



Verbatim: Contemporary Documentary Theatre

David Hare, Robin Soans, Richard Norton-Taylor, Will Hammond, Dan Steward, Alecky Blythe, Nicolas Kent, Max Stafford-Clark

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‘What a verbatim play does is flash your research nakedly. It’s like cooking a meal but the meat is left raw.’
MAX STAFFORD-CLARK

Plays which use people’s actual words as the basis for their drama are not a new phenomenon. But from the stages of national theatres to fringe venues and universities everywhere, ‘verbatim’ theatre, as it has come to be known, is currently enjoying unprecedented attention and success. It has also attracted high-profile criticism and impassioned debate.

In these wide-ranging essays and interviews, six leading dramatists describe their varying approaches to verbatim, examine the strengths and weaknesses of its techniques and explore the reasons for its current popularity. They discuss frankly the unique opportunities and ethical dilemmas that arise when portraying real people on stage, and consider some of the criticisms levelled at this controversial documentary form.

‘The intention is always to arrive at the truth.’

NICOLAS KENT

Contributors: Writer / Director Alecky Blythe; Writer David Hare; Director Nicolas Kent; Writer / Journalist Richard Norton-Taylor; Director Max Stafford-Clark; Writer / Actor Robin Soans; Editors: Will Hammond and Dan Steward



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