"I think you have unearthed a goldmine with this correspondence. Thank you for sharing the fruits of this friendship with me."

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Between 1959 and 2005, David Wood ('the national children's dramatist') corresponded with his mentor, Frank Whitbourn, teacher, writer and theatre practitioner. Frank Exchanges opens with a letter from Whitbourn, praising a young Wood following a performance in one of his plays, and documents an almost fifty-year correspondence before Whitbourn's death in 2005. Wood sent Whitbourn the first draft of every play he wrote, and Whitbourn commented constructively and often came to see and 'review' the plays in production.

The letters chronicle Wood's development as a playwright, director and producer, and Whitbourn's memories of prewar theatre-going and meeting Sybil Thorndike, Harcourt Williams and other eminent theatre folk. It is a reflection on the provision, content and status of theatre for young audiences, and ultimately a testimony to the man who Wood considered a friend and mentor.

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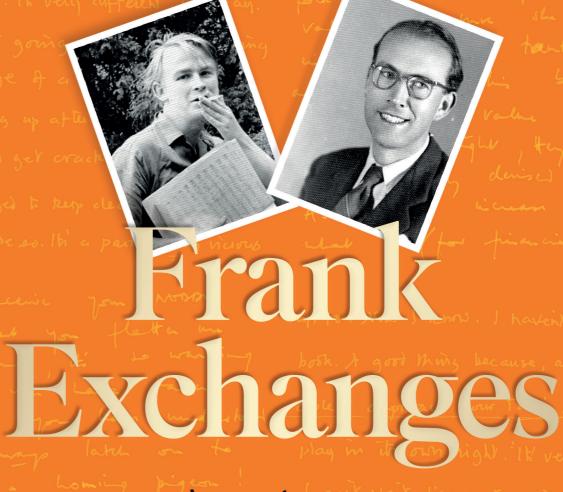
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Letters between

FRANK WHITBOURN

theatre enthusiast, and

DAVID WOOD.

children's dramatist.

EDITED BY CHRIS ABBOTT