

**SHORY
FIVE-ACT
PLAYS**

OTHER RK BOOKS OF PERFORMANCE TEXTS

Vocal Shorts (1988, 2012)

One-Line Plays (2014)

One-Word Plays (2014)

Qualities (2014)

Qualities II (2019)

Spondees (forthcoming)

**SHORY
FIVE-ACT
PLAYS**

**Richard
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**FarEast BushWick11385-5751
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For the composer Terry Riley (known for more than
fifty years)

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I: A sunny beach.

II: Inside a cabana.

III: In a detached house.

IV: Drinking in a living room.

V: Rolling in a double bed.

- I. Walking.
- II. Running.
- III. Sprinting.
- IV. Struggling.
- V. Stopping.

I: Ambition.

II: Inhibition.

III: Exhibition.

IV: Failure.

V: Extinction.

- I. Intercourse.
- II. Impregnating.
- III. Birthing.
- IV. Raising.
- V. Bankrolling.

I: Standing beneath an
American flag.

II: Military training.

III: A battlefield.

IV: A hospital.

V: A morgue.

I: Dinner with two children.

II: Four children.

III: eight children.

IV: Three children.

V: No children.

I: Delivering a speech.

II: Schmoozing with the audience.

III: Dining in a plush restaurant.

IV: Afterwards drinking to excess in
a small group.

V: Falling into a bed with a drunken
stranger.

I: On a train.

II: In a spacious terminal.

III: Meeting a stranger in a bathroom.

IV: Making love behind a stall.

V: Returning to the street.

I: Coming to a baseball park.

II: Taking batting practice.

III: Playing out in the field.

IV: Coming to home plate
with a bat in hand.

V: Taking pitches before hit-
ting a home run.

I: Crash.

II: Help.

III: Resume.

IV: Hospital.

V: Recuperation.

I: Returning home after years away.

II: Dinner with one's immediate family.

III: Sleeping in one's childhood bedroom.

IV: Increasing tensions during breakfast with a family that seems estranged.

V: Leaving for an airport, perhaps never to return.

I: Only.

II: Many.

III. Several.

IV: Few.

V: One.

I: A theatrical dressing room.

II: Appearing before an enthusiastic
audience.

III: The dressing room again.

IV: Bantering at the stage door with
well-wishers, some of them flirta-
tious.

V: Alone in a tight hotel room.

I: Eating.

II: Dieting.

III: Eating.

IV: Dieting.

V: Wasting.

I: Studying in a small dormitory room.

II: Objecting to a roommate who brings his girl friend into their space.

III: Leaving to a common room while the two probably make love.

IV: Going out into the street.

V: Making love with his girl friend in her space.

I: Interior.

II: Exterior.

III: Posterior.

IV: Ulterior.

V: Interior.

I: Getting fired from a job long held.

II: Revealing disappointment to your family.

III: Searching in vain for other employment.

IV: Settling for a lesser job.

V: Getting fired again.

I: Running

II: Swimming.

III: Climbing.

IV: Skating.

V. Flying.

I: Getting arrested.

II: Meeting a supportive lawyer.

III: Returning to jail.

IV: A court room.

V: Walking home alone.

I: Yes.

II: No.

III: Yes, yes.

IV: No.

V: Yes.

I: One.

II: Two.

III: Three.

IV: Four.

V: Last.

I: to audience: Scream

II: Scream louder

III: Scream yet louder.

IV: Scream weaker.

V: Silence.

- I. Dark.
- II. Light.
- III. Apocalypse.
- IV. Light.
- V. Dark.

- I. Did I know you?
- II. Should I?
- III. Why not?
- IV. Too bad.
- V. No go.

- i. Right side up.
- ii. Upside down.
- iii. Turned sideways.
- iv. Spun around.
- v. Flipped over.

- I. Arriving in a strange city.
- II. Befriending a good Samaritan.
- III. Accepting his hospitality.
- IV. Sleeping continuously through the night.
- V. Purchasing his house.

- I. Writing a script.
- II. Finding a producer.
- III. Hiring actors and a director.
- IV. Making a film.
- V. Screening it to an appreciative audience.

- I. An infant.
- II. A teenager.
- III. An adult.
- IV. A retiree.
- V. A centenarian.

