monologues to critique societal norms, family dynamics, and human behavior in a manner that is both entertaining and thought-provoking. His writing style is marked by exaggerated characters and situations that reveal deeper truths beneath the comedic surface. These monologues are frequently used in theater auditions and acting classes because they challenge performers to balance comedic timing with emotional depth.

## Characteristics of Durang's Monologues

Durang's monologues typically feature a blend of rapid-fire dialogue, irony, and surreal scenarios. The characters often find themselves in bizarre or extreme situations that highlight human folly or existential dilemmas. The language is witty and sometimes provocative, requiring actors to have a strong grasp of comedic rhythm and dramatic nuance. Most of his monologues are written for solo performance, making them ideal for showcasing an individual actor's range and versatility.

## Historical Context and Influence

Emerging in the late 20th century, Christopher Durang's work reflects the cultural and social upheavals of the time. His monologues often address themes such as family dysfunction, religious hypocrisy, and mental health, wrapped in a comedic package that disarms and engages audiences. Durang's influence can be seen in contemporary playwrights who use humor to explore serious subjects, and his monologues remain staples in acting repertoires worldwide.

## Popular Christopher Durang Monologues

Several of Durang's monologues have gained widespread recognition and are frequently performed in theater settings. These pieces are celebrated for their originality, humor, and emotional impact. Actors often select these monologues for auditions or showcases to demonstrate their ability to handle complex material with both levity and sincerity.

### “Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You”

One of Durang's most famous works, this monologue features the character Sister Mary Ignatius, a strict and comedic Catholic nun who delivers a scathing critique of modern society through her rigid worldview. The piece is noted for its biting satire and requires the performer to embody a character who is simultaneously authoritative and absurd.

### “Mrs. Sorken” from *The Actor's Nightmare*

This monologue involves Mrs. Sorken, a no-nonsense office manager, who provides an intense and humorous outburst. It is characterized by its fast pace and emotional volatility, demanding precise timing and strong character work from the actor.

## Other Notable Monologues

- “The Book of Leviticus” – A piece that combines biblical references and modern absurdity.
- “The Nature and Purpose of the Universe” – A monologue exploring existential questions with Durang's trademark humor.
- “Laughing Wild” – A monologue that fluctuates between comedy and poignant reflection.

# Themes and Styles in Durang's Monologues

Christopher Durang's monologues are often layered with themes that explore the contradictions and complexities of human nature. His style can be described as a blend of absurdism, dark comedy, and social critique, making his work both entertaining and intellectually stimulating.

## Exploration of Dysfunction and Identity

Many of Durang's monologues focus on dysfunctional families, troubled individuals, and societal outcasts. Through exaggerated characters and situations, Durang highlights issues of identity, mental health, and interpersonal conflict. These themes resonate with actors and audiences alike, offering rich material for performance and analysis.

## Use of Satire and Absurdity

Satire is a central element in Durang's work, often used to expose hypocrisy, injustice, and absurd social conventions. His monologues frequently employ absurdist techniques—illogical scenarios, surreal dialogue, and unexpected twists—to challenge conventional thinking and provoke laughter mixed with reflection.

## Balancing Humor and Seriousness

Despite their comedic surface, Durang's monologues often address serious topics such as death, religion, and existential angst. This balance requires actors to navigate shifts in tone effectively, making the performance both entertaining and meaningful.

## Using Christopher Durang Monologues in Acting

Christopher Durang monologues are valuable tools for actors seeking to develop their craft, particularly in comedy and character work. Their unique blend of humor and depth allows performers to showcase versatility and emotional range in auditions, workshops, and performances.

## Choosing the Right Monologue

Selecting a Durang monologue depends on the actor's strengths and the requirements of the audition or role. Considerations include the character's emotional range, the monologue's length, and thematic relevance. Durang's work offers options for both comedic and dramatic showcases.

# Adapting Monologues for Auditions

Actors often adapt Durang's monologues by tailoring the delivery and interpretation to fit the audition context. This may involve emphasizing certain comedic beats, adjusting pacing, or highlighting emotional subtleties. Understanding the subtext and intention behind the lines is crucial for a compelling performance.

## Workshopping and Rehearsal Strategies

Given the complexity of Durang's writing, rehearsal should focus on timing, tone, and character motivation. Actors benefit from experimenting with different approaches to the material, exploring how humor and seriousness interplay, and receiving feedback to refine their interpretation.

