

A promotional image for the play 'Darker Shores'. Two actors are featured in the foreground. The actor on the left has long, wavy, light brown hair and blue eyes, wearing a grey suit jacket over a red and white patterned scarf. The actor on the right has a full red beard and blue eyes, wearing a dark blue three-piece suit with a red and white patterned tie. Both actors have serious expressions and are looking directly at the camera. The background is a dark, stone archway with some faint, illegible inscriptions. The overall lighting is dramatic, with strong highlights on the actors' faces and hands.

# Darker Shores

a ghost story by  
**Michael Punter**

*methuen* | drama

## Darker Shores

**Michael Punter**'s work for the theatre includes *The Wolves* for Paines Plough (short-listed for the George Devine and Margaret Ramsay Awards), *The Birds* (after Aristophanes) for Birmingham Rep, *Dummy* and *The Nightwatch* (Margaret Ramsay Award) for Pop-Up and *Upstart Crows* for The Young Pleasance Company (Edinburgh Festival). He has recently adapted *The Mark of the Horse Lord*, from Rosemary Sutcliff's novel, for the National Theatre Studio, along with the short play *nationaltheatre*, which was produced last year to celebrate the National Theatre's Student Day. His work for BBC Radio includes *Come to Me* and *The Glad House*. He is currently Visiting Lecturer in Drama and Theatre at Royal Holloway, University of London.

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**Michael Punter**

**Darker Shores**

**Methuen Drama**

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# **Darker Shores**

A Ghost Story

*For Will and Manny,  
and also for Lisa, their beautiful mum*

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*Darker Shores* premiered at the Hampstead Theatre, London, on 3 December 2009. The cast was as follows:

**Stokes**

Mark Gatiss

**Mrs Hinchcliffe**

Pamela Miles

**Beauregard**

Julian Rhind-Tutt

**Florence**

Vinette Robinson

*Director* Anthony Clark

*Designer* Paul Farnsworth

*Lighting Designer* Tim Mitchell

*Video and Projection Designer* Thomas Gray for The Gray Circle

*Sound Designer* Edward Lewis



## Characters

**Gabriel Stokes**, *a naturalist, mid-forties*

**Florence Kennedy**, *a housemaid, mixed race (white/Afro-Caribbean), twenties*

**Agnes Hinchcliffe**, *a housekeeper, fifties*

**Tom Beauregard**, *a spiritualist, American (from Virginia), thirties*

## The Apparition

### *Place*

The offices of Tom Beauregard, Covent Garden, London.

The Sea House, on a desolate stretch of the East Sussex coast.

### *Time*

December 1875, December 1876.

The play is written so that The Apparition, the flood and other manifestations of the haunting can be produced by a number of means: physical performance, data/digital projection, or a combination of these. This would honour the tradition of Pepper's Ghost.