

DIC EDWARDS

Two Immorality Plays

THE PIMP SOLITUDE

The two plays in this collection ring fascinating new changes on the well-worn contrast between a writer's life and work. The biographical play *The Pimp* is an elegant dance of death for four characters: the poet Charles Baudelaire, his mixed-race mistress Jeanne Duval, his respectable but repressed mother and his hypocritical legal adviser. Each of them has a part to play in the poetry as well as the tragedy of Baudelaire's life. In the brilliant, often surreal *Solitude*, the blocked writer Trecci (a character loosely based on the novelist Alexander Trocchi) wishes to be left alone on his barge, only stepping out for a riotous visit to the pub and an occasional sexual encounter with his neighbour's one-legged wife. But when his only friend brings round a potential conquest – an attractive young man who turns out to be an attractive young woman – Trecci is unwillingly drawn back into life. It is an encounter the other two may live to regret...

'A funny and lyrical piece, punctuated by glistening detail' *Time Out* (on *The Pimp*)

Dic Edwards' other plays include the *Casanova Undone*, *Wittgenstein's Daughter*, *Utah Blue* and *Franco's Bastard*. He also wrote the libretto for the controversial Keith Burstein opera *Manifest Destiny*. Dic lives in Aberaeron overlooking the Irish Sea and teaches Creative Writing at Lampeter University.

Photograph by Penelope Berger



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OBERON BOOKS

J'irai là-bas où l'arbre et l'homme, pleins de sève,
Se pâment longuement sous l'ardeur des climats;
Fortes tresses, soyez la houle qui m'enlève!
Tu contiens, mer d'ébène, un éblouissant rêve
De voiles, de ranciers, de flammes et de mâts;

Un port retentissant où mon âme peut boire
A grands flots le parfum, le son et la couleur;
Où les vaisseaux, glissant dans l'air et dans la moire,
Ouvrent leurs vastes bras pour embrasser la gloire
D'un ciel pur où l'âme s'envole à leur
Je plongerai ma tête amoureuse d'ivresse
Dans ce noir océan où l'autre est enfermé;
Et mon esprit subtil que le roulis caresse
Saura vous retrouver, à féconde paresse,
Infinis bercements du loisir enlaidissant.

The Pimp

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TWO IMMORALITY PLAYS

Solitude

OBERON MODERN PLAYWRIGHTS