

How can you be missed if  
officially you're not there?

# The Wetsuitman

FREEK MARIËN

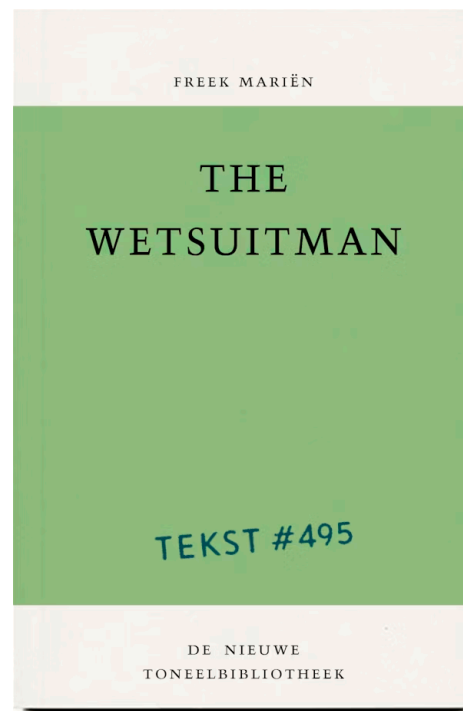
2015. Between the rocks of the Norwegian coastline, an architect is walking his dog. What at first looks like an oil slick close to the cliffs turns out to be a wetsuit. Bones are sticking out of the flippers. Even with the help of the police, nobody is able to identify the corpse. But then the Dutch police reach out: they appear to have found a similar skeleton and are likewise faced with a mystery.

Structurally fresh and beautifully choreographed, this polyphonic piece cleverly turns the audience into the smarter detectives as scene by scene, they piece together the puzzle to complete one whole picture.

LONDON PUB THEATRES MAGAZINE

Kicking off like a Scandinavian crime story, 'The Wetsuitman' leads from pastiche to a social drama in the 'jungle', the refugee camp in Calais. The script grows into a piece about identity, expectations and prejudice. Switching between different perspectives and genres, 'The Wetsuitman' reveals itself to be a portrait of loss, a meditation on bereavement. It becomes a search for the truth, for the essence of the Wetsuitman or perhaps rather the world in which he was washed up and exactly how that could happen.

'The Wetsuitman' is intelligent narrative theatre in which Freek Mariën sheds light on one of the most important and pressing themes of the contemporary public debate: the refugee crisis.



## AUTHOR



**Freek Mariën** (Ghent, 1988) is an author and a theater maker. His writings have been translated into German, French, Finnish, and English, with public readings and performances in various European countries and the United States.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** The Wetsuitman (2019, Het Kwartier/De Nieuwe Toneelbibliotheek, 123 pp.)

**DETAILS** 28 characters, 3 actors, 90 minutes, premiere 22 March 2019

**PRIZES** KAAS&KAPPES 2020, Nominated for the Toneelschrijfprijs 2019

**AGE** 14+

**TRANSLATIONS** English, Finnish, French, German

**RIGHTS SOLD** German (Verlag der Autoren), English (Performed by the Cherry Arts and Foreign Affairs)

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**TRANSLATION GRANTS** Yannick Geens - yannick@flandersliterature.be