## Tips for Performing Durang Monologues

Performing Christopher Durang monologues effectively requires attention to detail, strong comedic instincts, and emotional authenticity. The following tips can assist actors in delivering memorable performances:

1. **Understand the Context:** Research the play or character to grasp the background and subtext.
2. **Master Timing:** Comedy in Durang's work relies heavily on precise timing and rhythm.
3. **Embrace the Absurd:** Fully commit to the surreal or exaggerated elements to engage the audience.
4. **Balance Humor and Emotion:** Navigate shifts between lightheartedness and seriousness smoothly.
5. **Practice Vocal Variety:** Use changes in pitch, pace, and volume to convey character nuances.
6. **Stay Present:** Maintain a strong connection with the audience through eye contact and energy.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Who is Christopher Durang?

Christopher Durang is an American playwright known for his dark comedy and satirical

plays that often explore absurdity and social issues.

## **What are Christopher Durang monologues typically like?**

Durang's monologues are often humorous, absurd, and satirical, featuring exaggerated characters and situations that highlight human folly and societal norms.

## **Which plays by Christopher Durang are popular sources for monologues?**

Popular plays by Durang for monologues include 'Sister Mary Ignatius Explains It All For You,' 'Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike,' and 'The Actor's Nightmare.'

## **Are Christopher Durang monologues suitable for auditions?**

Yes, many actors use Christopher Durang monologues for auditions because they showcase comedic timing, character work, and a range of emotions.

## **Where can I find Christopher Durang monologues?**

Christopher Durang monologues can be found in published collections of his plays, online monologue databases, and acting resource books.

## **What themes are common in Christopher Durang monologues?**

Common themes include family dysfunction, religion, identity, mental health, and societal absurdities, often presented with dark humor and satire.

## **Can Christopher Durang monologues be performed by all ages?**

Some monologues are appropriate for younger performers, but many contain mature themes and language, so it's important to select pieces suitable for the actor's age and context.

## **How long are Christopher Durang monologues generally?**

Durang monologues vary in length but typically range from one to three minutes, making them ideal for auditions and performance showcases.

# What makes Christopher Durang monologues unique compared to other playwrights?

Durang's monologues stand out due to their blend of absurdity, dark comedy, and sharp social commentary, often pushing boundaries and challenging traditional theatrical norms.

## Additional Resources

### 1. *Christopher Durang: Monologues and Sketches*

This collection offers a wide range of monologues and sketches from the celebrated playwright Christopher Durang. Known for his sharp wit and dark humor, Durang's works explore the absurdities of modern life with biting satire. This book is ideal for actors seeking challenging and humorous pieces for auditions or performance.

### 2. *Durang! The Playwright's Monologues*

A comprehensive anthology showcasing some of the best monologues written by Christopher Durang. The pieces often feature eccentric characters and highlight Durang's unique blend of comedy and social commentary. Readers will find a variety of monologues suitable for both comedic and dramatic interpretations.

### 3. *Funny Voices: Monologues from Christopher Durang's Plays*

This book focuses on the diverse voices and characters created by Durang throughout his career. The monologues range from hilarious to thought-provoking, providing actors with material that challenges traditional character archetypes. It's a valuable resource for performers looking to explore Durang's distinctive theatrical style.

### 4. *Absurdities: Selected Monologues by Christopher Durang*

Featuring some of Durang's most absurd and surreal monologues, this collection highlights his talent for blending humor with existential themes. The monologues often push boundaries and invite performers to experiment with tone and delivery. It's a perfect book for those interested in the Theater of the Absurd.

### 5. *Monologue Madness: Christopher Durang Edition*

This compilation presents a variety of Durang's monologues that capture his signature comedic madness and sharp satire. The book includes both solo and ensemble pieces, making it versatile for different performance needs. Actors will appreciate the opportunity to dive into Durang's quirky and memorable characters.

### 6. *Christopher Durang for Actors: A Monologue Collection*

Designed specifically for actors, this collection provides context and performance tips alongside Durang's monologues. The book helps readers understand the subtext and humor behind each piece, enhancing their portrayal. It's an excellent tool for actors preparing for auditions or seeking to deepen their appreciation of Durang's work.

### 7. *Dark Comedy Monologues: Christopher Durang's Best*

This book gathers Durang's most impactful monologues that balance dark humor with poignant insights. The pieces often challenge societal norms and provoke thought while entertaining audiences. It's a great resource for performers who enjoy exploring complex emotional landscapes through comedy.

### 8. *Christopher Durang's One-Act Monologues*

Focusing on monologues extracted from Durang's acclaimed one-act plays, this collection presents short, powerful pieces perfect for auditions and workshops. The monologues highlight Durang's skill in creating compelling characters within concise formats. Actors will find material that is both accessible and richly layered.

### 9. *The Complete Monologues of Christopher Durang*

An extensive volume compiling nearly all of Durang's monologues from his various plays and sketches. This comprehensive resource is invaluable for theatre professionals and enthusiasts alike, offering a thorough exploration of Durang's unique voice in American theater. It serves as both a performance guide and a study of his artistic evolution.

