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## AUTHORS

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### **Maria Tryti Vennerød (Norway)**

Maria Tryti Vennerød (née 1978) is a Norwegian playwright and director. Furthermore she holds a degree in Drama and Theatre Communication from Oslo's University College. As a playwright, she made her debut with the play "More" at the Norwegian Drama Festival (2002). The following year, she won the first prize in a Swedish/Norwegian playwriting competition for her play "Frank", and in 2005, she made her breakthrough with "The Lady at the Counter", for which she was awarded the Ibsen Prize. With an energy language, a flare for the tragedy and folly of human nature, and a sense of combining humour, pain, and politics, she has established herself as one of Norway's strongest young playwrights.

### **Titles**

#### **NEVERLAND**

"Neverland" is a sorrowful yet cheerful story about imagination as a way of dealing with pain. The main character dreams his way to Michael Jackson's surreal and luxurious Neverland, where a synthetic pop-universe wraps the soul like cotton candy. It is a world, where the boundary between dream and reality is unclear. Humans need comfort, but what happens when a child is dying and the doctors are unable to help? When no one can help and a mother in despair tries to find a way out? A dream scenario with Michael Jackson as the leading element is one of the ways to try to save the child and to keep death and reality away. The King of Pop spreads joy in the corridors

of death and relieves the mother's sorrow. Thus Neverland becomes the last chance and the final adventure. The play opened at the Norske Teater in 2010.

## FRANK

In 2004, Maria Tryti Vennerød won the Norwegian-Swedish playwright competition for the play "Frank". Frank, a young man, is locked up in his own prison with open doors in all directions. He spends his time stabling, drinking milk and watching the news and refuses to let anyone into his life. But one day everything changes. The girlfriend is not who he thought she was and the female advocate turns out to be an interesting as well as irritating acquaintance. "Frank" is a playful fable about the soul of freedom. The text is strong with clear references to expressionistic, surreal and absurd writing. However, the play has a very personal voice too, marked by originality, distinctiveness and the search for the meaning of life.

## MORE

A simply outstanding debut from a young Norwegian dramatist: Two young girls have developed an extreme game with rules which are to be kept if you wish to avoid a brutal punishment. The game - both violent and dreamy - between Ida and Benedikte crosses the ultimate border: Ida holds Benedikte's head under water long enough for her friend to die. Afterwards she smashes the dead Benedikte's head on a rock. Ida is arrested, and the case seems obvious. The police want a confession, the psychologists want their Freudian analysis, and the press wants its story about a lesbian jealousy drama with a hint of homo-sadism. The play calls for an expressive staging, and it is written in an almost surreal style of farce with sharp dialogues in continuous scenes. The title "More" hints at the human need to play with boundaries and exposure to greater dangers.

## NATIONAL TEST

In a small local community the students are waiting for their early exam, when they are threatened by a potential school massacre. Can it be the former student, Vidar, who plans to kill them all? No matter what, they are forced to take their exam. Tryti's text is about fear and especially fear of the unknown and a different situation. The play is a dramaturgical collage, an energy boosted youth drama with snappy lines and an action, which develops into more levels at the same time. The play premiered at Rogaland Teater in 2011.