

## Wodehouse on Stage

Though now best known for his books, P. G. Wodehouse also had an extensive career in the theatre, particularly in the first two decades of the 20th century. He created innumerable lyrics for highly popular musicals, working in collaboration with composers including Louis A. Hirsch, George Gershwin, and Cole Porter. His most famous collaboration was with Jerome Kern and Guy Bolton, with whom he created the Princess Theatre musicals between 1915 and 1918. In 1917 the “trio of musical fame” had five shows running simultaneously on Broadway.

Additionally, Wodehouse had a gift for writing English adaptations of plays written in foreign languages, as well as his own original “straight” work. The lists below comprise only part of Wodehouse’s theatrical output. For more extensive information on his career in musicals, see Lee Davis’s *Bolton and Wodehouse and Kern* (1993) and Barry Day’s *The Complete Lyrics of P. G. Wodehouse* (2004). For a guide to his work in legitimate theatre, see Tony Ring’s *Second Row, Grand Circle* (2012). For an online guide to Wodehouse’s theatrical career, see Ring’s summary [here](#).

The lists that follow are taken from *The P.G. Wodehouse Miscellany*, by N.T.P. Murphy (History Press, 2015; reproduced with permission from Elin Woodger Murphy), with some additional information taken from Ring.

### ***Musicals***

The musicals listed below are those for which Wodehouse wrote lyrics and/or the book (in whole or in part). For further details, see Ring.

- 1904 *Sergeant Brue* (London)
- 1906 *The Beauty of Bath* (London)
- 1907 *The Gay Gordons* (London)
- 1907 *The Bandit’s Daughter* (London)
- 1914 *Nuts and Wine* (London)
- 1916 *Pom Pom* (New York)
- Miss Springtime* (New York)
- 1917 *Have a Heart* (New York)
- Oh, Boy!* (New York)
- Leave It to Jane* (New York)
- Kitty Darlin’* (New York)
- The Riviera Girl* (New York)
- Miss 1917* (New York)
- 1918 *Oh, Lady! Lady!!* (New York)
- See You Later* (New York)
- The Girl Behind the Gun* (New York)
- The Canary* (New York)
- Oh, My Dear!* (New York)
- 1919 *The Rose of China* (New York)
- 1920 *Sally* (New York)

- 1921 *The Golden Moth* (London)
- 1922 *The Cabaret Girl* (London)
- 1923 *The Beauty Prize* (London)
- 1924 *Sitting Pretty* (New York)
- 1926 *Hearts and Diamonds* (London)  
*Oh, Kay!* (New York)
- 1927 *The Nightingale; Show Boat* (New York)
- 1928 *Rosalie; The Three Musketeers* (New York)
- 1934 *Anything Goes* (New York)

### **Plays**

The list below shows only those Wodehouse plays (original or adapted) that were actually produced for stage. Those marked with an asterisk (\*) have been published in book form.

- 1911 *A Gentleman of Leisure* (New York)
- 1913 *Brother Alfred* (London)  
*A Thief in the Night* (Chicago)<sup>1</sup>
- 1914 *Brother Fans* (New York)
- 1920 *Piccadilly Jim* (Washington, D.C.)
- 1926 *The Play's the Thing* (New York; also London 1928)\*  
*Jill the Reckless* (Sheffield, U.K.)
- 1927 *Her Cardboard Lover* (New York & London)  
*Good Morning, Bill* (London)\*
- 1928 *A Damsel in Distress* (London)\*
- 1929 *Baa, Baa, Black Sheep* (London)\*
- 1929 *Candle-Light* (New York)\*
- 1930 *Leave It to Psmith* (London)\*
- 1934 *Who's Who* (London)
- 1935 *The Inside Stand* (London)
- 1948 *Don't Listen, Ladies!* (London & New York)\*
- 1950 *Don't Lose Your Head* (U.K. provincial theatres)
- 1950 *Nothing Serious* (on tour US)
- 1954 *Joy in the Morning* (Ashburton, Devon, U.K.)
- 1957 *Come On, Jeeves* (Cambridge, U.K.)\*
- 1978 *Arthur* (New York; posthumous)\*

<sup>1</sup> *A Thief in the Night* was actually *A Gentleman of Leisure* with a different title.