- I. One dollar.
- II. Ten dollars.
- III. One thousand dollars.
- IV. One hundred dollars
- V. One dollar ten cents.

- I. Purchasing a musical instrument
- II. Learning how to play it.
- III. Playing it properly.
- IV. Failing a public recital.
- V. Smashing the instrument.

- I. Purchasing a painting.
- II. Purchasing a second painting
- III. Purchasing a dozen paintings.
- IV. Purchasing one hundred paintings.
- V. Mounting an exhibition.

- I. Learning a second language.
- II. Learning a third language.
- III. Learning a fourth and five language.
- IV. Learning a dozen languages.
- V. Forgetting what language one is speaking.

- I. Tying a tie.
- II. Donning a jacket
- III. Fitting into slacks.
- IV. Undressing
- V. Wearing a dress.

- I. Dreaming oneself a princess.
- II. Becoming a queen.
- III. Queen mother.
- IV. Revolution.
- V. Deposed royalty.

- I. Accepts a contract.
- II. Writes a book.
- III. Suffers copyediting and other production challenges.
- IV. Sees it in bookstores.
- V. Learns that it's declared "out of print."

- I. Enters college.
- II. Graduates.
- III. Graduate school.
- IV. Original research.
- V. Teaching unhappily at a junior college.

- I. Cooking.
- II. Serving.
- III. Feasting.
- IV. Cleaning.
- V. Barfing.

- I. One-meter dive.
- ii. Three-meter dive.
- III Ten-meter platform dive.
- IV. Twenty-meter platform dive.
- V.

- I. Upturn.
- II. Downturn.
- III. Left turn.
- IV. Right turn.
- V. U-turn.

- i. First joke.
- ii. Second joke.
- iii. Third joke.
- iv. Fourth joke.
- v. Laughter.

I.	Win.
II.	Lose.
III.	Win.
IV.	Lose.
V.	Loss.

- I. Subsistence farming.
- II. Harvesting.
- III. Produce selling.
- IV. Planting.
- V. More subsistence farming.

- I. Shoplifting.
- II. Carjacking.
- III. Assault.
- IV. Arrest.
- V. Deportation.

- I. First date.
- II. Second date.
- III. Third date.
- IV. Denial.
- V. Score.

- I. Accident.
- II. Ambulance.
- III. Emergency room.
- IV. Operation.
- V. Recuperation.

- I. Swim
- II. Dive.
- III. Compete.
- IV. Lose
- V. Coach.

I. Leap.

II. Fall.

III. Recover.

IV. Fall.

V. Recuperate.

- | | |
|------|--------|
| I. | Earth. |
| II. | Moon. |
| III. | Mars. |
| IV. | Pluto. |
| V. | Gone. |

- I. Trampoline.
- II. Trapeze.
- III. Performance.
- IV. Adulation.
- V. Retirement.

- I. Baking.
- II. Deserts.
- III. Lemon pie.
- IV. Eating.
- V. Throwing.

- I. Balding.
- II. Shining.
- III. Transplanting.
- IV. Seducing.
- V. Refusal.

- I. Reading.
- II. Writing.
- III. Reading.
- IV. Writings.
- V. Reading.

- I. First base.
- II. Second base.
- III. Third base.
- IV. Home plate.
- V. Out.

- I. Punch.
- II. Punch.
- III. Parry
- IV. Punch.
- V. Knock out.

- | | |
|------|--------|
| I. | Ball. |
| II. | Bat. |
| III. | Glove. |
| IV. | Throw. |
| V. | Out. |

- I. Sleep.
- II. Sleep.
- III. Awake.
- IV. Sleep.
- V. Sleep.

- I. Life.
- II. Death
- III. Rebirth.
- IV. Relive.
- V. Redeath.

- I. Plan.
- II. Loan.
- III. Store.
- IV. Losses.
- V. Bankruptcy.

- I. Sleeping.
- II. Dreaming.
- III. Nightmare
- IV. Tossing.
- V. Awaking.

- I. One step.
- II. Two steps.
- III. Three steps.
- IV. Falling.
- V. Recuperating.

- I. Conspiring.
- II. Campaigning.
- III. Electing.
- IV. Governing.
- V. Imprisonment.

- I. Drafting.
- II. Revising.
- III. Rereading
- IV. Disappointment.
- V. Burning.

