

Condemned to each other and to the theatre

Who's Afraid?

TOM LANOYE

An elderly acting couple take stock of their love for each other and for their profession. All their productions are flops except one: a popular repertory classic about a pair of swearing and hard-drinking intellectuals that brings in money and audiences. They are sick of performing it, but fated to stand there night after night in those same old roles.

Tom Lanoye turns “Who’s Afraid” inside out to create a ferociously good performance.

DE VOLKSKRANT

Only the actors playing opposite them change regularly, two young people who inevitably leave in high dudgeon after a while. It gets harder and harder to find replacements. But then the state comes to their aid. The next pair of young actors will receive a socio-cultural subsidy on condition that they have foreign origins and preferably non-white skin. The first encounter between the foursome brings all their repressed conflicts to the fore.

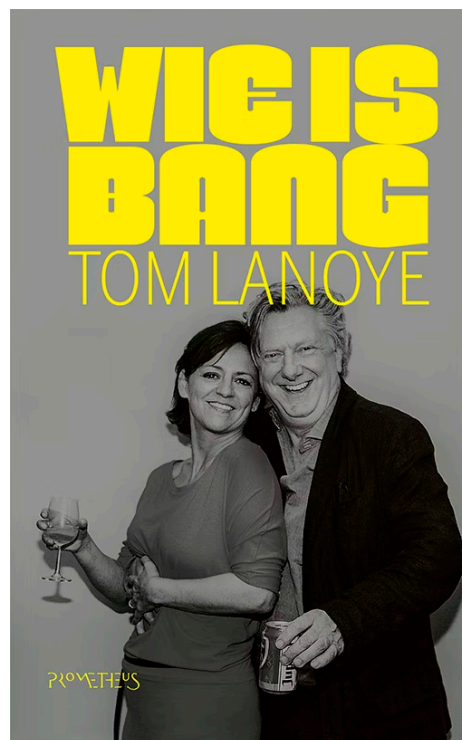
As a brilliant intertext of Edward Albee’s classic ‘Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf’, this work by Tom Lanoye is a head-on collision between four characters who never shrink from ranting and raging, or from manipulating each other. Beneath their comic layer of fulmination and pretence, one truth remains: they are condemned to each other, and to the theatre.

Confrontational and gutsy.

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THEATERKRANT



AUTHOR



Tom Lanoye (b. 1958) is a literary one-man business, and one of the most popular authors in Flanders and the Netherlands. His theatre work, novels, short stories, novellas, columns, poetry and performances can only be described as exceptional. He established his reputation with the autobiographical coming of age novel *Cardboard Boxes*. His bestselling novel *Speechless* was shortlisted for the most important literary prizes and won the Gouden Uil Readers' Prize. In his magnum opus *The Turntable*, Lanoye places question marks beside important issues concerning the collaborative past of Flanders. In October 2024, Tom Lanoye was awarded the Grand Prize for Literature, a prestigious triennial award recognising authors of significant literary contributions in the Dutch language area. King Philippe and Queen Mathilde of Belgium presented the award at the Royal Palace in Brussels, followed by several speeches and performances. Read the full jury report. *Photo © Arthur Los*

ORIGINAL TITLE *Wie is bang?* (2019, Prometheus, 136 pp.)

DETAILS 4 characters (2 male, 2 female), première 27 August 2019

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