

# JonathanGems.com Portfolio

## Theatre Productions

### Merry Christmas To All And Goodnight

Schiller College

First performance 19 December 1977

Producer	Jonathan Gems
Director	Jeffrey Burnett
Designer	Melody Campbell
Costumes	Jean Colette Seel
Suzie	Maxine Wilson
Santa #1	Bill Moody
Santa #2	Stuart Milligan
Santa #3	Nicholas Wolfe

An expressionistic, allegorical, agit-prop, thesis play-of-ideas, with heavy Christmas overtones.

### The Shithouse of the August Moon

King's Head Theatre

First performance 11 February 1978

Producer	Jonathan Gems
Director	Jeffrey Burnett
Designer	Vivienne Cartwright
Costumes	Jean Colette Seel
	Susan Thompson
Stage manager	Stuart Milligan
Music	Thunderclap Newman
Photography	Johnny Rozsa
Nigel	Mark Drewry
Sarah	Maxine Wilson
Vincent	Bill Moody
Man	Stuart Milligan

"An amusing comedy about two young hopefuls struggling along in a grotty bed-sit

*Time Out magazine, 15 February 1978*

### Rinni Bootsie Tutti Frutti

Young Vic Theatre

First performance July 2 1978

(Transferred to King's Head Theatre).

Producer	Jonathan Gems
Director	Jeffrey Burnett
Designer	Karyn McCallum
Bill Jones	Howard Lew Lewis*
Stuart Laine	Stuart Milligan
Barmaid	Maxine Wilson

\*Paul Hogarth played Bill Jones in the King's Head run.

"Is there a reason for the disastrous state of the world? Is it economic systems or human stupidity that destroys food surpluses while allowing millions to starve? Or could it be Alien intervention? A jittery, anxious American writer keeps an appointment in an English country pub with a sceptical local journalist and tries to convince him. His story has the mad ring of plausibility. The barmaid and the journalist humour his paranoia, scorn his artificially stimulated imagination but seem to believe him. But even what seems is not what it seems in this tight, bright show."

*Time Out magazine. 5 August 1978.*

Abridged and broadcast on **BBC Radio 4.** December 12 1979

Producer	Liane Aukin
Bill Jones	Eric Allen
Stuart Laine	Stuart Milligan
Barmaid	Anna Conda

"Adaptation of Gems's sci-fi stage play - and what a weird little number it turns out to be. Here we are in this deserted pub with only a barmaid and the musak for company. Our hero, a reporter from the local rag (Eric Allen), is due to meet Stuart (Stuart Milligan), who swears the world is being taken over by aliens. One suspects throughout that the paranoid have truth on their side and that the sceptical are doomed, but even so, the denouement takes one neatly by surprise. A classic contribution to the *Thirty Minute Theatre* slot."

*Time Out magazine December 7-13 1979*

### The Dentist

Royal Court Theatre Upstairs

First performance 15 March 1979

Producer	Stuart Burge
Director	Ian Kellgren
Stage manager	Vandra Edwards
Stage manager	Peter Cox
Bernard Dominick	Joe Melia
Julie	June Page
Rod	Matthew Kelly
Margaret Dominick	Patsy Rowlands
Tony	Matthew Kelly
Ganglion	William Hootkins
Stewardess	June Page
House	Matthew Kelly
Drill	Ron Berglas
George	William Hootkins
Andy	Ron Berglas
Singhi	Ron Berglas
Satyr - Eya	June Page
Og	Matthew Kelly
Ugu	William Hootkins
Aba	Patsy Rowlands
Red	William Hootkins
Bob	Ron Berglas
Doctor	William Hootkins
Fabio	Ron Berglas
American matron	Patsy Rowlands
Friend	Matthew Kelly
American cop	William Hootkins
Ticket Seller	Ron Berglas

“Jonathan Gems sinks his teeth into a swift and savage comedy surrounding a frustrated dentist, his family and their fantastic adventures.”