- I. Igniting.
- II. Seat-beltting.
- III. Driving.
- IV. Skidding.
- V. Parking.

- | | |
|------|-------|
| I. | Go. |
| II. | Stop. |
| III. | Go. |
| IV. | Stop. |
| V. | Go. |

- | | |
|------|---------|
| I. | Eat. |
| II. | Drink. |
| III. | Digest. |
| IV. | Piss. |
| V. | Poop. |

- I. Infallible.
- II. Ingenuity.
- III. Palpable.
- IV. Inspiring.
- V. Ineffable.

I. Scale.

II. Tie.

III. Hang.

IV. Swing.

V. Fall.

- I. Snore.
- II. Sneeze.
- III. Decongestant.
- IV. Sniffle.
- V. Breathe.

- I. Above.
- II. Around.
- III. Diagonal.
- IV. Beneath.
- V. Beside.

- I. Exploitation.
- II. Inflation.
- III. Indebtedness.
- IV. Deaccessioning.
- V. Demise.

- I. Eating.
- II. Drinking.
- III. Swallowing.
- IV. Screaming.
- V. Barfing.

- I. Shooting
- II. Hiding.
- III. Shooting.
- IV. Hiding.
- V. Acoustic void.

- I. Living.
- II. Capture.
- III. Imprisonment.
- IV. Death.
- V. Resurrection.

- I. Balding.
- II. Disappointment.
- III. Retiring.
- IV. Dreaming.
- V. Toupee.

- I. Drawing.
- II. Painting.
- III. Resting..
- IV. Ladders.
- V. A mural.

- I. Speed up.
- II. Slow down.
- III. Stop.
- IV. Faster.
- V. Fly.

- I. Promenading.
- II. Clouding.
- III. Raining
- IV. Thunderstorm.
- V. Quadmire.

- I. Dressed.
- II. Undressed.
- III. Redressed.
- IV. Reconsidering.
- V. Emerging.

LETTER TEXTS

**bow are apt
mug wit
you zip fin
pig pie sox
row ore rim
kid map not
pen oak pig
hap inn ill
ink car but
bus dog fix
aye lap men**

**may pin pop
sax sap see
our ova put
who tie owl
mob hex hip
gab eel cod
sty awe ate
has jab tar
sap sue nut
mad hub
err inn eye
ill pit row
war tap pee
sag oak ham
did boy dip
bug lid pup**

**mix let jam
her fig rag
tie ray leg
hay doc cab
car hit jig
bun gyp nut
urn sow hat
don bye ask
awe egg lot
oud tax vow
mix get hob
sin fry pot
rum use yin
yon woe sip
sly sop ire
dim bid ant**

**one cam bad
doe apt ale
tug aid ago
try yea age
cup pep toe
job ego gap
kin zoo urn
you ore sit
hum nap rid
fat jam lid
rat lop due
sex dip bop
thy out lob
ram wig bye
few nut spy
dam nip kid**

**hex sob bad
shy axe sun
art wax inn
can air yet
err wry elk
jot beg aft
tub rut odd
ion die gut
hid tea fox
ass she pad
awe tan pup
lie red van
fad vet dew
icy now rug
spa ram ten
eat tie dim**

**oak dub oil
ham gym
ewe day bin
and bop his
owl jig hit
own sag out
lip yak sum
ill had did
the bog hag
off wet bow
wit cur elm
pot nut fat
bud may
bib pen fit
mat ere ago
end joy par**

**lug gas job
cry bar tip
cop woe ski
how bid gee
ham mar
try wow bet
cap aim son
use box hat
day act hot
woo cow
ban rib nod
six hue sir
elk wow bed
gob all cut
day sum pot
jaw her hid**

**fox dud ask
ran win god
rim lug end
bed you see
for lap pun
sub far bop
ape tar why
ova jig her
dry say tax
aye hay arc
gyp pit wed
red ebb mud
tee ask pry
hog vow rye
sue vex lax
had did but**

**ten buy sew
fox lit why
mew red rip
sip saw toe
pal hot moo
bar ego fan
car now van
yon men
law its hem
flu ear con
she win lip
jig hip fog
wow sup via
pie nor cob
boa boo ugh
rot nil mix**

**coy dry sea
hay rag ten
ebb dot see
bag lot mug
own old pub
now may
yon gag icy
cum ivy for
sue pot fee
hat mum
flu dry lit
pin spa rob
pat rib pew
toe job fey
nab bay key
top gap dad**

