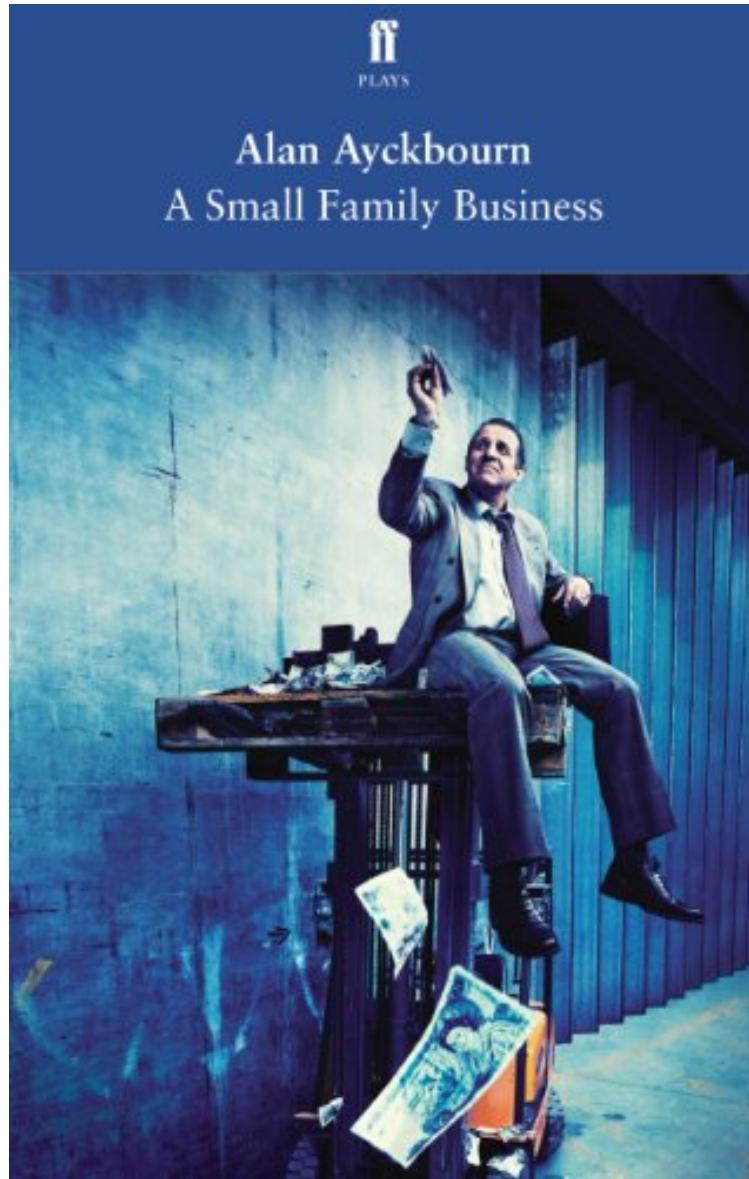


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A Small Family Business

Alan Ayckbourn

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Alan Ayckbourn : A Small Family Business before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Small Family Business:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great book!By Angelina FrancalanciaAn amazing play! Loved it. Everyone should read it. This is definitely a comedy to read for fun or for class.

Well, that's one down, isn't it. Nine to go. Next! Thou shalt not kill. What about that then? Let's have a crack at that

one next, shall we? Jack McCracken: a man of principle in a corrupt world. But not for long. Moments after taking over his father-in-law's business he's approached by a private detective armed with some compromising information. Jack's integrity fades away as he discovers his extended family to be thieves and adulterers, looting the business from their suburban homes. Rampant self-interest takes over and comic hysteria builds to a macabre climax. A riotous exposure of entrepreneurial greed, Alan Ayckbourn's *A Small Family Business*, premiered at the National Theatre in 1987 and returned there in April 2014.

About the Author Alan Ayckbourn was born in London in 1939 to a violinist father and a mother who was a writer. He left school at seventeen with two 'A' levels and went straight into the theatre. Two years in regional theatre as an actor and stage manager led in 1959 to the writing of his first play, *The Square Cat*, for Scarborough's Theatre in the Round at the instigation of his then employer and subsequent mentor, Stephen Joseph. Some 75 plays later, his work has been translated into over 35 languages, is performed on stage and television throughout the world and has won countless awards. There have been English and French screen adaptations, the most notable being Alain Resnais' fine film of *Private Fears in Public Places*. Major successes include *Relatively Speaking*, *How the Other Half Loves*, *Absurd Person Singular*, *Bedroom Farce*, *A Chorus of Disapproval*, *The Norman Conquests*, *A Small Family Business*, *Henceforward ...*, *Comic Potential*, *Things We Do For Love*, and *Life of Riley*. *Surprises* was first presented at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, and subsequently at the the Minerva Theatre, Chichester in 2012. In 2009, he retired as Artistic Director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre, where almost all his plays have been and continue to be first staged, after 37 years in the post. Knighted in 1997 for services to the theatre, he received the 2010 Critics' Circle Award for Services to the Arts and became the first British playwright to receive both Olivier and Tony Special Lifetime Achievement Awards.