
AUTHORS

Line Knutzon (Denmark)

Line Knutzon (née 1965) is a Danish playwright. In 1991 she had her breakthrough with the play 'Splinter in the Heart', whereby she made her mark as one of the most significant and successful representatives of new Danish play writing. Her style is dynamic, comic and sometimes farcical, mixed up with poetic expressions of indignation and desperation in a combination of absurdism and grotesque realism, fragments of fairytales and subconscious metaphors. Line Knutzon has created a unique universe of her own. Most of her plays have been staged successfully in Denmark and also abroad. Amongst her plays are: "First you're Born" (1994), "The Time is Coming" (1998), "The Air Others Breathe" (2001) and "The Builders" (2008).

Titles

A SPLINTER IN THE HEART

After a robbery gone wrong at the local sandwich shop, the paranoid Willow seeks shelter in the flat of the insecure Pillow. Willow is just in time to meet Pillow's newly ordered "closet-mother", "model Abberdab 600", "a mechanical mother especially designed for ""young filthy women in two-roomed flats with no bath". While romantic feelings develop between our anti-hero and anti-heroine, it is discovered that the closet-mother harbour alcoholic and rebellious tendencies and seems suspiciously human in all her imperfection.

THE BUILDERS

A married couple has bought a hotel which has been shut down. They have a wish to realize their dreams and lead a better life; it is time to renovate the ruin. Of course the work is being carried out by illegal workmen, as this is ok, when you are a good person. From this point on, the workmen are in complete control. They decide everything because they know everything. Eventually, this reign of horror brings out the worst in the good couple. There are laughs and frights when the soft violinist and his sweet wife in their blind obsession with the perfect life are being manipulated by a bunch of rude and very intimidating workmen who milk them for money, while the anger boils over.

THE TIME IS COMING

This play includes farcical and grotesque horror elements as it deals with the ways in which one can lose time while busy catching up with one's life. A somewhat frustrated woman, Rebekka, suffers from amnesia which seems to be the given state of most of the characters. None of them are able to do anything about their situation apart from the grotesque housemaid, Eadie, who praises the great forces of initiative, and who bears a slight resemblance to a vampire. Into this untenable situation arrives Puttakins, Rebekka's youngest daughter here to celebrate her mother's birthday. It is ultimately revealed that the young Puttakins is actually a 55-year old woman on whom the years have passed without trace.

FIRST YOU'RE BORN

Five characters are searching for love. The play starts with Axel breaking up with his girlfriend, Bimsy. Two sisters, Lis and Tis, are watching the scene from their flat where emotional Tis is upset over what she witnesses. The following scenes introduce Tudeberg, Axel's gentle and naive roommate, and Victor, Lis' and Tis' neighbour, who regularly suffers from a bad migraine. The characters spend the play trying to find their way to their one and only true love. In the end the audience is treated to three happy couples.

THE GUITARISTS

The singer and dodecaphonic artist John Hansen has died. The world around him is shocked. Four dedicated fans decide to make a memorial concert in front of John's legendary house. The immense body of work, with which John Hansen leaves us reflects an artist and a life filled with contradictions, nonsense and disappointments. It can be difficult to organize such a concert – in fact it is so difficult that you almost forget the person you are reminiscing. The guitarists Grete, Kim, Gregers and Hesselhud try their very best. The only question is if this is good enough?

THE AIR OTHERS BREATHE

Pølse and Pind are living in a trailer. Pølse is furiously writing letters and lives under the kitchen cupboard. Pind spends his time knitting and going shopping. He always buys 10 white loaves because they are on sale. They are married to each other, but are not aware of the union. The only thing they have in common is their longing for somebody they do not know. As they are longing, they also fear what they are longing for: the things outside the trailer.

THE LATEST THING

This is a play about how to survive in an unsure world. The two main characters, Paul and Pyssern, try to find security and reassurance in their relationship, confusing as it may be. The play opens with sweet, insecure Paul telling his temperamental girlfriend, Pyssern, the latest bad news from the neighbourhood. The threat outside is embodied by a group of people called "the nephews". The third character of the play, a caretaker, is the unlikely hero of the story. Eventually he beats up "the nephews" and brings Pyssern the present she has always wanted.