**zit nub tab
few din vow
sex wit gal
hem pry tan
van yea run
fig cab gun
wag aye dug
the zap cay
fed fun zoo
mar soy ill
bus goy see
dew bow led
arc flu mop
sum fat shy
bit met fop
cry bee cud**

**hop rub rap
sat fag bum
rip yes low
hew nag fib
dip pap lug
nix yam
guy rue oar
fix tin hoe
wee lea set
hug ram cog
gin cub fen
pet net fob
zen nun ail
2-LETTER
TEXTSdo
ax me up to**

**so it is by go
in ox if im
bi ye he do
no in we be
on as un my
he in de at
it of my ha
in pa in pi
no be up so
am by go if
ah ho as pi
in us me do
pa re me to
be so no on
it ye hi it is
so on be at it**

**do so no by
us to go on
do up my ma
un ah ox no
up me we do
up ha hi we
be me pi on
ma is to be
to no bi ax
me on he lo
to my he of
ox if ma or
pa in me be
re us to go
he in we or
pa my my**

**oh ah um im
it le la to us
it so by he
if on oh me
ex id ex ma
ed ye be us
to do he in it
do ax me up
to so it is by
go in ox if
im bi ye he
do no in we
be on as un
my he in de
at it of my
ha in pa in**

**pi no be up
so am by go
if ah as pi
in us me do
pa re me to
be so no on
it ye hi it is
so on be at it
do so no by
us to go on
do up my ma
un ah ox no
up me we do
up ha hi we
be me pi on
ma is to be**

**to no bi ax
ho me on he
lo to my he
of ox if ma
or pa in me
be re us to
go he in we
or pa my my
oh ah um im
it le la to us
it so by he
if on oh me
ex id ex ma
ed ye be us
to do he in it
do ax me up**

**to so it is by
go in ox if
im bi ye he
do no in we
be on as un
my he in de
at it of my
ha in pa in
pi no be up
so am by go
if ah as pi
in us me do
pa re me to
be so no on
it ye hi it is
so on be at it**

**do to me by
us to go on
do up my ma
un ah ox no
up me we do
up ha hi we
be me pi on
ma is to be
to no bi ax
me on he lo
to my he ye
be us to do
he in it do
ax me up to
so it is by go
in ox if im**

**bi ye he do
no in we be
on as un my
he in de at it
of my ha in
pa in pi no
be up so am
by go if ho
ah as pi in
us me do pa
re me to be
so no on it
ye hi it is so
on be at it
do so no by
us to go on**

**do up my ma
un ah ox no
up me we do
up ha hi we
be me pi on
ma is to be
to no bi ax
me on he lo
to my he of
ox if ma or
pa in me of
ox if ma or
pa in me be
re us to go
he in we or
pa my me oh**

**ah um im it
be if it so be
no pa pi us
at ha be so
by ma to it
la to us it so
by he if on
oh me ex ye
be us to do
he in it am
ah to be in
to ox me uh
no oh no**

MINIMAL APHORISMS: A TEXT FOR ANY NUMBER OF PERFORMERS

Instructions: As an initial performer begins with the first aphorism, a second performer recites the second, a third does the third, etc., for as many performers agreeing to participate. Each performer repeats his or her aphorism until tiring of it, at which point he or she moves ahead to the next. Hearing someone else speak one's current words should prompt each speaker to move ahead. Once one speaker finishes the final aphorism, all should stop. If this piece opens a concert program, consider repeating it at the end with an entirely different group of people.

Skyward infinitely reach.

Never lose real money.

Thoughtfully initiate heterosexual seduction.

Wash yourself with luck.

Beneficence breeds bountiful booty.

Run around every block.

Pronounce “colonel” as “kernel.”

Be a skeptical student.

Remember, everyone respects excellence.

Cleanse out your mouth.

Flatter powerful people shamelessly.

Accurate arithmetic never lies.

Aspire to invisible humility.

Love those lacking lovers.

Reward beggars, rob crooks.

Leap into freezing lakes.

Lie down before violence.

Don't rust to judgments.

Avoid archaic (mis)pronunciations.

Be indefensible before foes.

Whirl your wigs ostentatiously.

Race Chihuahuas for bettors.

