

The Schuman Plan

The Schuman Plan premiered at Hampstead Theatre, London, in February 2006.

Synopsis:

In the wake of World War II, Robert Schuman, the French Foreign Minister, puts his name to a plan for the economic unification of Europe in the hope of facilitating permanent peace.

Tim Luscombe's vibrant new play tells the extraordinary story of Bill Bretherton, a passionate British Europhile who was inspired by the man who conceived the plan. Yet Bill's idealism is constantly challenged by burgeoning European agencies and the colourful personalities he meets – back-stabbing politicians, volatile Suffolk fishermen, fraudulent Sicilian Mafiosi, his old pal Teddy Heath and a girl from the Ministry whom he loves to the end.

The Schuman Plan is a celebration of the political altruism behind the European ideal and a challenging look at what it has become. Fifty years on, what would Schuman make of Europe today?

The play moves deftly through the history of post-war Britain, via the story of Bill, constantly rooting itself in the ordinary lives of its citizens, showing how the personal is almost always political, and vice versa.

Casting:

Number of parts: 5

Men: 3 (ages: 30s, 40s, 50s)

Women: 2 (ages: 20s, 40/50s)

Setting:

Multi-locational, Europe

Publisher:

Nick Hern Books