

## Statement of Regret by Kwame Kwei-Armah



Kwaku Mackenzie is the inspirational leader of a black political thinktank. That is until his father dies and he increasingly turns to alcohol to placate himself. During a drunken TV appearance, Kwaku argues that black people should be more racist, and only blacks of Caribbean descent should be offered reparations for slavery. Not only does a racial divide occur in the all-black office, but rife hostility opens up in society. Kwei-Armah's play looks at how racism exists even in minority communities and how clinging to the past isn't always a good thing.

*Statement of Regret* premiered at the National Theatre in November 2007.

'*Statement of Regret* is a sprawling, ambitious and, at times, devastating piece of theatre. It's a slow-burn, revolving its themes early on, before culminating with real passion and verve.' *Stage*

<b>Genre:</b>	Social/political drama	<b>Fee:</b>	£56 plus VAT, per performance
<b>Cast:</b>	m7 f2	<b>Scripts:</b>	ISBN 9781408103913 £8.99
<b>Set:</b>	Institute of Black Policy Research	<b>Length:</b>	2 acts
<b>Contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com">amateur-rights@bloomsbury.com</a>		

### EXTRACT

**Soby** Now first things first. I went to the graveyard today on business, and you mean you father's grave still don't have no stone.

**Kwaku** We're waiting for the ground to . . .

**Soby** The ground ready and waiting. You shaming yourself and your fadder . . . most time a gravestone is the only monument, only proof that you pass through this place . . . fix it up, you hear me?

**Kwaku** I will.

*He swigs down his drink.*

**Soby** So, you broke?

**Kwaku** Well, I wouldn't say that exactly. May I talk straight? You know me, I'm a man for the community, of the community. I didn't take my education and run go work in the city, I didn't run stand for political office . . . I stayed here and served us. Well, it's time for the next phase. I'm looking for a group of men to help me. To help the community, in fact.

**Soby** You've said community three times, you're making me nervous.

**Kwaku** Soby. The white man have me by me balls.

**Soby** What's new?

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- *Fix-Up* by Kwame Kwei-Armah (m3 f2)
  - *Natural Breaks and Rhythms* by Julius Ayodeji (m4)
  - *Little Sweet Thing* by Roy Williams (m4 f4)
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