*Time Out magazine #465.*

### **The Tax Exile**

Bush Theatre

First performance 11 April 1979

*(Winner - George Devine Award.)*

Producers	Simon Stokes
	Jenny Topper

Director	Dusty Hughes
Assistant director	Nancy Meckler
Designer	Clare Davidson
Assistant designer	Ultz
Lighting designer	Steve Addison
Sound	Rik Carmichael
Stage manager	Chris O'May
Costumes	Lucy Strachan
	Jean Colette Seel
	Producers
Matthew	Maynard Williams
Numtaz	Monique de Sain
Viv	June Page
Leslie Whiting	Richard Kane
Gerry	Jennie Stoller
Achmed	Alex Norton
Tax Inspector	Ken Morley

“Uproarious playwrighting debut by Jonathan Gems, which puts more of contemporary Britain on stage than older and shriller playwrights have managed.”

*The Observer. 8 May 1979*

### **The Secret of the Universe**

Institute Of Contemporary Arts

First performance 25 July 1980

Producer	Jonathan Gems
Director	Ian Kellgren
Assistant director	Clare Davidson
Designer	Derek Jarman
Designer	Stephen Meaha
Music	Paul Sand
	Richard Sanders
	Stephen Warbeck
Song	Jonathan Gems
Choreography	Keith Hodiak
Stage manager	Xenia Latham
Mural by	Christopher Hobbs
Chick	Jordan
Tricia	Maxine Wilson
Eric	Keith Hodiak
Philip	Reggie Tsiboe
Steve	Stephen Warbeck

Rick Jonathan Gems  
Mark Tim Spall

“A drop-out novelist, two black men, a pair of white would-be beatniks and two aimless women. The accuracy and comedy of the reportage has a point, summed up in a song at the end, when all the characters harmonise the words “I want to be an American.”

*Ned Chaillet, The Times.*

### **Naked Robots**

Warehouse Theatre

First performance 14 January 1981

Producer	Royal Shakespeare Company
Director	John Caird
Designer	Ultz
Costumes	Jean Colette Seel
Lighting	Michael Calf
Music	Nick Bicât
Song	Jonathan Gems
Sound	John Leonard
Stage Manager	Michael Townsend
Deputy stage manager	Nick Fiveash
Assistant stage manager	Simon Hooper
Make-up and styling	Jordan George O’Dowd Simon Turner
Extra costumes	Bastet
Androids’ accessories	Julian Francis
Costumes made by	Eleanor Peck
Costumes made by	Mharie McKechnie
Photography	Ingrid Gavshon
Desna	Trudie Styler
Nudy	Raad Rawi
Gemma	Catherine Hall
Ray	Philip Davis
Poppy	Lynda La Plante

“An extremely well-written evocation of life in the style-conscious world of popular music.”

*The Sunday Times. 31 May 1981*

### **Jesus Rides Out**

Bush Theatre

First performance 14 September 1982.

Part of a compilation entitled *Breach Of The Peace*, which went on tour.

Producer	Paines Plough
Director	Tim Albery
Suzie	Sally Jane
Jesus 1	Mark Drewry
Jesus 2	Richard Jobson
Jesus 3	Vass
Jesus 4	Decima Francis
Jesus 5	Mark Drewry

No more information available.

### **The Paranormalist**

Greenwich Theatre

First performance September 1982

Producers	Michael Codron Alan Strachan
Director	Alan Strachan
Designer	Dermot Hayes

Lighting designer	Mick Hughes
Mopsa	Catherine Hall
Barbara	Angela Thorne
Sonny	Denholm Elliott
David Hudson-Williams	Chris Godwin
Dr Tom Schwarz	Stephen Greif

“The climax of *The Paranormalist* has Denholm Elliot in spotlight levitation above a bickering family in a suburban living room. Dishevelled in baggy cardy and slippers, Elliott gives an affectionate and authoritative portrayal as an English eccentric. It’s a brilliant performance in an exhilarating new play which interweaves drawing room farce with a witty use of the paranormal.”

