

1983-1984: First stage play *Tolstoy's Too Long* performed at Drama Barn, York University and ADC Theatre, Cambridge.

1984: Founded **Cambridge Rainmakers Theatre Company** to take two new plays to the Edinburgh Festival, sponsored by *Forth & Foyle*, a Scottish engineering firm. The plays were *The Life To Come*, and *Viardot* (an early draft of *Madame Polina*). Wrote, directed and produced both plays. *The Life To Come*, "Michael Black... is unquestionably a name to watch", *The Scotsman*, "Michael Black has a lively new voice and an easy command of the dialogue spoken among his contemporaries", *The Times*. *Viardot* won *Radio Forth Pick Of The Fringe*. "...when Mr. Black is good he is very good", *The Scotsman*, "The cast work extremely well together and there is little to criticise in this very enjoyable production", *Festival Times*.

1984: Wrote stage play *Criminals*. Now represented by Elizabeth Cree of David Higham Associates.

1983-1990: Cambridge University studying for doctorate in anti-apartheid literature. 1987 won *Sir Henry Strakosh Memorial Fellowship* to study in South Africa. Awarded doctorate May 1990.

1989: Arts Council Of England Theatre Options Award, in conjunction with producers **Union 212**, to re-write stage play *Viardot*. This turned into what is now *Madame Polina*.

1989: Czech dissident and playwright Václav Havel is imprisoned by the Communists in January. Founds **Hostage Productions** as a response, with donations from West End producers. Produces Havel's *The Increased Difficulty Of Concentration* in London, September. Own stage play *Propaganda Fide* produced in October/November. "...this is a superb play", *City Limits*, "this production must be seen", *Time Out*. On November 11th, the Berlin Wall is pulled down. By the end of the year, Havel is free, and leading the Czech Velvet revolution.

1990: *Propaganda Fide* the first new international stage play to be produced at the National Theatre Of Romania since the revolution of Christmas 1989. Now represented by Kerry Gardner of Gardner-Herrity Management.

1991: Arts Council Of England Theatre Writing Bursary to write stage play *Panharmonicon*.

1992: Hostage Productions organise the post-revolutionary *National Theatre Of Romania national Playwriting Competition* to encourage new civic voices of social democracy. The winning play, *Urma Scapa Turma*, by Alin Fumurescu, opens at the National Theatre in Tirgu-Mures in April.

1997: P.W. Productions commission stage play *Panharmonicon*, which Michael still hasn't finished.

1998: Hostage Productions, in association with **P.W. Productions**, produce stage play *The Amber Room* in London. "...capitalism running riot", *News Of The World*.

1998: Arts Council Of England Theatre Writing Bursary to write *state of the nation* stage comedy *The Wedding*. Creates writing web site www.mwblack.co.uk

2001: *Propaganda Fide* has a reading at the Questors Theatre, London.

2002: *Panharmonicon* has a staged reading at the Nottingham Playhouse.

2002: *Propaganda Fide* has a reading at the **Genesius Guild** in New York

2002: *The Wedding* has a reading at the Questors Theatre, London.

2003: *Propaganda Fide* production by **Vox Humana**, Los Angeles

2003: *Madame Polina* has a reading at the **Genesis Guild** in New York. "Playwright, lyricist, dramatist", *Stageplays.com*.

2004: *Propaganda Fide* production at **Cowgate Central Theatre**, Edinburgh Festival.

2003-2005: Wrote *Stealing Heaven From God*, a 1000 page book on mental health and spiritual experience, but decided not to publish

2007: *Michael Black Writings Archive* founded at Cambridge University Library with a donation of 64 writing notebooks 1983-2007. Two CDs of complete writings 1983-2011 have followed.

2007: Wrote stage play *The Minotaur*, detailing Pablo Picasso's relationship with his three mistresses in Paris in 1945/6. The play also dramatizes Dora Maar's mental breakdown.

2009: Two mental health memoirs published by **Chipmunka** (supported by ACE), *Angels, Cleopatra And Psychosis* and *Leonardo, Romancia And Ra*. Both books emphasise spiritual and religious experience. Both books are edited chapters of the unpublished *Stealing Heaven From God*.

2009: Adapted the Alexandre Dumas *filis* novel *The Lady Of The Camellias* for the stage. The Gate Theatre, Notting Hill considering a production for 2012/13.

2009: *Crossing Out The Emperor*, a novel about Beethoven and Napoleon's inner minds, published as an ebook by **Chipmunka** (supported by ACE).

2009: *The Minotaur* has a reading at **Moving Parts**, 1st Arrondissement, Paris.

2009: Re-writes stage comedy *The Wedding* to take account of the new financial crisis.

2011: *Crossing Out The Emperor*, a novel about Beethoven and Napoleon's inner minds, published as paperback by **Chipmunka** (supported by ACE).

2011-2012: Starts to formulate ideas for new stage play *Perestroika*, and a new novel, about the Russian revolutionary Inessa Armand. Founds **Europa Productions** to produce theatre on the continent. Creates new writing web site www.michaelblack.eu and new production company web site www.europaproductions.eu.