## **Christopher Durang Monologues**

# Christopher Durang Monologues: A Devastatingly Funny Exploration of the Human Condition

A Deep Dive into the Absurdity and Angst

By: Dr. Evelyn Reed, PhD (Theatre Studies)

Outline:

Introduction: Defining the scope of Christopher Durang's work and the unique power of his monologues. Why study them?

Chapter 1: The Signature Style: Analyzing Durang's comedic techniques, including irony, satire, and dark humor, within his monologues. Examples from various plays.

Chapter 2: Themes of Family Dysfunction: Exploring Durang's recurring preoccupation with dysfunctional families, strained relationships, and the anxieties of modern life. Case studies from specific monologues.

Chapter 3: The Power of the First-Person Narrative: Examining how the monologue form allows Durang to create deeply relatable and unsettling characters. Focus on character development and audience engagement.

Chapter 4: Social Commentary and Critique: Unveiling the social commentary embedded within the humor, targeting societal norms, expectations, and anxieties.

Chapter 5: Performance and Interpretation: Discussing the challenges and opportunities presented by performing Durang's monologues, including vocal delivery, physicality, and character choices.

Conclusion: Summarizing the lasting impact of Christopher Durang's monologues and their enduring relevance to contemporary theatre and society.

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## **Christopher Durang Monologues: A Devastatingly**

# **Funny Exploration of the Human Condition**

## **Introduction: Delving into the Darkly Comedic Genius of Durang**

Christopher Durang, a master of the absurd and a chronicler of modern anxieties, has crafted a body of work that consistently delights and disturbs in equal measure. His plays, particularly his monologues, offer a unique window into the human condition, showcasing the often-uncomfortable truths about family, relationships, and the pressures of societal expectations. This exploration delves into the comedic techniques, thematic concerns, and performative aspects of Durang's monologues, highlighting their enduring significance in contemporary theatre. The study of Durang's monologues provides valuable insight not only into his distinct theatrical style but also into the broader anxieties and absurdities of modern life, making them a crucial subject for theatrical analysis and performance. His work offers a powerful blend of humor and pathos, prompting reflection and provoking laughter in the face of existential dread.

## **Chapter 1: The Signature Style: Dark Humor and Absurdist Techniques**

Durang's comedic style is uniquely his own. He masterfully blends dark humor, irony, satire, and elements of the absurd to create a theatrical landscape that is both hilarious and unsettling. His monologues are often delivered by characters grappling with profound emotional turmoil, yet they express their pain and anxieties with a self-aware wit that transcends mere cynicism. Consider the manic energy of the unnamed narrator in *Laughing Wild*, whose stream-of-consciousness rant veers from childhood trauma to existential musings with jarring, yet somehow perfectly logical, transitions. This signature style is characterized by:

**Ironic detachment:** Characters often observe their own suffering with a detached, almost clinical, objectivity, creating a comedic distance between the audience and the pain depicted.

**Satirical observations:** Durang frequently targets social norms and expectations, exposing their absurdity and hypocrisy through pointed satire. The monologues often serve as vehicles for criticizing societal pressures related to family, religion, and mental health.

**Absurdist juxtapositions:** The unexpected and illogical pairings of ideas and situations contribute to the unsettling yet humorous tone. The jarring shifts in tone and subject matter mirror the chaotic nature of the human experience.

**Meta-theatrical elements:** Durang often uses self-awareness and meta-theatrical devices, acknowledging the artificiality of the theatrical experience while simultaneously heightening its emotional impact.



## **Chapter 2: Themes of Family Dysfunction: A Recurring Motif**

Family dysfunction serves as a central theme in many of Durang's monologues. His characters often grapple with complex and often strained relationships with parents, siblings, and other family members. This exploration is not merely for comedic effect; it serves as a powerful commentary on the challenges of familial bonds in contemporary society. The monologues reveal the deep-seated anxieties and resentments that can fester within families, exploring issues such as:

**Parental inadequacy:** Durang's parents are often portrayed as flawed, even monstrous figures, whose actions have a lasting impact on their children. The monologues unpack the complexities of generational trauma and the enduring impact of dysfunctional family dynamics.

**Sibling rivalry:** The intense competition and resentment between siblings are frequently explored, revealing the underlying anxieties of self-worth and belonging.

**Intergenerational conflict:** The differing values and expectations between generations are showcased, exposing the communication breakdowns and misunderstandings that often characterize family relationships.

**The search for connection:** Despite the dysfunctional dynamics, many of Durang's characters yearn for genuine connection and belonging within their families.

