

## Topic Page: [Bennett, Alan, 1934-](#)

Summary Article: **Bennett, Alan**

From *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*

1934-

◆ English dramatist, actor and director

Born in Leeds, he was educated at Leeds Modern School and Oxford, where he studied Modern History. He came to prominence as a writer and performer in *Beyond the Fringe*, a revue performed at the Edinburgh Festival in 1960, and wrote a television series, *On The Margin* (1966), before his first stage play, *Forty Years On* (1968). He is essentially a humanist, noted for his wry, self-deprecating humour, which combines a comic-tragic view of life, and later plays include *Getting On* (1971, about a Labour MP), *Habeas Corpus* (1973), *The Old Country* (1977), the double bill *Single Spies* (1988) and *The Madness of George III* (1991). The latter was rewritten as a screenplay entitled *The Madness of King George* (1995), which became an award-winning film starring Nigel Hawthorne and Helen Mirren. He has also written much for television, including *An Englishman Abroad* (1983), *The Insurance Man* (1986), and a series of six monologues, *Talking Heads* (1988). He has published two volumes of autobiography: *Writing Home* (1994) and *Untold Stories* (2005). His play *The History Boys* (2004) enjoyed success in the UK and on Broadway, where it won a Tony award (2006); a film adaptation also appeared in 2006. *The Habit of Art*, about the relationship between W H Auden and Benjamin Britten, was first performed in 2009.

**APA**

Chicago

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Bennett, Alan. (2011). In L. Rodger, & J. Bakewell, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (9th ed.). London, UK: Chambers Harrap. Retrieved from [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/bennett\\_alan\\_1934](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/bennett_alan_1934)

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## APA

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## Chicago

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## Harvard

Bennett, Alan. (2011). In L. Rodger & J. Bakewell, *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*. (9th ed.). [Online]. London: Chambers Harrap. Available from: [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/bennett\\_alan\\_1934](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/bennett_alan_1934) [Accessed 22 November 2019].

## MLA

"Bennett, Alan." *Chambers Biographical Dictionary*, Liam Rodger, and Joan Bakewell, Chambers Harrap, 9th edition, 2011. *Credo Reference*, [https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/bennett\\_alan\\_1934](https://search.credoreference.com/content/topic/bennett_alan_1934). Accessed 22 Nov. 2019.