Inflate your sagging ego.

Make love, not war.

Environment, not heredity.

Successful loving requires lying.

Let's achieve 100% unemployment.

Too much for nothing.

Befriend better friends.

Repeal poisons with palliatives.

Only stupidity generates wisdom.

Expand your mind voluminously.

Admire inferiors, exploit superiors.

Be awash with cash.

Enjoy every lover's loving.

Sit atop a ladder.

Don't disturb hornets' nests.

Ring ropes enclose boxing.

Sexual intercourse facilitates friendship.

None of your business.

Over only when over.

Accept every opportunity.

Strong writing isn't forgotten.

Fighters get knocked down.

Imagine yourself pleurably seduced.

Allocate one's shit sparingly.

Generate favorable self-publicity.

Basketballs go through hoops.

Don't initiate anyone's revenge.

Love surfaces as surprise.

Eat only what's edible.

Only tanks defeat tanks.

Unravel obscure conundrums.

Arrest all plagiarism.

Sympathize with erotic insipidity.

Remove belly-button lint assiduously.

Imagine only lofty fantasies.

Arise self-energized daily.

Exemplify classiest diction.

Aim for lofty recognitions.

All gamblers eventually lose.

Loving keeps you young.

You can't hide forever.

Aspire to be unbelievable.

Exhale foul emotions.

Awake to generous surprises.

Cultivate cunning diplomatic skills.

Shower several times daily.

Speak Chinese whenever possible.

Write nuggets of wisdom.

Imagine high and wide.

Build a counterclockwise clock.

Alabaster outlasts plywood.

Run up extravagant debts.

Books beat newspapers always.

Spin in a circle.

Multiply more than rabbits.

Support saints among us.

Master life's musical instruments.

Read books over newspapers.

Manage your resources skillfully.

Pick up stray pennies.

Classify your lovers' sentiments.

“Rough-sex” can be tough.

Make risk-free speculations.

Time's your only “money.”

Focus everyone's attention.

Creeps creep creepily.

Believe in generous gods.

Epitomize excellence wherever possible.

Excavate life's residues.

The wisest fool wins.

Regurgitate flattery from others.

Sprint away from fire.

Kisses sweeter than wine.

Understand unfathomable conundrums.

Fantasize about movie stars.

Duck, run for cover.

Be smarter than "smartest."

Food fattens, alcohol kills.

Dive only into water.

Enjoy sitting on toilets.

Love yourself

Rain rains rain.

Never mispronounce “February.”

If confused, demand advice.

Acknowledge constraints in writing.

Practice “night-life” by day.

Sell your possessions.

Read only sagacious literature.

Swim with sharks.

Distribute one's affections evenly.

Sexual abstinence teaches nothing.

Shoot the moon.

Seduction obviates quarreling.

Rewire your brain's circuits.

Allow yourself chocolate occasionally.

Sex is rarely bad.

Invest in yourself initially.

Fly exclusively in airplanes.

Wave all patriotic flags.

Enjoy masturbation as available.

Crash through thin walls.

Confessed sins require absolution.

Only misfortune inspires wisdom.

Fruits make better cakes.

Snowing snows snow.

Befuddle one's antagonists.

Don't enrage your family.

Reveal your secrets reluctantly.

Eschew questionable explanations.

Bells get everyone's attention.

Empty pockets before crime.

Get potential benefactors drunk.

Effervescent lectures stupefy.

Repel poisons with pests.

Watch yourself piss forever.

Make love, not war.

Identify paths through mazes.

Don't build "dream houses."

Much less is more.

Eat healthy, live longer.

Rent a retired fire-engine.

Beneficence bestowed on you.

Discipline your lousy lovers.

Be lovely before “beautiful.”

Run with the swiftest.

Eagerly engage in sex.

Wrangle horses, not men.

Thrilling surprises await you.

Discontents inspire higher ambitions.

Cure ills with sunshine.

Avoid perverse entanglements.

Recognize your deepest faults.

Eat healthy, nutritious foods.

Don't peddle your integrity.

Sleep all you need.

Truths eventually defeat lies.

Money can't buy love.

IN MEMORIUM JOHN CAGE

My performance piece would consist of making no intentional noise for seventy-nine years, eleven months, and seven days, by measure duplicating the span of his life in a manner he would have thought most appropriate

