



**The Methuen Drama Book of Plays by Black  
British Writers: Welcome Home Jacko,  
Chiaroscuro, Talking in Tongues, Sing Yer Heart  
Out ..., Fix Up, Gone Too Far! (Play Anthologies)**

*Mustapha Matura, Jackie Kay, Winsome Pinnock, Roy Williams, Kwame Kwei-Armah, Bola Agbaje*

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*The Methuen Drama Book of Plays by Black British Writers* provides an essential anthology of six of the key plays that have shaped the trajectory of British black theatre from the late-1970s to the present day. In doing so it charts the journey from specialist black theatre companies to the mainstream, including West End success, while providing a cultural and racial barometer for Britain during the last forty years.

It opens with Mustapha Maturas 1979 play *Welcome Home Jacko* which in its depiction of a group of young unemployed West Indians was one of the first to explore issues of youth culture, identity and racial and cultural identification. Jackie Kays *Chiaroscuro* examines debates about the politics of black, mixed race and lesbian identities in 1980s Britain, and from the 1990s Winsome Pinnocks *Talking in Tongues* engages with the politics of feminism to explore issues of black womens identity in Britian and Jamaica. From the first decade of the twenty-first century the three plays include Roy Williams seminal pub-drama *Sing Yer Hearts Out for the Lads*, exploring racism and identity against the backdrop of the World Cup; Kwame Kwei-Armahs National Theatre play of 2004, *Fix Up*, about black cultural history and progress in modern Britain, and finally Bola Agbages terrific 2007 debut, *Gone Too Far!*, which examines questions of identity and tensions between Africans and Caribbeans living in Britain.

Edited by Lynnette Goddard, this important anthology provides an essential introduction to the last forty years of British black theatre.

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**Keisha Kent:**

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