



flipped eye publishing

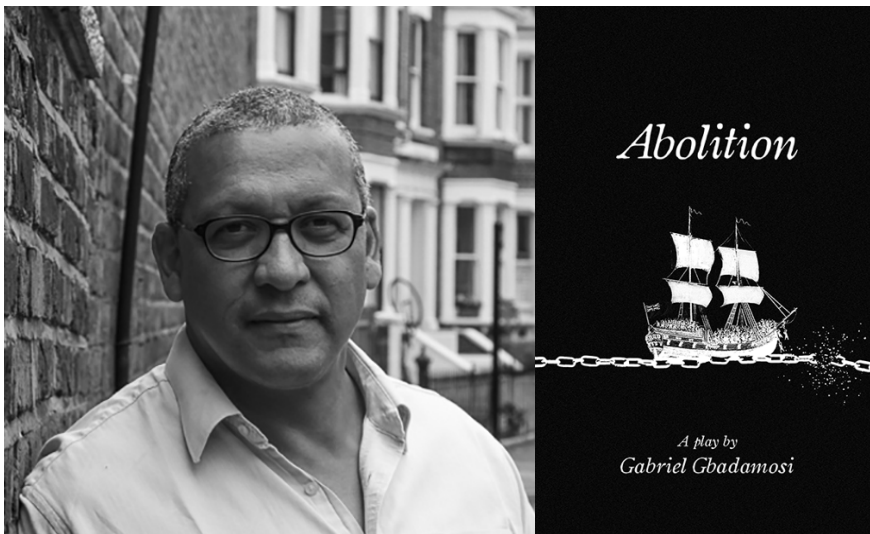
PRESS RELEASE

Britain abolished slavery.

**Britain also bought, transported,
killed and sold millions of Africans.**

At what cost Abolition?

Published by flipped eye in October 2023



***Abolition* by Gabriel Gbadamosi – 12th October 2023 (Drama)**

flipped eye publishing, one of the UK's leading independent publishers of compelling literature that matters, will release the play *Abolition* (12th October 2023), a gripping look behind the scenes at the termination of the transatlantic slave trade, by Irish and Nigerian poet, playwright and critic **Gabriel Gbadamosi**.

Set in 1792, amongst the merchant princes and cut-throat backstreets of Liverpool, in the Palace of Westminster in London and aboard the *Blackamoor Jenny* – a guineaman making its sixth “African voyage” to stock its foetid hold with human beings – Gabriel Gbadamosi's play *Abolition* unfolds a dark, inglorious undercurrent of ‘Enlightenment’ Britain: its trade in slaves.



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PRESS RELEASE

Arresting and deeply troubling, *Abolition* gives us the voices of people caught up in the original sin of slavery and fighting to survive it, profit from it, ignore it, or end it: slavers, slaves, sailors, and mobs, plus a radical abolitionist named Fox, the cautious anti-slavery politician William Wilberforce and a pragmatic Prime Minister, William Pitt the Younger.

Underpinned by impeccable research and uncanny fidelity to the language of its time, the play depicts a society both conflicted and very comfortable with the trade in African bodies. In Parliament, there is debate over moral hygiene and economic turbulence in the ship of state, whilst at sea the *Blackamoor Jenny* struggles with storms and depraved acts, driven on by the ever-urgent imperatives of money.

Publishing original poetry and ambitious prose on a not-for-profit model since 2001, flipped eye is a lean, reader-focussed, writer-loving support system for culture that matters. Founded by editor and award-winning writer Nii Ayikwei Parkes, flipped eye has won global critical acclaim since its inception, launching the careers of writers such as **Roger Robinson, Inua Ellams, Malika Booker, Miriam Nash, Nick Makoha** and **Warsan Shire**.

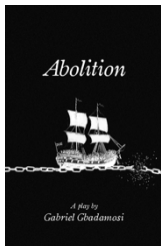
Press enquiries

For all press enquiries please contact:

Lana Hughes: lane.hughes@flippedeye.net

Nii Ayikwei Parkes: nii.parkes@flippedeye.net

Notes to editors



ABOLITION by Gabriel Gbadamosi

Published by flipped eye's **defeye** series

Drama £8.99

ISBN: 9781905233670

12th October 2023

About flipped eye

Founded in 2001 by Nii Ayikwei Parkes, an editor and award-winning writer, flipped eye publishing has won global critical acclaim, playing a key role in developing poets of note.

Always at the forefront of innovation in the publishing world, they were one of the first publishers in the world to have a regular subscription mailing list (in 2005) as well as a regular podcast – the hugely popular Poem of the Week Redux, with readings from the likes of Roger Robinson, Warsan Shire, Inua Ellams and Malika Booker – in 2010.



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Through their diversity and commitment, they have been one of the most imitated small presses in the UK for years. Their *mouthmark* poetry series – a ground-breaking, goal-focussed chapbook collection – revolutionised pamphlet publishing in the UK. Launched in 2004 with the first book released in 2005, it was the first time that a series was dedicated to developing writers with a slant towards transposing the energy of the stage to the page. The goal-focussed approach has since been imitated by the likes of Tall Lighthouse and Faber, but what remains unique about the *mouthmark* series, is that it was run on an incredible budget of £300 per title, and sold on at an affordable price.

Their writers are Latinx, Queer, White, Intersex, degree holders, graduates from the school of life, Black, Gay, old, young, Asian, Straight ... and they all feel heard and at home with flipped eye publishing, expressing themselves with freedom, creating affirming and challenging work.

About Gabriel Gbadamosi



Gabriel Gbadamosi is an Irish and Nigerian poet, playwright and critic. His novel *Vauxhall* (Telegram, 2013) won the Tibor Jones Pageturner Prize and Best International Novel at the Sharjah Book Fair. He was the AHRC Creative and Performing Arts Fellow at the Pinter Centre, Goldsmiths, University of London, in British, European and African performance; a Judith E. Wilson Fellow for creative writing at Cambridge University; and Writer in Residence at the Manchester Royal Exchange Theatre. His plays include *Stop and Search* (Arcola Theatre), *Eshu's Faust* (Jesus College, Cambridge), *Hotel Orpheu* (Schaubühne, Berlin), *Shango* (DNA, Amsterdam) and *The Long, Hot Summer of '76* (BBC Radio 3), which won the first Richard Imison Award. He presented BBC Radio 3's flagship arts

and ideas programme *Night Waves* and is the founding editor of *WritersMosaic*, a Royal Literary Fund initiative promoting black, Asian and minority ethnic writers.
