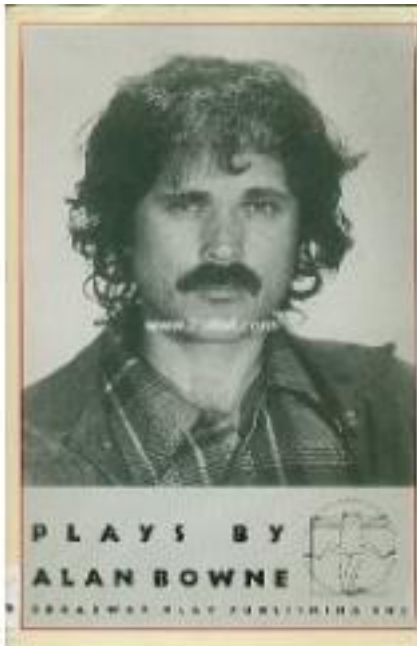


Plays by Alan Bowne



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j From Interview i¼ August 1987 i¼ by Kevin Sessums
 There s a creature known in the South as a feist dog. Little. Scraggly.
 High-strung. You know where one lives by a backyard full of barks.
 The thing ll take on a German shepherd--shiti¼ the whole German army--
 if it thinks its territory is being threatened. But it likes kids too. And it likes
 the feel of a hand o/! its underbelly.
 Playwright and screenwriter Alan Bownei¼ whose work concerns the
 straggly underbelly ~(life itself i¼ has the friendly tenacity of one of those
 tight-tailed mutts. \ "People don t like what I write: Screw era i¼ \ " he insists
 a bone of contention clenched fiercely between his teeth. \ "That just means
 they don t like my truth. I don t write Long Island theater. I don t write for
 e o!d guard who ve been brain dama ed i¼ o-
 lth~nte comedies full o i¼ ~i¼ ~r~. i¼ _

ing on the plays of Eugene O'Neill however all how some might wish to avert their eyes from the track marks of humor in Bowne's work. FORTY DEUCE his first play and later a Paul Morrissey film concerns a group of male hustlers in a room off Times Square who try to sell a fourteen-year-old to a rich businessman--all the while concealing the fact that the youngster who lies naked on the soiled bed through it. Not from an overdose of heroin. Another play SHARON AND BILLY is about a brother and sister engaged in guerrilla warfare against their parents in 1950s blue-collar Los Angeles. His next A SNAKE IN THE VEIN is scheduled for this fall at Manhattan Class Company and concerns a sage old heroin addict and his young recruit. Bowne's second Morrissey film Mixed Blood was about a decadent den mother and her young troop of dope-peddling thieves in New York's Alphabet City sort of a female Oliver Twisted. Yet another Morrissey movie Throwback is currently in production. Starring Sasha Mitchell a former Calvin Klein jeans model it takes us on a tour of the new yuppie mafia and the boxing world in the Red Hook section of Brooklyn. But it is Bowne's latest play BEIRUT that is the most controversial of his career. Set in the near future its subject matter is a plague much like AIDS that has caused quarantining and tattooing of its victims. The two heterosexual characters are barely clothed throughout its 59-minute running time and of sexuality enticing as well as toxic oozes from the work's exposed pores. BEIRUT has caused critics to rail. Clive Barnes bellowed against it Tile Village Voice labeled it "dangerous." "The Village Voice? What's that?" Bowne bellows back. "It's the left-wing National Enquirer. I don't read it. And to tell you the truth I don't care what a lispin' rheumy old fart who not only passes out in the middle of plays but also works for a piece of toilet tissue like the New York Post thinks about."

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