



# The Vertical Hour

A Drama by DAVID HARE



## Synopsis:

Book-ended by scenes at Yale University, the play takes its female protagonist – Nadia, a professor of international relations who, in her former career as a war correspondent, had seen action in Bosnia – on a trip to the Welsh border country. Here her conservative values and moral sensibility collide with those of her English boyfriend’s father, a damaged liberal idealist, and she finds her iron certainties severely tested. Not only does she encounter an intellectual equal who challenges her on everything from patriotism to Freud, she also learns you cannot separate public from private, or spend your life in flight from your self.

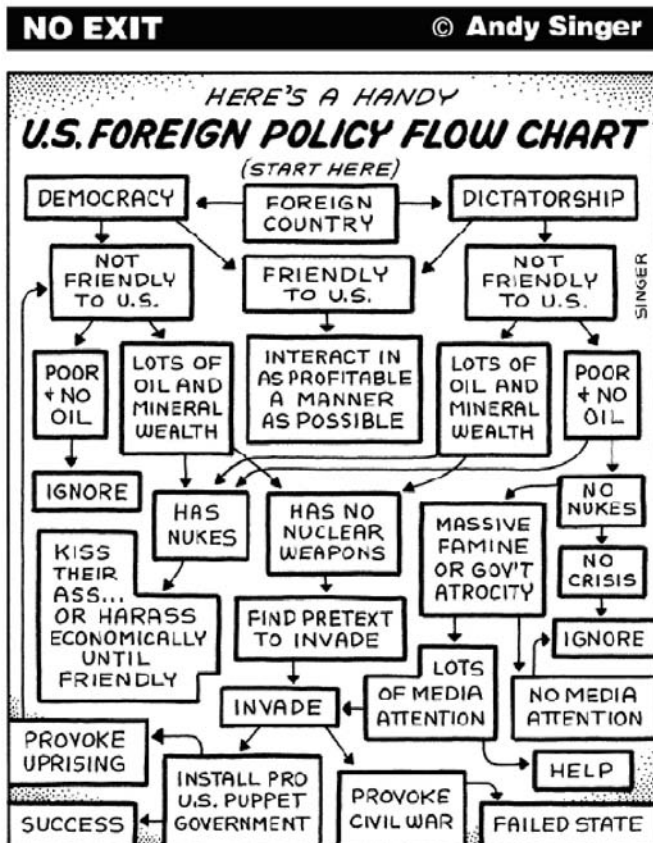
Towards the end of the play, in a most articulate moment, the father lists the shortcomings of American policy in Iraq, Nadia replies, “It’s so much easier to do nothing than something.” Nadia evaluates her relationship with her fiancé as she witnesses the father/son connection. Has the confrontation affirmed or altered her political positions?

## Production History:

Premiered Broadway, 2006  
London, 2008

## Other plays by this author:

*The Year of Magical Thinking*  
*Amy’s View*  
*The Blue Room*  
*Skylight*  
*Plenty*



## Expected Audience appeal:

This contemporary drama contains political discussions which are colored by the personal discovery of meaning. Particularly, it is a challenge to action, to be aware and to be involved in the world around you. Hare’s brilliant, witty dialogue is mesmerizing and will engage a bright audience looking for escape from daily matters.

