**Acting:** This was a good ensemble performance, The actor playing Gordon consistently portrayed well the character's self- delusion, his long-suffering role as the leader of his motley cast and his increasing frustration and exasperation. The actor playing Margaret was excellent throughout. She established the character's acerbic diva persona effectively and maintained her constant air of superiority throughout, Her exasperated and cynical facial expressions were authentic as was her rage towards Bernard latterly. The actor playing Joyce realised much of the comedy potential of the character. Her not quite with it, distracted air was well maintained and I liked her playing of her toilet discomfort; her seriousness about her lines; her enthusiastic knowledge of mammals; and her hapless acting of the nurse. Her over-reaction to Bernard's reappearance was lovely. The actor playing Bernard captured the "wide boy" nature of the character. I liked such things as his impassioned defence of his innocence and he delivered his sarcastic rejoinders to good comic effect.

**Direction:** The director showed some invention throughout - e.g. Joyce's toilet scene with Margaret brandishing air freshener; the play within the play with its steady addition of ever more absurd costume accessories; Joyce's joining in with Bernard laughing at his own jokes to suggest their connection. The director had a clear awareness of where the play's comic climaxes were and how to build to them - in the mammal discussion, for example, and the play within the play that became increasingly slapstick. The tonal change at the end was well managed.

**Stage Presentation:** The use of Shakespeare and news footage instead of curtain music was a good touch, though music was used effectively latterly. The set was realised simply with appropriate stage furniture like the costume hamper and the flip chart props were well employed and the costumes added to the humour, particularly Margaret's surgical collar.

**General Achievement:** Confident interaction by the ensemble delivered the comedy of the play effectively.

Bruce Adam

**MARKS**

**Acting** 36/40 **Direction** 31/35

**Stage Presentation** 12/15 **General Achievement** 8/10 **Total Marks** 87/100



**One Act Play Festival**

**ADJUDICATOR’S MARK SHEET**

**Moray Firth District**

**Team – Buccaneer Theatre**

**Play – Lockdown in Little Grimley by David Tristram**

**At – Nairn Community & Arts Centre 26th Feb 2022**