

## DRAMA

Getting lost, fantasising and tweaking the truth a bit: is that allowed?

# LYING

SUZANNE GROTENHUIS

In 'LYING' two children, Eva and Zakaria, get lost on their way to the baker's. Their quest to find their way back home turns into a complicated journey because of the lies they tell in order to get out of tricky situations. Their lies are given a literal form in the story: each time they lie a white balloon appears on stage, while a giant bouncy castle burgeons in the background. At a certain point, the lie itself becomes a character, The Lie, who both challenges and helps Eva and Zakaria to come up with new fibs and excuses.

**Suzanne Grotenhuis masterfully interprets the ambiguity of lying... This flight of fantasy about the lies from her childhood results in a wonderfully engaging show.**

THEATERKRANT

The play helps to show how lies are created by uncertainty, the wish to avoid punishment, or simply in order to make reality more bearable. Eva and Zakaria try to find their way back, but only become more entangled in their own stories. The interaction between the characters is playful and at times moving, and lying is not only presented as something negative but also as a creative force that adds colour to life. Besides the themes of lying and being truthful, the play also explores such things as feeling scared, friendship and the wish to be understood. Ultimately 'LYING' explores what honesty really means, why people sometimes lie, and how to find your way home – literally and figuratively.

Photo © Illias Teirlinck

**This world of lies, a utopian white bouncy castle, is a place you'll find hard to leave.**

ETCETERA



## AUTHOR



**Suzanne Grotenhuis** (b. 1985) is an author, actress and theatremaker. She has performed in shows made by various Dutch and Flemish theatre companies including Toneelhuis, Het nieuwstedelijk and Toneelgroep Amsterdam, as well as making her own solo shows *On Ice* and *Holy Shit*. Since 2017 she has been part of the core artistic team at De Nwe Tijd theatre company where, in collaboration with Freek Vielen and Rebekka de Wit, she has made several shows including 'The Shell Trial'. 2023 saw the publication of her debut novel 'Where are the clouds', a plea for less self-care, which was nominated for De Bronzen Uil literary prize in 2024. Photo © Alexander Daems

**ORIGINAL TITLE:** LIEGEN (2024, hetpaleis & De Nwe Tijd/Suzanne Grotenhuis, 41 pages)

**CHARACTERS:** 3 characters (1M, 1F, 1 M/F), première 15 Nov 2024.

**AGE:** 6+

**PRIZES:** Nominated for the Translation Prize 2025

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