

## INVISIBLE FRIENDS

by Alan Ayckbourn

*Invisible Friends* was first produced at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in the Round, Scarborough in November 1989.

*The play concerns Lucy Baines, a girl in her early teens, who lives with her parents and brother Gary. Lucy has an excessive love of orderliness. The play concerns her adventures when her invisible friend, Zara, becomes visible. This speech is addressed to the audience and describes the moments leading up to Zara's first appearance.*

*Accent: any.*

LUCY: It was the thunder that woke me. There was a terrible storm outside now and I suddenly felt rather frightened – and I turned to look for Zara but she wasn't on the bed any more. She'd gone. Zara had gone. And now there was lightning... And more thunder. And I went to turn on my light. (*She tries her light switch.*) Only it wasn't working. For some reason, the lights weren't working. It must have been the storm. And I opened my door to go and see Mum and Dad... (*She does this.*) But as I did this, above the storm, I heard something – someone moving downstairs. And I thought at first it might have been Gary – he's always getting up in the night for a sandwich – but I listened at his door –

*She does so.*

And I heard him snoring. It would take more than a storm to wake Gary. And I heard the sound again, coming from what sounded like the kitchen. And I knew then that it must be Zara. Zara was down there. And I knew she