
AUTHORS

Sibylle Berg (Germany)

Sibylle Berg is the most widely recognized contemporary female writer in the German-speaking world, and has been called one of Germany's most provocative writers. Her first novel

Titles

AND THEN THERE WAS MIRNA

After the party the young desperados of AND NOW: THE WORLD! have grown up. Here we find them in their thirties and in various states of adjustment: One is a single mother, another is in a more conventional family unit and a third has moved into a commune. The great career didn't happen for any of them, instead they are faced with the growing realization of their ordinariness and that changing the world would takes a lot of energy they don't seem to be able to muster. However, this doesn't stop them trying, and they set out to leave their gentrified neighbourhoods, move to the countryside and even wean themselves off social services. The only thing standing in their way: their children who have different ideas.

EAT WELL AND EAT LOTS

Gay marriage, migration, organic vegetables, Euro crisis, feminism – hot topics wildly bantered about in the pub as much as on the internet. We receive warnings from the politically correct and contradictions from the reactionaries. In the midst of this: the soliloquizing modern everyman: white; heterosexual;

middle-class and able to produce a seven course gastronomic experience for his wife and son. Career-wise, he hasn't achieved what he had hoped for and despite living in a very respectable part of town his own family are failing to live up to his expectations. He's running out of money and hope. He feels misled by his parents who convinced him he was a winner, that he was somehow unique, now this promise is beginning to look like a cruel joke.

WONDERLAND AVENUE

What will the world look like if society and technology continues to develop at the same speed. What will happen when Artificial Intelligence overtakes and replaces human intelligence. What will happen to us flawed, sentimental and unpredictable mortals?

AND NOW: THE WORLD!

"We want to be supermodels or get on TV,

DOG, WOMAN, MAN

An unorthodox view of a relationship between two people: a dog describes the strange behaviour of the woman and the man who literally cling together even though they can hardly stand one another. When they meet for the first time the dog runs up to them and from then on stays because - like them - it has nothing to lose, because - like them - it seeks shelter in a warm apartment. That would be enough for the dog as a way out of solitude, and master and mistress "could also have been pleased not to wake up alone any longer, but human beings don't hit on such simple ideas". After a brief period of devoting loving attention to one another human behaviour returns: love becomes a claim to possession, closeness is replaced by suspicion and alienation. Nevertheless, separation or any other variant of change are out of the question as far as the man and woman are concerned. The energy-draining routines of their everyday life as couple, lived by others as something normal and thus dutifully followed by this man and woman, restrain them like a taut leash. This ultimately seems absolutely natural to the dog: "We dogs and human beings are in many respects related. For instance, we deal with catastrophes in the same way. We accept them". The play opened at Rampe Theater, Stuttgart, 2001.

THE LIFE OF VICTOR

In the year 2004, animals have seized power from humans. For entertainment, they can order 'ordinary human lives' via Pay-per-View to watch at home. Tonight, "The Life of Victor" is on the programme. They watch his biography

as if in jump cuts. Victor's failure is not due to tragic strokes of fate, but due to something shockingly banal: his lack of courage to make decisions, his unkindness and dullness. "This is a nasty, hilarious little fable in which social critique, cynicism, trendy jargon, and fake innocence parade garishly before us." (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung). The play opened at Schauspielhaus Bochum, 2000.