
AUTHORS

Per Olov Enquist (Sweden)

Per Olov Enquist (1934–2020) was a Swedish writer, journalist and playwright. After a degree in history of literature at Uppsala University he worked as a newspaper columnist and television debate moderator from 1965 to 1976. He became an influential figure on the Swedish literary scene. From 1970 to 1971 Enquist lived in Berlin on a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service and in 1973 he was a visiting professor at the University of California, Los Angeles. He has been working as an independent writer since 1977. Enquist's work is characterized by a chronic pessimistic view of the world. His plays always describe the restrictions imposed by the epietistical way of living, especially in “March of the Musicians” (1978) and “Lewi's Journey” (2001). He gained international recognition with his novel “The Visit of the Royal Physician” (1999) – the story of Johann Friedrich Struensee, the personal physician to the Danish King Christian VII.

Titles

CHEKHOV'S THREE SISTERS

With great respect for Chekhov, Enquist has shed new light on the immortal classic about three sisters (Olga, Masja, and Irina) whose dreams never came true. In this play, the sisters have grown old and are reminiscing about the events of their youth, which played a crucial part in their development. Enquist's fantasy has become a tremendous success on Scandinavian stages.

IMAGE MAKERS

In "Image Makers" the film director Victor Sjöström has been shooting Selma Lagerlöf's novel "The Phantom Carriage". He has invited the author to Stockholm to show her a number of scenes from the film. The play is set in 1920 in a screening room at Svensk Filmindustri (Swedish Film Industry). In addition to Sjöström, those present include the talented cinematographer Julius Jaenzon, and the young actress Tora Teje, Sjöström's mistress and an object of Jaenzon's desire. The meeting between Lagerlöf, an older woman and world-famous author, and a young and talented actress becomes the focal point of the drama.

THE NIGHT OF THE TRIBADES

"The Night of the Tribades" is a portrait of August Strindberg. It is a historical drama in which Enquist takes some liberties, but for the most part the play is based on facts. The story unfolds in Copenhagen in 1889, when Strindberg's estranged wife, Siri von Essen, her alcoholic lesbian friend, Marie Caroline, and the young actor, Viggo Schiffe, are rehearsing Strindberg's newest experimental play "The Stronger". "The Night of the Tribades" is a powerful, drama, using much of Strindberg's own writing. Enquist portrays the complex man and his charged opinions well, convincingly echoing the fire of Strindberg's own work, and adeptly conveying Strindberg's often ugly thoughts. "The Night of the Tribades" has been produced all over the world from Eastern Europe to Broadway and has been translated into more than 20 languages.

RAIN SNAKES

The acknowledged actress, Johanne Luise Heiberg, is married to the much older theatre director of The Danish Royal Theatre in Copenhagen, Johan Ludvig Heiberg. One night the couple is sitting in their bourgeois home, when the writer Hans Christian Andersen pays them a visit. Mrs Heiberg and Mr Andersen have both achieved international fame. However, they each carry a desperate story and hunger for love; they are trying to forget their pasts by hiding behind their success and good taste. It is like trying to clean a rain snake. As the evening progresses, their initial mutual dislike transforms into a love which turns Enquist's black comedy into a drama...

TO PHAEDRA

This retelling of the classical myth is a tight, violent story about the middle-aged queen Phaedra, who falls passionately in love with her stepson and tries to seduce him but fails. Slowly her obsessive love becomes the downfall of

both of them. "To Phaedra" has been translated into Swedish, Danish, German, French, English, Finnish and a number of East-European languages.

BLANCHE AND MARIE

"Blanche and Marie" is based on the real story about Marie Curie and her intimate friend Blanche Wittman. The story takes place at the end of the 1800s. Blanche has been committed for hysteria and among other things, she has been a guinea pig when doctor Jean-Martin Charcot invited people like Freud and Strindberg to weekly séances about the riddling psyche of women. When Charcot dies, Blanche becomes Madame Curie's assistant. She offers her body to science and allows the x-rays to eat her up before she dies as a torso; 41.34 inches tall, weighing 99.21 lbs. A dreamy play where passion is scientifically proven and feelings and body parts are amputated while the blue light from the x-rays close in on Blanche and her attempt to examine love.

IN THE HOUR OF THE LYNX

This is the story of a young, mentally disturbed, murderous boy who has been given a cat as a psychiatric experiment. When the cat turns up dead, a young female psychiatrist and an elderly female priest try to get the boy to explain why he has killed the cat. However, according to the boy, he has not harmed the cat. Instead, the cat has died to rise again. "The Hour of the Lynx" is a play about how faith, affection, and love can break the limits of reason.