

DRAMA

A debriefing between the West & the Middle East

April

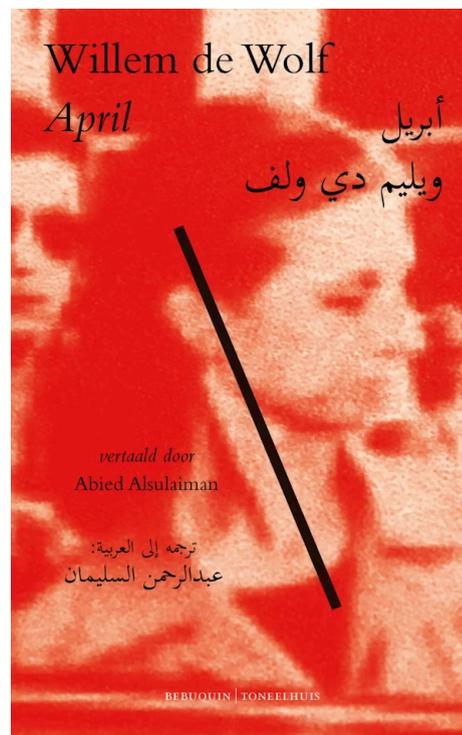
WILLEM DE WOLF

In July 1990, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein invaded neighbour Kuwait. Only a few days earlier, the US ambassador to Iraq, April Glaspie, had been invited for talks at the presidential palace. Six months later, the United States invaded Iraq and an international coalition attempted to oust Saddam's regime in what came to be known as the First Gulf War.

In Willem de Wolf's theatre text 'April', the American ambassador April Glaspie, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz and a news anchor revisit events. The subject of this fictitious conversation is that other, historical conversation in the summer of 1990 that nobody wants to talk about. Did the US ambassador indicate that her country would support the invasion of Kuwait? Did the Iraqi head of state misunderstand her, perhaps deliberately so? Or did the interpreter make a mistake? De Wolf's text does not go in for documentary reconstruction or for moral judgement. The conversation between the three protagonists is more of an attempt to view this destabilising political conflict from a different perspective. The conversation between the West and the Muslim world, the media and politics is given a second chance here. As if we could do it all over again.

The powerful 'April' deserves a place in the Barbican Centres and The National Theatres of this world.

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AUTHOR



Willem de Wolf (b. 1961) is a Dutch playwright and actor. He was active both in his own theatre duo Kas & de Wolf and in other theatre companies such as Dood Paard, Maatschappij Discordia and tg STAN. De Wolf's monologue Krenz was nominated for the Taalunie Toneelschrijfprijs in 2012. In 2010 he became one of the artistic leaders of Compagnie de KOE. FosterHuberHeyne, a theatre text written by De Wolf and Rebekka de Wit, was nominated for the Toneelschrijfprijs 2018 and coproduced by Staatstheater Mainz. *Photo © Bart Grietens*

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