

*Busy Fingers.
A Play in 3 Acts.*

<i>Sent to:</i>	<i>When:</i>	<i>Returned:</i>
<i>Theatre Guild N.Y. 2-act Version.</i>	<i>March 20, 1939.</i>	<i>June 23, 1939. Too slight. Letter from John Gannon.</i>
<i>Audrey Wood of Libbling- Wood, Inc. - N.Y. 2-act Version.</i>	<i>July 12, 1939</i>	<i>Oct. 10, 1939. Letter. (Too short)</i>
<i>Whit Burnett - N.Y. 3 act Version written Nov. Dec. 1939.</i>	<i>Dec. 20, 1939.</i>	
<i>Theatre Guild</i>	<i>Dec. 16, 1944.</i>	

April 15, 1936.

"Busy Fingers"
A Play
in Two Acts
by
Robert Traver.

Act 1. Scene 1. (?)

Scene: Courtroom:

Trial of Millar ... he tells of life.....

Industrial waif.....

(Curtain goes down while jury out.)
"Not guilty"

Act 2.

Scene 1. Warden's office.

Escape -- P.A. to get dope.... Books.... Curtain goes down as
Sam walks PA to bull pen.... Hear clank of door and footsteps....

Scene 2. Bull pen.

Millar.... Lords prayer.... bat at cell door.... One cell covered
with blanket.... Big negro sings "Trumpeter" -- goes wah-wah-wah as Sam awakes.

Scene 3. Warden's office.

Colden watches tit.... P.A. with back to aud. says...
"and forgive those that trespass against us."

In bull pen scene have one high window looking out on a
stone wall. The legs of a guard pass this window at one
minute intervals. Other window feet sun's rays on cell.
Little rat clings to cell all the time.

- Act 1 { 1. Zaboriski led out by Sam.
 2. Number pages.
 3. Identify Warden by Zaboriski.
- Scene { 4. "Nine" years to 7.
 5. THE name, Lat, is Zaboriski.
- Act 2.

1. The Group Theatre
(John Golden.)
2. The Theatre Guild, Inc
70. Guild Theatre N.Y.
3. Rockefeller Center Theatre.
4. Orson Welles
(Mercury Theatre)
Also John Houseman

Producers:

Arthur Hopkins
 Gilbert Miller
 Guthrie Mc Clintic
 Sam M. Harris
 Norman Bel Geddes.
 Joe Harris.
 Leo S. Kaufman.
 George Abbott

MS

1. Compare with Miss H.
- ✓ 2. Get Burne Mantle address. = Tribune.
- ✓ 3. Write synopsis of Clay.
- ✓ 4. M.S. folder.
5. M.S. to Deposit box.
6. Larsen.

SYNOPSIS OF THE PLAY

"Busy Fingers" is the story of a convict, David Millar; of his trial and acquittal on a charge of murdering a fellow inmate, Joe Krause; of Millar's return to prison, where the Warden gleefully has him thrown into the prison bull pen; of his futile attempt to escape; of his odd friendship with the prosecuting attorney; and of how the sympathetic young prosecutor unwittingly provides the suffering Millar with the means of his final release.

It is hoped, too, that "Busy Fingers" suggests something of the more obscurely known phases of the tragedy of economic depression -- and some of its waifs; of the great natural talent and ability that rots, is rotting, in our prisons; of the gnawing degradation of prison life; and something of the gristle-headed blunders and deliberate cruelties perpetrated by some of our politically appointed prison officials.

And there are some other things.

THE AUTHOR

who sits below him, near the witness stand, pounds his gavel and everyone arises. The bailiff intones: "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye! This honorable court is now in session." Everyone is seated. The CLERK announces: "Continuing with the trial of People versus David Millar. The charge: Murder."

The Judge wipes his pinch-glasses with a handkerchief, carefully adjusts them, and consults some notes before him. Looking at PROSECUTOR LOTT, he clears his throat and speaks.

JUDGE: When we adjourned this noon the People had just called the witness Stanley -- ah -- Stanley -- --

LOTT: Zaborski, your Honor.

JUDGE: Thank you. Are the People ready to proceed?

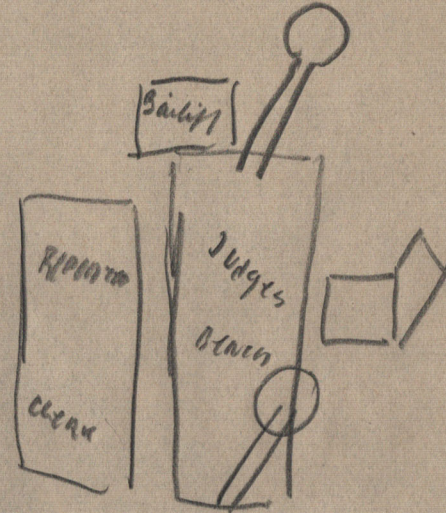
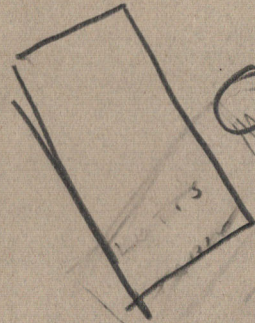
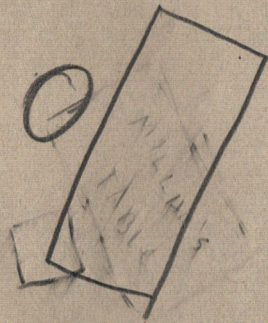
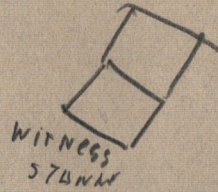
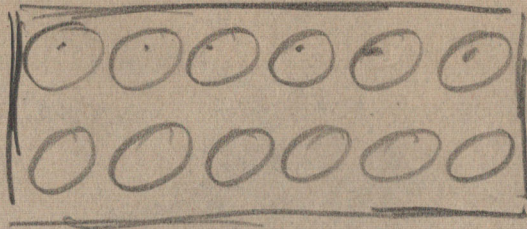
LOTT: We are, your Honor. (Lott walks up near the witness, standing between him and the Judge's bench, so that he is facing both the witness and the jury. He turns and speaks to the clerk.) Was this witness sworn this morning? (The clerk nods yes, and Lott turns to the witness.) Your name, please?

WITNESS: Stanley Zaborski. (He has a somewhat affected voice, with considerable lip movement, elaborately enunciating each word.)

LOTT: Where do you reside?

WITNESS: (Drawing back, hurt, offended)

Why, as you know -- in the prison of course. (Pointing at the Warden) The Warden there can tell you -- I'm one of the most trusted inmates of the institution. (He basks in the light of the Warden's nodding agreement.)



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Audience

Literary

1. In Praise of Politicians

2. Lily Belle May June (Story)

3. ~~Mavis scenario verb.~~

4. Write Viking

5. ~~With like Tojo~~

6. ~~Like the cook & carry stoves -
she overtypes plenty but doesn't
deliver!~~

Act I.



Scene 1.

Da office = ① Election.....

② Paddy & the paper.

Act 2

Bury Fingers:

Ideas

- ~~Send~~ ① Write Devine after Marple;
② Send "Bury Impis" to With.

1. ~~Note books - Dresses~~
 2. Like a ~~cha~~ cash + carry store -
Adventure plenty
 3. Tire - Derrin
 4. Teeth like Tojo
 5. Write Viking -
"but dare were tinders +
lightning ^{along} bit!"
 6. ~~Gas stamps~~
→ ~~ASPIRIN~~
-
- Movie scenarios
-
- Emergency plans.
-
- Lily Belle May June.
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