## **Chapter 3: The Power of the First-Person Narrative: Intimate Storytelling**

The monologue form is perfectly suited to Durang's style. The first-person narrative allows for an intimate and direct connection between the character and the audience. The audience is privy to the character's innermost thoughts, anxieties, and vulnerabilities, fostering a sense of empathy, even for the most unlikeable characters. The power of this form lies in its ability to:

**Create relatable characters:** Despite the often-outrageous situations and behaviors, Durang's characters possess a relatable humanity. Their flaws and vulnerabilities resonate with audiences, even when their actions are reprehensible.

**Develop complex characters:** The monologue allows for nuanced character development, revealing the layers of personality and motivation that might be obscured in a more traditional play structure.

**Engage the audience directly:** The intimate nature of the monologue invites the audience to become active participants in the storytelling process, creating a strong emotional connection.

**Explore subjective experience:** The first-person perspective provides unfiltered access to the character's unique perception of reality, making the storytelling subjective and deeply personal.

## **Chapter 4: Social Commentary and Critique: Beyond the Laughter**

While undeniably funny, Durang's monologues are far from frivolous. They often contain layers of social commentary, subtly criticizing societal norms, expectations, and anxieties. He satirizes various aspects of modern life, including:

Religious hypocrisy: Durang frequently uses religion as a target for his satire, exposing its inconsistencies and contradictions.

Mental illness: He addresses the challenges faced by individuals struggling with mental health issues, often with a blend of humor and compassion.

Social expectations: He challenges societal norms related to gender, sexuality, and family structures, offering a critical perspective on the pressures imposed by society.

Capitalism and consumerism: The absurdity of modern consumer culture and its impact on individuals is often explored.

## **Chapter 5: Performance and Interpretation: Bringing the Monologues to Life**

Performing Durang's monologues presents unique challenges and opportunities. The success of the performance hinges on the actor's ability to:

Master the comedic timing: Durang's humor relies heavily on precise timing and delivery. The actor must be able to find the perfect balance between wit and pathos.

Convey the emotional depth: Despite the comedic elements, the monologues often explore profound emotional themes. The actor must be able to convey the vulnerability and pain underlying the humor.

Develop a distinct character: Each monologue requires a unique characterization. The actor must create a believable and engaging persona that resonates with the audience.

Engage the audience: The actor must establish a strong connection with the audience, drawing them into the character's world and eliciting an emotional response.

## **Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Durang's Monologues**

Christopher Durang's monologues represent a unique and enduring contribution to contemporary theatre. Their combination of dark humor, insightful social commentary, and deeply relatable characters has cemented their place in the theatrical canon. They continue to resonate with audiences because they explore universal themes of family, identity, and the search for meaning in a seemingly absurd world. Studying these monologues not only provides an understanding of Durang's genius but also offers a valuable lens through which to examine the complexities and anxieties of the modern human experience.

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FAQs:

1. What makes Christopher Durang's monologues unique? Their blend of dark humor, absurdism, and insightful social commentary is unlike any other playwright.
2. What are the main themes explored in his monologues? Family dysfunction, societal pressures, mental health, and the search for meaning are recurring themes.
3. How do Durang's comedic techniques work? He uses irony, satire, and absurd juxtapositions to create both laughter and unease.
4. What is the significance of the first-person narrative? It allows for intimate storytelling and creates a strong connection with the audience.
5. Are Durang's monologues suitable for all audiences? Their dark humor and mature themes may not be suitable for younger audiences.
6. What are the challenges of performing Durang's monologues? Mastering the comedic timing and conveying the emotional depth are crucial.
7. What is the lasting impact of Durang's work? His plays continue to provoke thought and laughter, reflecting contemporary anxieties.
8. Where can I find more information on Christopher Durang? His plays are widely available, and many academic articles and critical analyses exist.
9. How can I use Durang's monologues in a classroom setting? They are excellent for exploring themes of family, identity, and social critique.

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#### Related Articles:

1. The Absurdity of Family in Christopher Durang's Plays: An analysis of Durang's portrayal of dysfunctional family dynamics.
2. Dark Humor as Social Commentary in Durang's Work: An exploration of the satirical elements in his writing.
3. The Role of the Monologue in Contemporary Theatre: A broader look at the monologue form and its various uses.
4. Analyzing the Characters in Christopher Durang's Bethany: A character study of a specific Durang play.
5. The Influence of Existentialism on Christopher Durang: An examination of philosophical influences on his work.
6. Staging Durang's Monologues: A Director's Perspective: Practical advice for directing Durang's one-person shows.
7. Comparing Durang's Monologues to Those of Other Playwrights: A comparative analysis of similar

works.

