

Albert-Reiner Glaap (Ed.)
with assistance from Michael Heinze and Simon Murgatroyd

New Landmarks in Ayckbourn Country

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My principal source has been and still is Alan Ayckbourn himself, who has been a pivotal pole in my activities over four decades. His multifaceted and inspiring ideas as a playwright are exceptional, and his creative energy as a man of the theatre is unrivalled and contagious.

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A Brief Introduction to this Volume

On the occasion of Alan Ayckbourn's 65th birthday, a book edited by Nicholas Quaintmere and myself was published by Wissenschaftlicher Verlag Trier (WVT): *A Guided Tour through Ayckbourn Country* (2004). It contains articles on the playwright's work, interviews with him, statements made by Ayckbourn himself on his plays, on his work as a director-playwright and on more general matters. The 'playography' in this book lists the 65 plays which he had written up to 2004, *My Sister Sadie* being the last of them. *Ayckbourn Country* provides information and an insight into what makes this playwright tick.

Since 2004, Alan Ayckbourn has written another eleven plays, number eleven, *Surprises*, having been premiered at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough in July 2012. There are, indeed, lots of surprises in store for those who want to learn more about Ayckbourn as well as those who do not yet know him or his work as a playwright. Readers get a glimpse into what his plays are all about and into their make-up.

This book, *New Landmarks in Ayckbourn Country*, introduces the reader to the dramatist's latest works. It is a follow-up study to the previous volume, yet an entity in itself which can be read independently from *Ayckbourn Country*. Comments on the eleven plays follow their chronological order. A special chapter of the book is devoted to discussions of thematically related topics, dramaturgical concepts and directorial styles in Ayckbourn's earlier and more recent plays, thereby giving insights into the playwright's workshop and the development of his work as a creative writer and man of the theatre.