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Fraser Grace

Teaching Fellow in Playwriting Studies, Department of Drama and Theatre Arts

Department of Drama and Theatre Arts (/schools/edacs/departments/drama/index.aspx)

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About

I am the co-ordinator of the **MRes in Playwriting Studies (/postgraduate/courses/combined/drama/playwriting-studies.aspx)** .

Qualifications

- MA MPhil (Birmingham)

Biography

Fraser was born and raised in the Midlands, and first came to the University as a social science undergraduate. Always a writer, he began working in the theatre as an actor/writer/driver/shifter in a small Birmingham-based touring company, later touring as a performance poet and publishing fiction, before heading back to the drama department and completing two postgraduate degrees. His plays include *Perpetua*, winner of the Verity Bargate Award, and *Breakfast with Mugabe* for the Royal Shakespeare Company. That play was winner of the John Whiting Award and a Silver Sony Award when broadcast on BBC Radio 3 and the World Service. In 2013 the New York production of the play enjoyed a six month run off-Broadway, to further acclaim.

After a stint as director of the Writing Drama course at Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, Fraser rejoined the Department of Drama and Theatre Arts in 2011 as Convenor of the MRes Playwriting Studies course. Other plays (all published by Oberon Books) include *Gifts of War, Who Killed Mr Drum?, Frobisher's Gold, The Lifesavers, King David Man of Blood, Kalashnikov in the Woods by the Lake.* He is currently working on an opera called *Don't Breathe A Word,* with the composer Andrew Lovett.

Teaching

- MRes Playwriting modules; Dramatic Structure, Media Form and Genre, Writing in Context.
- API Playwriting (First Semester).

Research

Fraser's plays range from theatre for the solo actor (*Gifts of War*) to the large scale ensemble (*King David Man of Blood*), and cover a wide range of interests, spanning historical drama, through contemporary political thriller (*Perpetua*) to post-apocalyptic chiller (*The Lifesavers*).

A particular interest in bringing living figures to the stage has produced plays about Mugabe, Mandela, and most recently, Mikhail Kalashnikov, inventor of the AK47 assault rifle. in *Kalashnikov in the woods by the lake.* All Fraser's plays are published by Oberon Books.

He is also co-author with Clare Bayley of *Playwritiing: A Writers and Artists' Companion*, to be published by Bloomsbury in 2015. Has also written short fiction, and is currently working on an opera with the composer Andrew Lovett.

A new production of *Breakfast with Mugabe* opens at the Aurora Theatre, Berkeley CA in November 2014.

Other activities

Fraser has previously served on the Theatre Committee of the Writers Guild of Great Britain, and as a school governor. He is an associate of Menagerie Theatre in Cambridge.

Publications

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