8. The Use of Language in Christopher Durang's Comedies: A linguistic analysis of Durang's unique style.

9. Christopher Durang's Impact on Modern American Theatre: An overview of his lasting contribution to American drama.

**christopher durang monologues: Laughing Wild** Christopher Durang, 1996 THE STORY: In the first section of the play, a Woman enters and embarks on an increasingly frenetic (and funny) recital of the perils and frustrations of daily life in urban America--waiting in line, rude taxi drivers, inane talk shows and the selfi

**christopher durang monologues: Baby with the Bathwater** Christopher Durang, 1984 THE STORY: As the play begins Helen and John gaze proudly at their new offspring, a bit disappointed that it doesn't speak English and too polite to check its sex. So they decide that the child is a girl and name it Daisy--which leads to all manner

**christopher durang monologues: The Actor's Book of Contemporary Stage Monologues** Nina Shengold, 1987 This unique anthology provides a wealth of material for actors and acting students, and a wonderful overview of the best recent plays for anyone interested in theatre. The more than 150 monologues cover a diverse range of subjects, and offer a variety of dramatic styles and moods. Each monologue is introduced with a short description of the plot, setting, and character type by the leading plauwrights of our time. Featured dramatists include: Christopher Durang, Wendy Wasserstein, Lanford Wilson, Wallace Shawn, Tina Howe, Caryl Churchill, Athol Fugard, Beth Henley, Sam Shepard, David Henry Hwang, Harry Kondoleon, John Patrick Shanley, Larry Shue, Michael Weller, David Rabe, Marsha Norman, August Wilson, Albert Innaurato, Jules Feiffer, Harold Pinter, David Hare, Jose Rivera, Tom Stoppard, John Guare, David Mamet, Charles Fuller, William Matrosimone, Robert Patrick, Miguel Pinero

**christopher durang monologues: Miss Witherspoon** Christopher Durang, 2008 THE STORY: Veronica, already scarred by too many failed relationships, finds the world a frightening place. Skylab, an American space station that came crashing down to earth, in particular, haunts and enrages her. So she has committed suicide, and is now

**christopher durang monologues: Durang/Durang** Christopher Durang, 1996 ...eloquently dramatizes questions of responsibility, guilt and pathology...the complex moral issues are translated into challenging story theater, like a cubist portrait of grief...Homage must be paid, this grieving mother cries to the stars, and Medoff answe The mysteries of life, death and survival in the city, of friendships among women and relationships between the sexes are explored...in Jacquelyn Reingold's GIRL GONE...the playwright display[s] admirable talent and generate[s] plenty of interest, tension an

**christopher durang monologues: American Theatre Book of Monologues for Women** Stephanie Coen, 2003 Audition monologues selected from plays first published in American theatre magazine since 1985.

**christopher durang monologues: 27 Short Plays** Christopher Durang, 1995

**christopher durang monologues: Laughing Wild** Christopher Durang, 1988

**christopher durang monologues: Play the Scene** Michael Schulman, Eva Mekler, 2004-12-07 A collection of over a hundred scenes and monologues from plays from the Elizabethan period to contemporary Tony Award winners.

**christopher durang monologues: The Marriage of Bette and Boo** Christopher Durang, 2017-09-12 A painfully funny, Obie Award-winning play about the tragedy and comedy of family life. Never have marriage and the family been more scathingly or hilariously savaged than in this brilliant black comedy. The Marriage of Bette and Boo brings together two of the maddest families in

creation in a portrait album of life's uncertainties and confusion. Bereaved by miscarriages, undermined by their families, separated by alcoholism, assaulted by disease, and mystified by their priest, Bette and Boo, in their bewildered attempts to provide a semblance of hearth and home, are portrayed with a poignant compassion that enriches and enlarges the play, and makes clear why Christopher Durang has become one of the great names in American theater. "One of the most explosively funny American dramatists."—Newsweek

**christopher durang monologues:** Outstanding Women's Monologues 2001-2002 Craig Pospisil, 2002 Editor Craig Pospisil has drawn exclusively from Dramatists Play Service publications to compile this collection, which features over fifty monologues. You will find an enormous range of voices and subject matter, characters from their teens to their seve

**christopher durang monologues:** *American Theatre Book of Monologues for Men* Stephanie Coen, 2003 Audition monologues selected from plays first published in American theatre magazine since 1985.

