

Enjoy the “Bide” with *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong*

*The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* is an adaptation of Mischief Theatre’s smash hit, *The Play That Goes Wrong*, written by three of Mischief Theatre’s ensemble members: Henry Lewis, Jonathan Sayer, and Henry Shields. The full length version has been produced in over 35 countries and has won awards such as the WhatsOnStage Award and the Olivier Award for Best New Comedy. *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* keeps this boisterous comedy alive in a shortened version that is meant to be produced by schools.

Mischief Theatre focuses on creating a particular style of 60’s slapstick comedy which Sayer says they spend months writing and redrafting all the way up until the play is performed. This extensive process is how the team makes sure that they have a script that goes wrong in the right way. They know their plays are successful when they create a sinking feeling in the pit of the audience's stomach. Shields refers to this sinking feeling as the French term, “bide.” Depending on the context and how it’s used, “bide” translates to “belly” or “flop” in English. Mischief Theatre masterfully uses the “bide” to write plays that purposefully create an uncomfortable feeling in the audience's belly while they are watching a play that is a flop.

Mischief Theatre has created numerous plays, and with each production they seek to create comedies that offer “ridiculous escapism” to their audiences, inviting them to leave their mundane lives and step into a world that brings about silliness and uncontrollable laughter. *The One-Act Play That Goes Wrong* hits this idea of “ridiculous escapism” on the head and invites the audience to indulge in the “bide” and laugh until they cry.