

DRAMA

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

The Wetsuitman

FREEK MARIËN

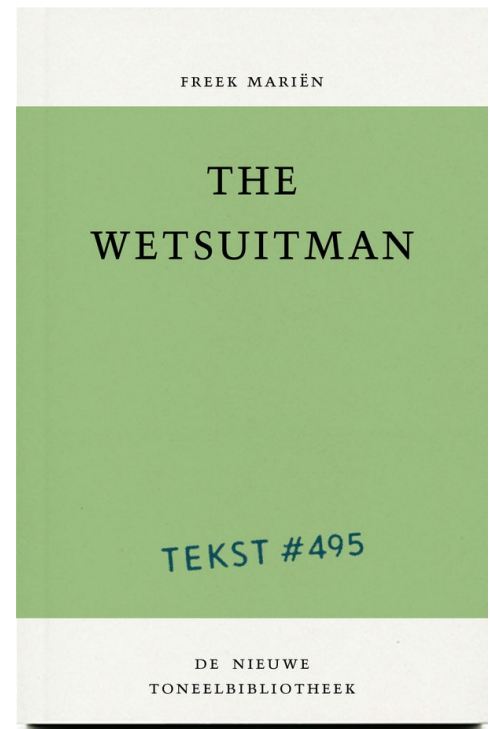
2015. Between the rocks of the Norwegian coastline, an architect is walking his dog. What at first looks like an oil slick close to the cliffs turns out to be a wetsuit. Bones are sticking out of the flippers. Even with the help of the police, nobody is able to identify the corpse. But then the Dutch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

A production that sheds its skin three times over and takes on a new perspective. Until something shocking remains: the portrait of a loss.

DE MORGEN

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 (b. 1988) is an author and theatre maker. Together with Ruth Mariën he founded Het Kwartier, a theatre company for young people and adults with a passion for text-based theatre. For his texts Freek Mariën has been awarded, amongst others, the international Kaas en Kappesprijs (2012), the Prijs voor de Letterkunde Oost-Vlaanderen (2014) and the Taalunie Toneelschrijfprijs for 'Waiting and Other Exploits' (2015).

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+

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