

# The Surgery

a comedy play by Gavyn Lugsden

*Set in the current day, Doctors surgery waiting room. 10 chairs are on stage and a table with a pile of magazines centre. To one side is a table where Claire the receptionist sits. On Stage are Gladys, Rose, Alfred, Sarah and Claire the receptionist (at her desk).*

**Gladys** *(After a pause)* What is it with these places? Nobody wants to talk to anybody else, we all just sit here in blinking silence... *(She rummages through her bag and reveals a bag of sweets)* Sweet, anyone?

*(They all shake their heads)*

Oh for pity's sake here..! *(She throws a sweet to each person)* Look, you can have one whether you like it or not, miserable lot.

*(Rose and Sarah start to unwrap their sweets, Alfred passes his back to Gladys)*

Oh, charming, blinking charming! My sweets not good enough for you eh?

**Alfred** Sorry, I'm diabetic.

**Gladys** Diabetic, God struth, what's the world coming to? Look, I'll tell you what, you eat it and I promise not to tell the Doctor!

**Alfred** It's not that I don't want it, but it might give me a seizure.

**Gladys** A seizure? Oh, we can't have that can we?, a seizure here in the Doctors surgery of all places... If only I knew what a seizure was *(after a pause)* weren't he someone from the Bible...?

*(Rose and Sarah are still trying to remove the paper from their sweets)*

*(To Rose)* Problem...?

**Rose** I'm having trouble getting the paper of the sweet...

**Sarah** Yeah, me too. These are quite old sweets aren't they?

**Gladys** Charming that, aint it? I give you one of my sweets out of the goodness of my heart... He throws it back and you two complain! *(To Rose)* Look give it here!

*(Rose hands back the sweet)*

**Gladys**            *(Trying to remove the wrapper)* I don't know what the problem is, all you have to do is... give us a minute... there, I've got a bit off... who makes these sweets so blinking sticky and decides to wrap them up in sodding paper...!!!??

**Rose**                Don't worry about it. You keep it.

**Gladys**            What..? You want me to keep it, after you've been mauling it for the past five minutes? *(Putting it into her handbag)* I'll steam that paper off later.

*(Roger enters)*

**Claire**             Good morning Sir, how can I help?

**Roger**             I have an appointment with Dr Barry, for half past.

**Claire**             Can I take your name?

**Roger**             Sorry?

**Claire**             Your name?

**Roger**             Half past with the Doctor.

**Gladys**            What's he on about 'Half past with the Doctor' who on earth decided to call him that...?

**Claire**             No sir I need your name.

**Roger**             Oh, Roger Jones, sorry I'm a bit deaf.

**Gladys**            *(Realising)* Ah, look it's Roger, I used to live across the road from him, he must be '90 odd' now...

**Claire**             Don't worry, and what seems to be the problem?

**Roger**             The what love?

**Claire**             Why are you here to see the Doctor?

**Roger**             Yes, that's right. Half past!

**Claire**             Yes I know that, what's your problem?

**Roger**             My problem?

**Claire**             Yes, I need to write it on the screen for the Doctor.

**Roger**             What, I have to tell you?

**Claire** Yes!

**Roger** Just write 'Dick' ...!

**Claire** I most certainly will not...!

**Roger** Well you asked what the problem was, and that's it...!

**Gladys** *(To Roger)* Ignore her, Roger, just make something up...

**Roger** Make it up?

**Gladys** Well that's what I do, say it's your ear!

**Roger** *(To Claire)* I have a problem with my ear!

**Claire** *(While typing)* And what's wrong with your ear, Sir?

**Roger** What wrong with it?

**Claire** Yes Sir, what's wrong with your ear?

**Roger** I'm having difficulty peeing out of it...!!!

*(Rose, Gladys and Alfred laugh)*

**Claire** Take a seat, Sir.

*(Roger sits down)*

**Gladys** *(To Roger)* I wouldn't worry about it, my Husband had so many holes in his, it was like a flipping garden sprinkler!

**Rose** *(Laughing)* Oh my word, and I thought my husband was bad! So what happened?

**Gladys** We sent him for flute lessons...

**Sarah** Flute lessons?

**Gladys** *(Laughing)* Yeah, to teach him how to hold the ruddy thing without peeing all over the carpet.

*(They all laugh)*

*(To Roger)* Hello Roger, you remember me don't you..? You know - Gladys, I used to live opposite you when you were in... Oh, what's the name of that road...?

