

Nick Hern Books publishes...

Multiplay Drama: a new series of large-cast plays for teens and young adults



Free extracts of all ten plays available to read online at

www.multiplaydrama.co.uk

Leading theatre publisher and performing rights agents **Nick Hern Books** have launched **Multiplay Drama**: an exciting new series of large-cast plays specifically written to be performed by and appeal to older teenagers and young adults.

The Multiplay Drama plays were commissioned by some of the UK's leading youth theatres and drama schools – including the National Youth Theatre, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and Royal Court Youth Theatre – and written by a mix of established writers and distinctive new voices including Zawe Ashton, Phil Davies, Robin French and Laura Lomas.

They have been selected not just for their quality, but also for the wealth and number of roles they offer to younger actors, as well as their bold, ambitious storytelling.

The plays explore a wide range of contemporary themes and theatrical styles, offering fascinating, complex perspectives on some of the most urgent issues facing our world today. The launch of the initiative has been praised by leading industry figures including **Vicky Featherstone** (Artistic Director, Royal Court Theatre), **Sarah Frankcom** (Artistic Director, Royal Exchange Theatre and Director-Designate, LAMDA), **Rupert Goold** (Artistic Director, Almeida Theatre) and **Paul Roseby** (CEO and Artistic Director, National Youth Theatre).

Ten Multiplay Drama plays are now available to read and perform. More information about the series can be found at www.multiplaydrama.co.uk.

John O'Donovan, series editor of Multiplay Drama, said:

'Every year, a great number of original plays are commissioned and performed by drama schools, educational institutions, and youth, student and amateur-theatre companies. Reading them, talking to their writers, seeing them in production, we are always struck by the complexity of their themes, the invention of their storytelling and the calibre of their playwrights. Most haven't yet had a further life; it seems like their very *raison d'être* – the creation of large-scale complex pieces for young, large casts – has meant theatre companies, hamstrung by ever-shrinking budgets, haven't been able to find a way to give the plays the continuing existence that they deserve.

That's why Nick Hern Books have created Multiplay Drama. In making these plays available to read and perform, we're hoping to see a legion of other drama schools, youth theatres, student-drama societies, sixth-form colleges and amateur-theatre companies gaining ready access to the kinds of plays that interrogate theatrical storytelling form as vigorously as they question the world we live in today. These are plays with big ideas and need big companies to put them across.'

[CONTINUED OVERLEAF ON PAGE 2]

The ten Multiplay Drama plays now available

Blister by Laura Lomas (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in collaboration with Paines Plough)

Blue by Joe Ward Munrow (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in collaboration with the Royal Court Theatre)

katzenmusik by Tom Fowler (Royal Court Youth Theatre)

Landmines by Phil Davies (The BRIT School's training initiative, The Bridge Company)

The Real Estate by Freddie Machin (Italia Conti Academy of Theatre Arts)

The Red Helicopter by Robin French (Young Friend of the Almeida LAB Company)

Skunk by Zawe Ashton (National Youth Theatre)

Spooky Action at a Distance by Eve Leigh (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in collaboration with the Royal Court Theatre)

THREE by Sophie Ellerby (National Youth Theatre)

VS09 by Hayley Squires (Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, in collaboration with the Royal Court Theatre)

Praise for Multiplay Drama

'Some of the freshest and most relevant theatre being made today is when dynamic next-generation playwrights collaborate with young companies and drama schools. Making these plays available will continue to bring them to life in new and exciting ways. A brilliant initiative.' – **Sarah Frankcom, Artistic Director of Royal Exchange Theatre, and Director Designate of LAMDA**

'This unique and important initiative gives young theatre-makers access to the very best in new writing for younger companies to create productions of their own. It offers opportunities which ensure that the next generation of theatre-makers, and those just interested in theatre generally, are working with the best writers and ideas - and that this glorious work has as far a reach as possible.' – **Vicky Featherstone, Artistic Director, Royal Court Theatre**

'These plays are as ambitious in their imaginative scope as they are in their cast size! Unseen communities are brought vividly to life, family bonds tighten or fracture, and institutions and attitudes at the core of our society are challenged in this brilliant collection of contemporary ensemble plays.' – **Rupert Goold, Artistic Director, Almeida Theatre**

'I'm a big fan of this initiative, and these works by current voices deserve to reach audiences far and wide. Great storytelling shouldn't go to waste.' – **Paul Roseby OBE, CEO and Artistic Director, National Youth Theatre of Great Britain**

'Multiplay Drama contains a wealth of plays written with and for young performers who were ready to take space and shout loud about the world around them and the things it made them think and feel. I've been lucky enough to see the development of several of these stories; to see brilliant playwrights and actors galvanised and inspired by each other, and I can't wait to see them reimagined all over again by the next generation.' – **Jude Christian, Director and Playwright, and Dramaturg at Royal Welsh College Music and Drama**

'It's so great for actors, directors and writers that this collection of large-cast plays will be gathered together in one place. I hope these flexible and lively plays find lots of new voices to speak to them and spaces to exist in. It's really exciting to me to think of how future generations of theatre-makers will find new ways to explore the vitality of these playwrights' voices.' – **Louise Stephens, Dramaturg, Abbey Theatre**

For further information and review copies, contact Jon Barton, Marketing Manager, jon@nickhernbooks.co.uk or 020 8749 4953

NICK HERN BOOKS • The Glasshouse, 49a Goldhawk Road, London W12 8QP
tel. 020 8749 4953 • fax. 020 8735 0250 • www.nickhernbooks.co.uk

