



Death Variations

Original title: Dødsvariasjoner

Publisher: Samlaget, 2002

Genre: Play

Pages: 110 pages

Full English

Foreign rights

English: Oberon

French: L'Arche Editeur

Swedish: Faethon



THE
NOBEL
PRIZE

Jon Fosse

Photo: Agnete Brun

Death Variations

Once upon a time, the couple was young, newlywed, and optimistic, but they weren't able to live together. Many years later, a terrible tragedy – their daughter's suicide – forces them to meet again. Through rapid shifts between past and present, we take part in small yet crucial moments in the lives of these three people: the first evening in their own apartment, the birth of their daughter, and the parents' divorce.

Death Variations explores different aspects of the theme of death; death of love, the death of a relationship, death of happiness, and the death of a young person. This powerful, thought-provoking, life-affirming play transcends all borders in its exploration of the issue of youth suicide, in its exploration of the mind and spirit of young people, looking at what might happen when their minds confuse the real and the imaginary.

It is easy to see [Fosse's] work as Ibsen stripped down to its emotional essentials. But it is so much more. For one thing, it has a fierce poetic simplicity...

The New York Times

A taut, gripping exploration of – among other things – our frequent and tragic inability to recognize what's right before us.

The New York Theatre Experience, Inc.

A riveting drama...Fosse's brilliant, ritualistic language uses obsessive repetition to make [the characters] fate seem inevitable...

NY Theatre Wire.

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.