

Theatre Plays One & Two

by Trevor Griffiths

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S. Porter

I make no attempt at critical analysis of this writer's work, it's been done a plenty by better qualified than I.

I enjoy reading good plays by good writers and in my humble opinion, they come no better on both counts.

After publication last year of the brilliant [*These are the Times: A Life of Tom Paine*](#), Spokesman Books have produced a further fifteen of Trevor Griffiths's theatre plays in two volumes.

Simply titled [*Theatre Plays One*](#) and [*Two*](#), they cover a range of his work from the sinister Kafkaesque *Wages of Thin* from 1969 to *Camel Station* from 2006, worked around a shaggy -camel story.

In *Wages Thin*, a seemingly typical British salary man calls at a public convenience to be confronted by two 'policemen' who promptly accuse him of the murder a body in the cubicle. The script is a masterpiece of menace and word juggling full of rhythms and sidesteps as 'Inspector One' and his associate and heavy 'Two', in an apparent attempt to extract a confession proceed to peel Thin's life like an onion.

Included are the powerful and possibly most familiar *Comedians* and what I personally regard as one of his best *The Gulf between Us*. There is a gem of a Bush damning speech by a woman Dr Aziz as the burned bodies of children are extracted from the missile hit ruins of a crèche, as relevant to the present watch of son as to that of father in 1991.

It these times of gutless, ratings - driven tabloid television and safety first

theatre, a challenging piece of drama is a rarity. Reading a decent script is the next best thing and these two books provide it in spades.

So for a change, if you love language and even if you are new to the work of Trevor Griffiths, back burner the Bennett, pause the Pinter and grab the geminate Griffiths. Its all there and all here.

Theatre Plays One - ISBN: 978 0 85124 7205 - 328 pages

Theatre Plays Two - ISBN: 978 085124 7212 - 271 pages

Price: £15.00 each

Also available:

The first ever full-length monograph on Trevor Griffiths is now available from [**Manchester University Press**](#).

Written by John Tulloch, a highly respected professor of media and television, it includes full annotation and bibliography/filmography, making it essential reading for anyone interested in television drama and television history