*Ann McFerran Time Out magazine.*

### **Susan’s Breasts**

Royal Court Theatre Upstairs  
First performance 17 May 1985  
(Winner - Critics Circle Award)

Producer	Max Stafford-Clark
Director	Mike Bradwell
Assistant director	David Bass
Designer	Geoff Rose
Lighting designer	Gerry Jenkinson
Sound	Andy Pink
Stage manager	Annie Hutchinson
Deputy stage manager	Gil Fox
Technical manager	Chris Bagust
Photography	John Haynes
Poster	Janusz Guttner
Paul	Garry Cooper
Susan	Caroline Goodall
Carol	Felicity Montagu
Ken	Mark Brignal
Adrian	Stevan Rimkus
Lemon	Jason Carter

“Gems’s piece is a bitter dissection of the heroin generation, where bright young things attempt to maintain their rigid codes of personal freedom and loveless sex...Sparky, sexy, sterile Susan is the object of Gems’s despair, and the object of desire for her predatory he-admirers - a loutish intellectual, a wise-cracking, good-time restaurateur, and a film maker with acute semiotics. It is only the old fashioned romantic love professed by Lemon, a Romeo-cm-seer, which makes the eponymous breasts swell with maternity. Sharply observed and often carrying a charge of rich comic irony.”

*Time Out magazine. 30 May 1985*

### **Doom, Doom, Doom, Doom**

Royal Court Theatre Upstairs  
First performance 16<sup>th</sup> January 1985

Six people watch the end of the world on TV, from a nuclear bunker built for two.

Producer	Max Stafford-Clark
Director	Antonia Bird
Denis	David Threlfall
Brian	Alfred Molina
John Fogg	Philip Davis

Robert	Peter Capaldi
Dominique	Joanne Whalley
Melanie	Veronica Roberts
Jane	Elizabeth Edmonds
Clive	Jim Barclay

Also at the Almeida Theatre - 11 August 1985

Producer	Not The RSC Festival
Director	Frances Barber
John Fogg	Kenneth Branagh
Jane	Frances Barber

## **Unproduced plays**

### **Lorenza the Magnificent**

A play about the art world

## **Theatre Productions - not as writer**

### **Hanratty In Hell**

Producer	Charles Marowitz
Assistant stage manager	Jonathan Gems

### **Three Women**

Producer	Charles Marowitz
Assistant stage manager	Jonathan Gems

### **Christie In Love**

written by Howard Brenton  
Open Space Theatre  
Performed in April 1975

Producer	Charles Marowitz
Director	Andrew Carr
Designer	Robin Don
Costumes	Susan Thompson
Stage manager	Jonathan Gems
Reginald Christie	Geoffrey Larder
Constable	Howard Lew Lewis
Inspector	Brian Miller

**A Christmas Carol**

Charles Dickens  
 Half-Moon Theatre  
 Producer  
 Director  
 Stage manager  
 Music

Robert Walker  
 Robert Walker  
 Jonathan Gems  
 Jonathan Gems

**Back-Street Romeo**

written by Steve Gooch  
 Half Moon Theatre  
 First performance 7 March 1977

Producer Robert Walker  
 Director Robert Walker  
 Designer Jane Clement  
 Designer John Asbridge  
 Stage Manager Jonathan Gems  
 Assistant stage manager Vanessa Prokopp  
 Publicity Gean Wilton  
 Administration Micheline Brina  
 Samson Peter Attard  
 Princey/Larry Stuart Barrenc  
 Romeo Billy Colvill  
 Moll Margi Campi  
 Capulist Stafford Gordon  
 Monty/an Arab Barrie Houghton  
 Greg Brian Hoskin  
 Knocker Howard Lew Lewis  
 Tybalt/Paris James Marcus  
 Juliet Chloe Salaman

Songs written and performed by Jonathan Gems

**Let Me In I'm A Friend Of The Band**

written by Clem Gorman  
 King's Head Theatre  
 First performance October 22 1979

Producer Jonathan Gems.  
 Director Jeffrey Burnett  
 Cast Stuart Milligan  
 Maxine Wilson

No more information on this production.

