
AUTHORS

Freek Mariën (Belgium)

Freek Mariën (1988) is a Belgian writer and theatre maker. He graduated as a Master in Drama from the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (KASK) in Ghent and is the artistic director of Het Kwartier. He creates plays for both young people and adults with a focus on a strong text, powerful content and a non-evident form or theme. His pieces show a great awareness of language and form; at the same time, there is a strong commitment to people and the world, and an ever-increasing engagement. For Mariën, form and content are inextricably linked. Freek has won awards including the Niederländisch-Deutschen Kinder- und Jugenddramatiker*innenpreises (2012 and 2020), the East Flanders Literary Prize (2014) and the Toneelschrijfprijs for the best Dutch-language play (won in 2015, nominated in 2017 and 2019).

Titles

WAITING AND OTHER HEROIC ACTS

Four guards are standing in front of a high wall. They are waiting and keeping watch, without knowing why or for how long. Behind the wall is a state secret and everything is suspect, everyone a potential enemy of the state. 'We see everything,' they boast. They wait, they eat, they patrol and above all: they have no fear. But everything changes when one of them suddenly disappears and disrupts their unshakable rhythm. Routines that were once meaningful now lose all sense. The unexpected disappearance gets them thinking: why are we keeping watch? And above all: what's behind the Wall? When their

rigid choreography breaks down, the guards rediscover their personalities and their contact with one another.

THE WETSUITMAN

2015. On the coast of Norway, an architect walks his dog. What looks like an oil slick by the cliffs turns out to be a wetsuit, a human bone protruding from the leg-hole. The Wetsuitman begins as a Scandinavian crime thriller, and unpeels like an onion, switching between perspectives and genres to become a profound and interlayered meditation on identity, expectation, race, and migration. Ultimately the play becomes a search for the truth— not only for the nature of the Wetsuitman but for the nature of a world in which he could wash up on a cold Norwegian beach.