

Alan Ayckbourn: A Short Biography

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Alan Ayckbourn

Playwright & Director

A playwright and theatre director, to date Sir Alan Ayckbourn has written 85 plays. His latest play, *The Girl Next Door*, premieres in June 2021 at the SJT where nearly all his plays continue to be first staged and where he was Artistic Director for 37 years. He retired from the post in 2009 and was honoured to be appointed the SJT's first Director Emeritus during 2018.

His plays have been translated into over 35 languages, are performed throughout the world and he and they have won countless awards. This year marks the 60th anniversary of his professional directing career which has seen him direct more than 350 productions in Scarborough, London and the USA.

He has received many Honorary Doctorates including, happily, in 2018 the very first Honorary Doctorate from CU Scarborough. The University of York acquired his archive in 2011. A recipient of the Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts, he has been inducted into American Theatre's Hall of Fame and became the first British Playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Lifetime Achievement Awards. He was knighted in 1997 for services to the theatre.

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