**The Treat**

written by Pam Gems  
 Institute Of Contemporary Arts  
 First performance 10 February 1982

Producer Jonathan Gems  
 Director Philip Davis  
 Assistant director Michael Whelan  
 Designer Stephen Meaha  
 Assistant designer Jo Thompson  
 Lighting Ian Gugan  
 Georges Raymond Tim Stern  
 Berthe Jenny Galloway  
 Francine Francis Barber  
 Marie Helène Theresa Boden  
 M'sieur Max Tim Spall

Sportsman Tim Spall  
 Vincent Tim Spall  
 Rowdy Tim Spall  
 The Mayor Tim Spall  
 Jacques Alex Norton  
 Sportsman Alex Norton  
 Businessman Alex Norton  
 Monsieur Henri Bill Gidley  
 Le Compte Bill Gidley  
 Monsieur Richaud Bill Gidley  
 Shy man Jonathan Gems  
 Party guests Bill McAllister  
 John Ashford  
 Michael Morris  
 Jeremy King  
 Stephen Meaha  
 Michael Whelan

**Déja Vu**

written by Philip Davis  
 Old Red Lion Theatre  
 First performance 24 February 1983

Producer Jonathan Gems  
 Director Jonathan Gems

Designer	Paul Dart
Assistant designer	Jo Thompson
Costumes	Jean Colette Seel
Lighting designer	Rick Fisher
Production Manager	Jolanta Tarnowski
Stage manager	Evelyn Doggart
Lighting operator	Peter Fawcett Drake
Sound	Ian Macall
Woman	Corrina Seddon

### **Loving Women**

written by Pam Gems

Arts Theatre, London

First performance 1<sup>st</sup> February 1984

Producer	Jonathan Gems
	David Jones
Director	Philip Davis
Designer	Jonathan Gems
Lighting	Stephen Rolfe
Production manager	Tony Harpur

Susannah	Marion Bailey
Frank	David Beames
Crystal	Gwyneth Strong

## **Films**

### **Nineteen Eighty Four**

Virgin Films (1984)

Producer	Simon Perry
Director	Michael Radford
Writers	Michael Radford
	Jonathan Gems
Cinematographer	Roger Deakins
Designer	Allan Cameron
Editor	Tom Priestley
Music	Dominic Muldowney
Winston Smith	John Hurt
O'Brien	Richard Burton
Julia	Suzanna Hamilton
Other Cast:	Cyril Cusack

Gregor Fisher
James Walker
Shirley Stefox
Phyllis Logan

### **White Mischief**

Columbia (1987)

“White Mischief is a black comedy about sex, race, class, and colonisation. It looks like a David Lean epic - beautiful clothes, sweeping landscapes - but it substitutes acid wit for nostalgia. Far from bidding a melancholy adieu to British colonialism, it subtly yet viciously mocks it.”

*Susan Linfield. American Film May 1988*

Producer	Simon Perry
Executive producer	Michael White
Director	Michael Radford
Writer	Jonathan Gems
Cinematographer	Roger Deakins
Designer	Roger Hall
Editor	Tom Priestley
Costumes	Marit Allen
Assistant director	Chris Rose
Music	George Fenton
Diana	Greta Scacchi
Erroll	Charles Dance
Jock	Joss Ackland
Gilbert Colville	John Hurt
Alice de Janzé	Sarah Miles
Jack Soames	Trevor Howard
Morris	Ray McAnally
June Carberry	Catherine Neilson
Gwady Delamere	Susan Fleetwood
Harragin	Alan Dobie
McPherson	Gregor Fisher

### **Batman**

Warner Bros 1989

(uncredited)

Producers	Peter Guber
	John Peters
Director	Tim Burton

Writers	Sam Hamm
	Warren Skaaren
Cinematographer	Roger Pratt
Designers	Anton Fuerst
	Nigel Phelps
Editor	Ray Lovejoy
Music	Danny Elfman
Batman	Michael Keaton
The Joker	Jack Nicholson
Vicki Vale	Kim Basinger
Alfred	Michael Gough
Grissom	Jack Palance
Alicia	Jerry Hall
Harvey Dent	Billy Dee Williams
Commissioner Gordon	Pat Hingle
Lieut. Eckhardt	William Hootkins

### **The Dress**

(1991) 15 minutes

*Winner 'Special Recognition Award' - Aspen Film Festival.*

Deborah likes the dress she tries on in the store - a dress she can't afford. An attractive stranger appears and offers to buy it for her. What is she to do? What does he want in return? This was the inspiration for the movie *Indecent Proposal* starring Demi Moore, Robert Redford and Woody Harrelson

(Paramount 1992).

