

Albert-Reiner Glaap (ed.)

## Towards Ayckbournia in Germany

Published on the occasion  
of Alan Ayckbourn's 80<sup>th</sup> Birthday



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## **Introduction**

This book is dedicated to one of the best-known director-playwrights in England, a most successful man of theatre and a dear friend – Alan Ayckbourn who is celebrating his eightieth birthday in April 2019. He binds political issues and entertainment together in his stage plays and has a very specific concept of comedy.

He writes stage plays – and has written so far more than 80 – at his home in Scarborough, North Yorkshire and directs them at the Stephen Joseph Theatre there, his very ‘Ayckbournia,’ which has made a name for itself not only in English theatreland but has also spread the news in countries outside the United Kingdom – such as the United States, Japan, and in European countries, where the special make-up of Ayckbourn’s plays and the success of their productions in England have inspired theatre directors elsewhere to produce Alan’s plays in translation. This applies, in particular, to German theatres where ‘plants,’ as it were, from the Scarborough Ayckbournia have emerged – and Alan’s plays have been staged.

This volume consists of two parts. The first part will introduce the reader to the special context and conditions of the Scarborough productions of Alan’s plays and comment on the playwright’s special concept of comedy. After this insight into “Ayckbournia in Scarborough,” the main part will deal with “Ayckbournia in Germany” by giving an overview of the productions of Ayckbournian plays in German theatres and how they are received. What do German theatre critics have to say? And what do their reviews reveal about the reactions of the audiences who have seen the plays?

Which plays have been particularly successful? Which of them have been on the programme for a relatively long period of time or have been re-staged after a couple of years?