

Instead of a Preface

'Asylum is a powerful issue in British politics, and it's no surprise that many playwrights have addressed it in the theatre. *Vouchers* is different in two ways. First, it is written by someone from one of the countries from which asylum seekers have fled to Britain. Second, *Vouchers* is exceptional in having a conflict between two expatriates at its core. This allows the play to explore themes about the nature of migration and the challenges and traumas of having left one's homeland.'

Professor David Edgar

'This is a powerful play written with complete conviction and imbued with the passion which comes only from one with personal experience of the issues at its centre. The writer reveals a compelling sense of theatre, uniting explosive dialogue with a sensitive appreciation of the dilemmas faced by the sociopolitical outsider.'

Professor J. T. Boulton, FBA

'*Vouchers* addresses perennial issues of communication and identity but is very much a tragedy of contemporary Europe. It is a provocative, even shocking, play. At a time of great uncertainty about how sensitive questions of culture and ethnicity can and should be represented, the play bravely tackles challenging issues head-on. For myself, I was left with a better understanding of just how little I have really understood of the personal and cultural histories which lie behind the news headlines. Reading *Vouchers* is both an emotional and an educational experience.'

Dr Adrian Stokes
The University of Warwick

'The playwright uses the police interview room as a microcosm in which the age-old conflicts of culture and identity are played out. The play has a sense of 'righteous anger' and sheds a new and sympathetic light on an issue that has raised some heated debate in recent times. A powerful indictment of the treatment of asylum seekers.'

Dr Tom Gorman
The University of Birmingham

'A disturbing exploration of the clash between institutional inflexibility and human desires. The uncertain value of life has been symbolized in many ways before. In this play, the voucher - with its paltry worth - provides one of the most affecting symbols yet.'

Dr Michael W. Thomas
writer, Open University