Writer/producer/director	Jonathan Gems
Producer	Chloe King
Line producer	Steven Wren
Cinematographer	Bill Megalos
Designer	David Faithful
Assistant director	Chris Medak
Editor	Chris Peppe
Music	Stephen Croes
Costumes	April Napier
	Colleen Atwood
Make-up/Hair	Jill Fink
Sound Editor	Karen Foster
Props	Sally LeBoeuf
Assistant Editor	Luis Colina
Stills	Gillian Lefkowitz

Catering	Azam Lichtenberg
Deborah	Trudie Styler
Michel	Patrick Bauchau
Nikki	Charlotte Lewis
Photographer	Mink Stole
Waiter	Glenn Shadix
Screenwriter	Bill Richard
Executive	Michael Tolkin
Stylist	Annabelle Brooks
Store Attendant	Chris Pederson
Waitress	Lena Burton
Camera Assistant	George Waud

### **House-Ghosts**

(1992) 35 minutes

Producer/director/editor Jonathan Gems

### **Death Valley Venus**

(1993) 3 minutes

Producer/director/editor Jonathan Gems

### **A Field Guide To The North American Clown**

(1994) 10 minutes b&w

Horseplay Productions

Producer	Jonathan Gems
Writers	Gek & Michael Keenan
Director	Michael Keenan
Clown #1	Jeffrey Snyder
Clown #2	Michael Weiland
Clowner	Jared Cairns
Jogger	Leland Heflin
Voice-over	Jonathan Gems

### **Mars Attacks!**

Warner Bros. (1996)

Producers	Tim Burton
	Larry Franco
Director	Tim Burton
Writer	Jonathan Gems

Cinematographer	Peter Suchitsky
Designer	Wynn Thomas
Editor	Chris Lebenzon
Music	Danny Elfman
US President	Jack Nicholson
Art	Jack Nicholson
First Lady	Glenn Close
Jason	Michael J Fox
Nathalie	Sarah Jessica Parker
Donald Kessler	Pierce Brosnan
Gambler	Danny de Vito
Jerry	Martin Short
General Decker	Rod Steiger
Barbara	Annette Bening
Richie	Lukas Haas
Grandma	Sylvia Sidney
Louise	Pam Grier
General Casey	Paul Winfield
Glenn	Joe Don Baker
Billy-Glenn	Jack Black
Byron Williams	Jim Brown
Taffy	Natalie Portman
Tom Jones	Tom Jones

### **The Treat**

Pink Onion Films/ Cineville/ Cinequanon (1999)  
*Winner Best Comedy - Los Angeles 'Angel City' Film Festival (2000)*

Producer/director/writer	Jonathan Gems
Line producer	Robert Mikkleson
Executive producers	Carl Colpaert Dan Sales
Co-producer	Susan Shapiro
Cinematographer	Joey Forsyte
Designer	Peter-Paul Raubertas
Editor	Ned Bastille
Composer	Stephen Croes.
Costumes	Vernon Small
Hair	John Blaine
Make-Up	Kim Pish Gucci Westman
Production manager	Victor Ho
Assistant director	Laurence Barbera

Gaffer	Donna Vega
Tony	Daniel Baldwin
Francesca	Julie Delpy
Dolly	Pam Gidley
Mimi	Georgina Cates
Chip	Seymour Cassel
Mike	Patrick Dempsey
The Colonel	Alfred Molina
Pierre	Vincent Perez
Simon	Michael York
Ray	Larry Drake
The Cop	Yancy Butler
Bruce	Mark Boone Jr
Christopher	Richmond Arquette
Leo	Fenton Lawless
Manageress	Mink Stole
Vinny	Stuart Lancaster
The Reverend	Thomas Pescod
Dancer	Kitten Natividad
Marie	Mariana Morgan
Burlesque dancers	Robin Antin and the Pussycat Dolls

