

The future is uncertain, and that's a cause for hope

# The Shell Trial

REBEKKA DE WIT

In the spring of 2021, oil giant Shell lost a legal challenge by a group of NGOs, including the Dutch environmental organisation Milieudefensie. It was a historic trial, because Shell was ordered to radically change its direction to stop causing global climate damage.

**Never didactic or heavy-handed, but full of wonder and sometimes even pain**

DE VOLKSKRANT

For years, theatre makers Rebekka de Wit and Aniek Nuyens closely followed the debate and the trial: they attended the shareholders' meetings of multinationals, read press releases by and interviews with Shell, scrutinised contracts and policy documents. They discovered that a so-called scenario team at the oil company had predicted the court case some 25 years ago. What if we, as a society, could also rehearse for the future? Would we understand who is responsible and how we can solve the problems together?

In 'The Shell Trial' all the different voices can be heard in five monologues: the oil giant's CEO, the worried citizen, a distraught consumer, the government and the future generations that recently organised a worldwide protest because not enough is being done to tackle the climate crisis.

**A very well thought-out and intelligent concept that does not just appeal to the viewer's understanding, but also his or her personal responsibility'**

THE LOW COUNTRIES



## AUTHOR



**Rebekka de Wit** (b. 1985) is a writer and theatre producer. In 2015 she published her first novel, 'We're Still One Miracle Short', although she still writes mainly for the theatre. Most of her work is philosophical and socially engaged, although combined with plenty of humour, often at her own expense. With her graduation monologue 'How This Became the Story' (2011) she won the KBC-TAZ Youth Theatre Prize. Since 2017, along with Freek Vielen and Suzanne Grotenhuis, she has been one of the artistic directors of theatre company De Nwe Tijd.

**ORIGINAL TITLE** De zaak Shell (2020, De Nieuwe Toneelbibliotheek, 54 pp.)

**DETAILS** 5 characters, 3 actors, 80 minutes, premiere 29 October 2020

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