

An absurd whodunit

Waiting and Other Heroic Acts

FREEK MARIËN

Four guards are standing in front of a high wall. They are waiting and keeping watch, without knowing why or for how long. Behind the wall is a state secret and everything is suspect, everyone a potential enemy of the state. 'We see everything,' they boast.

An anarchic and provocative piece, with an inimitable storyline, so extraordinary it cannot really be compared to any other plays.

TONEELSCHRIJFPRIJS 2015 JURY

In 'Waiting and Other Heroic Acts' the macho guards barely move a muscle in their sacred mission to guard the wall. They wait, they eat, they patrol and above all: they have no fear. But everything changes when one of them suddenly disappears and disrupts their unshakable rhythm. Routines that were once meaningful now lose all sense. The unexpected disappearance gets them thinking: why are we keeping watch? And above all: what's behind the Wall? When their rigid choreography breaks down, the guards rediscover their personalities *and* their contact with one another.

'Waiting and Other Heroic Acts' is an absurd detective that, despite its humour, does not shun the major themes: the individual against the state, freedom versus impersonal authority and missing someone you took for granted.

A text like a burst of gunfire. Sometimes loud, sometimes overwhelming, sometimes chillingly silent. Funny, yet extremely stylised. A text like a choreography.

KAAS&KAPPES-PRIJS JURY



AUTHOR



Freek Mariën (Ghent, 1988) is an author and a theater maker. He studied drama at KASK in Ghent. He and Carl von Winckelmann are the artistic leaders of the theater ensemble Het Kwartier, mounting productions for young people and adults that emphasize powerful writing, socially relevant topics, and unexpected forms and themes. He has written for ensembles including ARSENAAL/LAZARUS, Circus Ronaldo, Tuning People, and Laika. He also teaches writing as a guest instructor at LUCA Drama. Freek has won awards such as the Dutch-German Kinder- und Jugenddramatiker*innenpreises 2012 and 2020 for plays for young people, the East Flanders Literary Prize 2014, and the Toneelschrijfprijs for the best Dutch-language play (winner in 2015, nominated in 2017 and 2019). His writings have been translated into German, French, Finnish, and English, with public readings and performances in various European countries and the United States. Photo © Johan Jacobs

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TRANSLATION GRANTS Patrick Peeters - patrick@flandersliterature.be , Yannick Geens - yannick@flandersliterature.be