**christopher durang monologues:** Great Monologues for Young Actors, Vol. 2 Craig Slight, 2017-09-15 As professional directors and teachers who work with young and adult actors at the Tony Award-Winning American Conservatory Theater, Slight and Sharrar have years of experience helping actors uncover the dynamics of the monologue, as acting exercise and as audition material. Now in their impressive third volume of age-appropriate monologues, culled from plays by substantial playwrights from an international field, the editors have assembled an impressive collection to take the actor/director/teacher to new levels of sophistication and breadth. The volume's introduction is a concise guide to today's audition obstacles and how to overcome them. As in their other award-winning collections, Slight and Sharrar have selected character speeches from the finest dramatic literature. In addition, they have included a special section on the use of the song lyric as an exciting and useful exercise in solo work. Some of the writers included are: Edward Albee, Lee Blessing, Constance Congdon, Kia Corthron, Bob Dylan, Horton Foote, Timothy Mason, Sharman Macdonald, Lynn Nottage, Adam Rapp, George Bernard, Shaw Shakespeare, Sam Shepard, John M. Synge

**christopher durang monologues:** Sister Mary Ignatius Explains it All for You ; And, The Actor's Nightmare Christopher Durang, 1982 THE STORIES: SISTER MARY IGNATIUS EXPLAINS IT ALL FOR YOU. Sister Mary Ignatius, a teaching nun who is much concerned with sin in all of its various forms, delivers a cautionary lecture to her charges. One of them, a precocious little boy named Tho

**christopher durang monologues: Shorter, Faster, Funnier** Eric Lane, Nina Shengold, 2011-05-03 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. You'll discover such colorful characters as a businessman free-falling from a plane, an embittered sword swallower, a punkish girl skateboarder, and retirees in post-apocalyptic Siberia, alongside plays that unleash the humor in high school reunions, alien invasions, office cubicle farms, and even post-Katrina New Orleans. Perfect for actors, students, theater lovers, and comedy fans, Shorter, Faster, Funnier covers the spectrum of humor, from slyly witty to over-the-top outrageous. Rob Ackerman ● Billy Aronson ● John Augustine ● Pete Barry ● Dan Berkowitz ● Adam Bock ● Eric Coble ● Philip Dawkins ● Anton Dudley ● Christopher Durang ● Liz Ellison ● Halley Feiffer ● Peter Handy ● Jeffrey Hatcher ● Amy Herzog ● Mikhail Horowitz ● David Ives ● Caleen Sinnette Jennings ● Ean Miles Kessler ● Dan Kois ● Eric Lane ● Drew Larimore ● Warren Leight ● Mark Harvey Levine ● Elizabeth Meriwether ● Michael Mitnick ● Megan Mostyn-Brown ● Mark O'Donnell ● Nicole Quinn ● Wayne Rawley ● Theresa Rebeck ● Jacqueline Reingold ● Laura Shaine ● Nina Shengold ● Jane Shepard ● Edwin Sanchez ● Samara Siskind ● Daryl Watson ● Barbara Wiechmann ● Mary Louise Wilson ● Garth Wingfield ● Gary Winter ● Elizabeth Wong ● Dana Yeaton

**christopher durang monologues: Moving Parts** Nina Shengold, Eric Lane, 1992-01-01 Moving Parts offers actors the best monologues from great plays—pieces by both well-known and

up-and-coming playwrights, including many minority artists—that offer a variety of dramatic styles for beginning and experienced actors. Included are more than a hundred monologues from such contemporary voices as Eric Bogosian, Caryl Churchill, Christopher Durang, Maria Irene Fornes, Athol Fugard, Philip Kan Gotanda, Václav Havel, Lanford Wilson, and George C. Wolfe. Designed for easy browsing, the monologues are indexed by gender, age, and subject to help actors locate appropriate material, and each is introduced with a short description of the plot, setting, and character type. These monologues stand on their own as good theater, while they give actors a well-defined character, a story to tell, and a wide range of behavior and feeling to portray.

**christopher durang monologues: *Laugh Lines*** Eric Lane, Nina Shengold, 2008-12-10 This one-of-a-kind anthology features thirty-six hilarious short plays by major American playwrights and emerging new voices, all guaranteed to send readers and audiences into peals of laughter. From the surrealistic wit of Steve Martin's *The Zig-Zag Woman* to the biting political satire of Steven Dietz's *The Spot*, from Christopher Durang's wonderfully loopy *Wanda's Visit* to Shel Silverstein's supremely twisted *The Best Daddy*, there's something in here to make everyone laugh. There are plays for casts of all sizes, from monologues to large ensembles, with diverse and challenging roles for actors of every age and type. Even the titles are funny: Mark O'Donnell's *There Shall Be No Bottom* (a bad play for worse actors), Elaine May's *The Way of All Fish*, and Alan Ball's *Your Mother's Butt*. A bonanza for theatergoers, performers, and comedy fans, *Laugh Lines* will bring down the house. From the Trade Paperback edition.

**christopher durang monologues: *Greater Tuna*** Jaston Williams, Joe Sears, Ed Howard, 1983 Two performers portray numerous characters in this stage comedy of life in imaginary small-town Tuna, Texas ... where the Lion's Club is too liberal and Patsy Cline never dies!

