



How it Was

Original title: Slik var det: monolog

Publisher: Samlaget, 2020

Genre: Play

Pages: 58 pages

Norwegian, English

Foreign rights

Dutch: Tiny Grass is Dreaming Maaiké van Rijn

English: PAJ: A Journal of Performance and Art (excerpt)

Icelandic: Espólin forlag

Portuguese: Artistas Unidos

Swedish: Faethon



THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

Jon Fosse

Photo: Agnete Brun

How it Was

A monologue about ageing, life, and death.

In *This is How it Was*, Jon Fosse's second longer monologue, we meet an older man. His vision is deteriorating and his feet will no longer carry him. He sees death approaching, and thoughts about whether anything awaits him after death come and go. Alone in bed, shuffling slowly with a cane, then a walker, and ultimately resorting to a wheelchair, he is filled with fragments of the life he's lived. He was once a painter, but that time has passed. He has no contact with his children and his marriage is over, but he still waits for the woman who's set to come and help him – while also dreading her repetitive questions.

As always, Jon Fosse writes about everyday life, but also about the bigger questions. The play is about the decrepit body and ageing, time and memories, life and death.

Jon Fosse

Nobel Prize-winner Jon Fosse (b. 1959), is widely considered one of the most important writers of our time. For almost forty years, he has written novels, plays, poems, stories, essays, and children's books. His award-winning work has been translated into more than fifty languages and his plays have been staged over a thousand times all over the world.

Jon Fosse grew up in Strandebarm, a small village in the western part of Norway, he now lives in the Grotten, an honorary residence in Oslo, as well as in Hainburg, Austria, and Frekhaug, Norway.

Fosse was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2023 and has received numerous prizes, both in Norway and internationally through the years.