

## CROSSFIRE

by Michel Azama

(translated by Nigel Gearing)

*Crossfire* was first performed, in the original French, in Dijon in 1989. It was subsequently produced in the UK, in this translation, by Paines Plough in August 1993, at the Traverse Theatre Edinburgh and subsequently in London.

*'Crossfire' is a powerful play about war. Characters are caught in the crossfire both literally and metaphorically, as the issues that war brings up impinge on their lives and relationships and they tumble through the checkpoint between life and death.*

*Jonathan is fifteen. He is a freedom fighter, in an unnamed struggle, who has just been killed by his former best friend, Ismail, circumstances having forced them to fight on opposite sides. He speaks to the audience.*

*Accent: any.*

YONATHAN: The most difficult thing to do is cut the throat of a man who's still alive.

You mustn't waste a single slash of the knife and it's best to do it from behind.

Playing the hero is pointless.

We've booby-trapped cars doors cigarette-packets jerrycans stuffed with TNT we've fired fired even on kids because they grow up one day they'll shoot you in the back.

Helicopters dropped clusters of missiles the camp burned the vines burned across miles of hills stone-walls exploded.