### **The Beat Nicks**

Exile Pictures 2001

Producers	Stephanie Danan Paul Hahn Kevin Williams
Director	Kevin Williams
Writers	Kevin Williams Nina Jo Baker Jonathan Gems
Executive producer	Garen Topalian
Cinematography	Joseph Montgomery
Music	Zander Schloss
Designer	Ted Berner
Nick Nero	Norman Reedus
Nick Beat	Mark Boone Jr
Hank	Patrick Bauchau
Nicolette	Élodie Bouchez
Mack Drake	Eric Roberts
Restaurant manager	Vick Sabitjian
also featuring:	Lisa Marie

Jovana Brown  
Camilla Roos  
Jon Gries

### **Corpse Bride**

Warner Bros. (2005)  
(uncredited)

## **Unproduced films**

### **Naked Robots**

Written in 1985, based on the play of the same name.

### **Behaving Badly**

Television pilot commissioned by Humphrey Barclay for ITV.  
Co-wrote with Pam Gems.

### **Doom, Doom, Doom, Doom**

Channel Four Television  
A TV film based on the play of the same name (1985).

### **Sinbad The Sailor**

BBC Television  
A TV Christmas film based on the Sinbad stories (1986).

### **Television Planet**

Written for Handmade Films in 1987. A science-fiction comedy commissioned by Denis O'Brien, on behalf of George Harrison, intended as a vehicle for Eurythmics (the music duo of Annie Lennox and David Stewart).  
Pre-production was just beginning when the film company found itself in financial difficulties and had to cease operations.

### **Slow Train To Milan**

Written for Umbrella Films, based on the novel of the same name by Lisa St Aubin De Terán (1988).

### **Love Among The Cannibals**

Written in 1989, based on a book by Wright Morris, for producers Michael White and Barnaby Thompson.

### **The House Of Usher**

Warner Bros.  
Written in 1989, based on an idea by Tim Burton.

### **Beetlejuice Goes Hawaiian**

Warner Bros.  
Written in 1990 as a sequel to the film *Beetlejuice*.

### **The Fantastic Elastic Plastic Man**

Warner Bros.  
Written in 1991 for Steven Spielberg, based on a 1940s comic character. This script inspired the film *The Mask*, starring Jim Carrey.

### **Ramona**

Paramount.  
A romantic drama written in 1991 - a modern version of Billy Wilder's movie *Sabrina*.

### **Adam and Eva**

Written in 1992 based on an idea by Chloe King.

### **Where Monsters Dwell**

Sony/Columbia  
A comedy/fantasy written in 1992 as a vehicle for the World Wrestling Federation.

### **Mary Shelley's Frankenstein**

Warner Bros/Spring Creek Productions. (1992)  
Based on Mary Shelley's famous book, pre-production cancelled when Sony got their rival version set up first.

### **The Hawklime Monster**

Warner Bros.  
Written for Tim Burton in 1993, based on the novel by Richard Brautigan. Producer: Monty Montgomery.

### **Not Joan, the Musical**

A script based on an unproduced play by Pam Gems, written in 1993.

**Noblesville**

A horror film written in 1994 for producer Marco Weber.

**Go Baby Go!**

A fantasy movie with musical numbers and dancing - written for Tim Burton Productions in 1995.

**The Restoration**

Written in 1997, a key element was borrowed by the movie *The Sixth Sense*.

**Black Ice**

Universal

An action/adventure movie written in 1997 as a vehicle for Wesley Snipes.

**Strangeways**

NBC

A TV pilot based on the play 'The Paranormalist' relocated to San Francisco (1998).

**The Great Ordesky**

Written based on material gathered by producer Susan Shapiro about a real-life master-forger (1998).

**Stanley's Women**

Written in 1999, based on the play *Stanley*, by Pam Gems.

**The Curse Of Farquaar**

Written in 2000 - a film about an English public school.

**Sex Isn't Everything**

A comedy about obsession, written in 2000.

**The Culture**

Pathé

A screenplay based on the *The Player Of Games*, by Iain Banks (2001).

Producer: Alexei Lloyd.

**Sophie's Breasts**

A script, written in 2002, based on the play *Susan's Breasts*.

**Gone To Pot**

A script about drug-dealers in London (2002)

**In The Mood**

A comedy about a marriage in crisis, written in 2003.

**The Age Of Aquarius**

A script based on 'The Tax Exile' (2004).