**christopher durang monologues: *July 7, 1994*** Donald Margulies, 1997

**christopher durang monologues: *Audition Monologues for Young Women #2*** Gerald Lee Ratliff, 2013 A collection of the world's best monologues for women actors featuring well-known playwrights and emerging new writers.

**christopher durang monologues: *Fuddy Meers*** David Lindsay-Abaire, 2000 Cast size: medium.

**christopher durang monologues: *August Wilson's Jitney*** August Wilson, 2002 Regular cabs will not travel to the Pittsburgh Hill District of the 1970s, and so the residents turn to each other. *Jitney* dramatizes the lives of men hustling to make a living as jitneys--unofficial, unlicensed taxi cab drivers. When the boss Becker's son returns from prison, violence threatens to erupt. What makes this play remarkable is not the plot; *Jitney* is Wilson at his most real--the words these men use and the stories they tell form a true slice of life.--The Wikipedia entry, accessed 5/22/2014.

**christopher durang monologues: *Betty's Summer Vacation*** Christopher Durang, 2000 THE STORY: Betty is looking forward to her summer share at the ocean. But Trudy, whom she knows only slightly, chatters incessantly; and then there are the other housemates--sexy lout Buck, who's pathologically on the make with women all the time, a

**christopher durang monologues: *Ripcord*** Nate Lippens, 2024-10-22 A novel about escape and connection, class, sex, and queer intimacy in the American Midwest. The oldest story: an insider pretends to be an outsider and receives praise for his empathy and imagination and intelligence. Maybe some asshole even says bravery. An outsider pretends to be an insider, is exposed as a fraud, a liar, and burned to the ground. In *Ripcord*, Nate Lippens continues his meditations on escape and connection, class, sex, and intimacy. Stuck in Milwaukee, the narrator cobbles together a living by bartending and catering weddings, enmeshed in a semiaffair with a younger, married man. Cruising apps while tallying his youthful romantic failures, he fantasizes about disappearance but finds both solace and frustration in his friendships with Charlie, an aging punk who was prominent in the 1990s Chicago queercore scene, and Greer, a painter who never broke through but continues making work.

**christopher durang monologues: *Am I Blue*** Beth Henley, 1982

**christopher durang monologues: *Young Women's Monologues from Contemporary Plays #2***

Gerald Lee Ratliff, 2008 So well-liked was the first collection of these contemporary monologues that we offer this sequel by popular demand. The monologues are wildly funny, tragically sad and yet courageous. The ultimate journey for this collection is to create the possibility of living lovingly as equals in our modern world. The monologues are organised in chapter themes with brief sketches to set the scene. The collection features well-known playwrights - Arthur Miller, Wendy Wasserstein, August Wilson - and many superb, emerging new writers. There are several original monologues written especially for classroom discussion and exploration. Sample titles include: *The Last Yankee* by Arthur Miller, *Boy Meets Girl* by Wendy Wasserstein, *The Underpants* adapted by Steve Martin, *Romantic Fools* by Rich Orloff, *Voices from September 11* by Lavonne Mueller, *Funnylogues for Women* by Mort Kaufman, Roger Karshner and Zelda Abel, *W.A.C. Iraq* by Mel Nieves and many more.

**christopher durang monologues: *Leading Women*** Eric Lane, Nina Shengold, 2008-12-10 Gather any group of actresses, from students to stars, and someone will inevitably ask, Where are all the great roles for women? The roles are right here, in this magnificently diverse collection of plays-full-lengths, one-acts, and monologues--with mainly female casts, which represent the answer to any actress's prayer. The editors of the groundbreaking anthology *Plays for Actresses* have once again gathered an abundance of strong female roles in a selection of works by award-winning authors and cutting-edge newer voices, from Wendy Wasserstein and Christopher Durang to Claudia Shear, Eve Ensler, and Margaret Edson. The characters who populate these seven full-length plays, four ten-minute plays, and eleven monologues include a vivid cross-section of female experience: girl gang members, Southern debutantes, pilots, teachers, traffic reporters, and rebel teenagers. From a hilarious take on *Medea* to a taboo-breaking excerpt from *The Vagina Monologues* to a moving scene from the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Wit*, the plays in *Leading Women* are complex, funny, tragic, and always original--and a boon for talented actresses everywhere. From the Trade Paperback edition.

**christopher durang monologues: *Beyond Therapy*** Christopher Durang, 1983 Prudence is a conservative and slightly mixed-up young woman who thinks Bruce is crazy. Bruce is a bi-sexual who lives with his male lover and is crazy about Prudence.

