The Political Theatre of David Edgar

David Edgar’s writings address the most basic questions of how humans organise and govern themselves in modern societies. This study brings together the disciplines of political philosophy and theatre studies to approach the leading British playwright as a political writer and a public social critic. Edgar uses theatre as a powerful tool of public discourse, an aesthetic modality for engaging with and thinking/feeling through the most pressing social issues of the day. In this he is a supreme rationalist: he deploys character, plot and language to explore ideas, to make certain kinds of discursive cases and model hypothetical alternatives. Reinelt and Hewitt analyse twelve of Edgar’s most important plays, including Maydays and Pentecost, and also provide detailed discussions of key performances and critical reception to illustrate the playwright’s artistic achievement in relation to his contributions as a public figure in British cultural life.

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Negotiation and Retrieval

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Acknowledgements

We would like to thank friends and colleagues who have helped us research and write this volume. Special thanks and appreciation first and foremost to David Edgar for sharing his time and his archives so generously during these past years, and to David and Stephanie Dale for their ongoing friendship; to Tony Platt, for reading the manuscript and commenting extensively, and to Tony and Cecilia O’Leary for their friendship and their political and academic acumen. To our Warwick colleagues, Jim Davis, Milija Gluhovic, Yvette Hutchison, and Silvija Jestrovic, who read chapters and offered their insights, our grateful thanks. Also to head of department Nadine Holdsworth for understanding and supporting our work by allocating study leave during 2010. Thanks to Tony Taccone, Michael Attenborough, and Robyn A. Rodriguez for their interview insights about working with David Edgar. Thanks also to our editor at Cambridge University Press, Vicki Cooper, and our line editor, Rebecca Taylor, who were always helpful and willing to work with us on any difficulties on this project.

This book is dedicated to the late David Bradby, with love and respect.