

The Young Lady (La demoiselle)

Author : Jean-Pierre Dopagne

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First Production: At Spa, the 15th of August, 2003, by the Jean Vilar Workshop Theatre (l'Atelier Théâtre Jean Vilar), with Alix Mariaule, directed by Olivier Leborgne, in a Festival of Spa co-production.

Theme: Marriage, filiations, solitude, nationhood

Genre : Comedy drama

Form: Monologue

Length: 1h15

Casting: 1 woman

Comments:

The author expressly forbids the playing of the role by a man

Synopsis:

Tomorrow is the great day! Louise is getting married before the cameras. In front of the whole of Belgium. Before us, this girl, with her chips and her football, confides her secrets, her memories, her expectations, her worries...

How to explore Belgium through the eyes of a young woman and the rhythms of a surrealist dance?

Between a fairy tale and the dreams of a people, this amusing and fierce monologue is a real snap-shot of the family, work, solitude and life.

Extract:

You won't find a Belgian like me on the internet. I'm the last 100% 'pure Belgian'. The daughter of a francophone father and a Flemish mother.

When I was young it used to make me laugh. My father would ask my mother *TU M'AIMES ?*...and my mother would reply : *NATUURLIJK*.

At school I would take French courses on even days, Flemish on odd days. One day I would be called Louise Dupont, the next Louisa Vandenburg. When the teacher asked me *DEUX FOIS TROIS ?* I replied *IK WEET HET NIET, IK BEN VLAAMSTALIG*. And the next day the opposite when I was asked « twee maal drie »

This is why I was born. Me, Louise Dupont - Louisa Vandenburg. A real Belgian. Perfectly bilingual. I was born to reconstitute Belgium.