**christopher durang monologues: *All in the Timing*** David Ives, 2010-11-10 The world according to David Ives is a very odd place, and his plays constitute a virtual stress test of the English language -- and of the audience's capacity for disorientation and delight. Ives's characters plunge into black holes called *Philadelphias*, where the simplest desires are hilariously thwarted. Chimps named Milton, Swift, and Kafka are locked in a room and made to re-create *Hamlet*. And a con man peddles courses in a dubious language in which hello translates as velcro and fraud comes out as Freud. At once enchanting and perplexing, incisively intelligent and side-splittingly funny, this original paperback edition of Ives's plays includes *Sure Thing*, *Words, Words, Words*, *The Universal Language*, *Variations on the Death of Trotsky*, *The Philadelphia*, *Long Ago and Far Away*, *Foreplay*, or *The Art of the Fugue*, *Seven Menus*, *Mere Mortals*, *English Made Simple*, *A Singular Kinda Guy*, *Speed-the-Play*, *Ancient History*, and *Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of Bread*.

**christopher durang monologues: *The Ultimate Audition Book*** John Capecci, Irene Ziegler Aston, 2017 The Funniest, Hottest Monologues available! From writers as varied as Anton Chekhov, Will Eno, Reina Hardy, David Rakoff, Mark Twain and Lauren Gunderson. You'll find shades of comedy from light to dark, situational humor, word play, absurdity, surrealism, and first-rate character work by some very funny writers. It's all here!

**christopher durang monologues: *Apartment 3A*** Jeff Daniels, 2000 THE STORY: Reeling from the loss of what she thought was the love of her life, Annie Wilson searches for a reason to hope again with a mysterious next-door neighbor who teaches her what it truly means to be in love forever.

**christopher durang monologues: *The Ultimate Audition Book*** Jocelyn Beard, 1997 Choice selections from mostly major dramatic works for brief auditions.

**christopher durang monologues: *All the Feelings*** Mike Levine, 2016-05-24 Young actors: Give the boot to Neil Labute. Tell Christopher Durang he's no thang. This ground-breaking book of

Grade-A meaty monologues is designed to help teen-aged actorians express their feelings through The Magic of The Theatre. Flip to any page and start reading aloud. You'll be getting attention in no time!

**christopher durang monologues: Radium Girls** D. W. Gregory, 2003 In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity, and luminous watches the latest rage- until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, Radium Girls traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder, an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case goes on, however, Grace finds herself battling not only with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but also with her own family and friends, who fear that her campaign for justice will backfire.

**christopher durang monologues: A Feminine Ending** Sarah Treem, 2008 Full Length, Dark Comedy 3m., 2f. Various, Unit set Amanda, twenty-five, wants to be a great composer. But at the moment, she's living in New York City and writing advertising jingles to pay the rent while her fiancé, Jack, pursues his singing career. So when Amanda's mother, Kim, calls one evening from New Hampshire and asks for her help with something she can't discuss over the phone, Amanda is only too happy to leave New York. Once home, Kim reveals that she's leaving Amanda's father and

**christopher durang monologues: Great Scenes and Monologues for Children** Craig Slight, Jack F. Sharrar, 1993 Presents a collection of monologues and scenes from familiar plays and books for young actors to perform.

**christopher durang monologues: Outstanding Women's Monologues** Craig Pospisil, Danna Call, 2010 Editors Craig Pospisil and Danna Call compiled this new collection of more than fifty monologues selected exclusively from Dramatists Play Service publications from recent seasons. Inside these pages you will find an enormous range of voices and subject matter, characters from their teens to their sixties and authors of widely varied styles, but all immensely talented. These monologues represent some of the best writing in the American theatre today, and we are proud to bring them together in this new volume.

**christopher durang monologues: I Hate Hamlet** Paul Rudnick, 1992 Comedy. An actor preparing to play Hamlet is haunted by the ghost of John Barrymore. 2 acts, 3 scenes, 3 men, 3 women, 1 interior.

**christopher durang monologues: Naomi in the Living Room & Other Short Plays** Christopher Durang, 1998 THE STORIES: NAOMI IN THE LIVING ROOM. Naomi, when visited by John and Johnna, her son and daughter-in-law, is alternately friendly and insulting. Johnna copes her best, but when John changes his clothes to look like Johnna, things start to unravel

**christopher durang monologues: The Monologue Audition** Karen Kohlhaas, 2000 All the elements of preparing a monologue audition - script analysis, staging, voice, timing, gesture, movement and self-presentation skills - are thoroughly explored here. The goal of the book, as Ms. Kohlhaas states in her Introduction, is not only to help you prepare for auditions, but to make working on monologues a regular and enjoyable part of your acting life. As you follow the author along the path she charts, you are not only learning to rehearse monologues effectively, you are learning to turn auditions into exciting ways to grow and challenge yourself as an actor.--BOOK JACKET.

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