

## DRAMA

Two friends, one incurable illness

# Give Me My Hand Back

JORIS VAN DEN BRANDE

A few years ago, the regular production designer at theatre company BRONKS told Joris Van den Brande that he was suffering from a serious illness. A disease with just one certainty: it would only get worse. Parkinson's. Nobody knows how bad or at what rate.

Hessels and Van den Brande play the emotional card without being corny. Macho talk and a soft centre: this piece has both.

HET NIEUWSBLAD

Joris distilled this story into a play that looks the fear and uncertainty straight in the eye. Two best friends try to give a voice to the illness that stands between them and explore the effect it has on them: the fear of decline, the future loss, the pressure to draw up a bucket list and the sense of injustice. Free from taboos and packed with humour, 'Give Me My Hand Back' opens a difficult theme up for discussion for both a young and an old(er) audience. In a candid conversation, the two characters explore how this new situation can bring them together and how this illness either challenges or strengthens their friendship. Tragicomic, vulnerable and moving – but above all genuine.

Maybe this season's best kept secret

JURY REPORT THEATER FESTIVAL



## AUTHOR



Joris Van den Brande (b. 1979) is a Flemish actor and playwright. He has worked with several Flemish theatres, including BRONKS, KVS, Theater Antigone and HETPALEIS. Van den Brande is part of the artistic core of ARSENAAL/LAZARUS. A number of his children's plays, including 'Zolderling' (in collaboration with Jan Sobrie) and 'Geef mijn hand terug', have been selected for the Theaterfestival. Copyright © Guy Kokken

**ORIGINAL TITLE** (jaartal, uitgeverij, aantal pp.) Geef mijn hand terug (2016, BRONKS, 33 pp.)

**AGE** 9+

**DETAILS** 2 characters (2M), 55 minutes, première 13 November 2016

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