

Fix Up by Kwame Kwei-Armah



Brother Kiyi runs Fix Up, a bookshop in Tottenham, which sells books about the history and heritage of the black race. Upstairs, Kwesi runs the All Black African Party. Owing to his natural generosity, Kiyi struggles to pay the rent and so it is no surprise when the building becomes in danger of being converted into lottery-funded luxury flats, with the bookshop becoming a hair-product store. Kwame Kwei-Armah's play is a deeply thoughtful exploration into the importance of race and roots, and the crime of denying your past.

Fix Up premiered at the National Theatre in December 2004.

'What is striking about [this] richly eloquent new play is that it deals with a subject that has specific racial resonances but a wider application: the sacrifice of historical identity to the insatiable demands of brute commerce.' *Guardian*

Genre:	Social/political drama	Fee:	£56 plus VAT, per performance
Cast:	m3 f2	Scripts:	ISBN 9780413774972 £8.99
Set:	a bookstore	Length:	6 scenes
Contact:	amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com		

EXTRACT

Norma You know what the problem with you is? You think the world is waiting on you, Kiyi! Well, it's not. While you're sitting in here being obstinate, Mustafar is moving forwards. Didn't I tell you to meet me at the town hall last night?

Brother Kiyi I was busy.

Norma My backside you were busy! All the other lease-holders were there!

Brother Kiyi I don't go anywhere dem punk rockers will be. If they'd have stood by me in the first place none of this would have been happening!

Norma That is history, Kiyi.

Brother Kiyi (*irate*) No my friend, *his story* are the fables of his winnings. (*Points to the slave narrative books.*) This is history. Anyway, I wasn't telling me anything I didn't know already.

Norma Oh, so you know that he plans to turn the places above you into luxury flats? What do you think is gonna happen next?

Brother Kiyi They'd pretty up the front, give me a new sign.

Norma Which one of them young rich children parents you think gonna loan dem child money to buy flat on top of an extreme black political bookshop? He has to get you out.

Brother Kiyi Norma, me know all of that. Me even know he plan to replace my bookstore with shop that sells black hair products.

Norma How do you know that?

Brother Kiyi Two people came in here yesterday to measure up!

Norma To measure up?

Brother Kiyi Yes. But he's messing with the wrong guy. I'm gonna talk to my MP. I'm gonna start a petition, speak to all the local black celebrities . . .

Norma I wouldn't count on them if I were you.

Brother Kiyi You can't replace history with hair gel.

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- *The Lucky Ones* by Charlotte Eilenberg (m3 f4)
- *Albert's Boy* by James Graham (m2)