

## The Teacher (L'enseigneur)

<b>Author :</b>	Jean-Pierre Dopagne
<b>Publisher:</b>	Editions Lansman, in 1994, in the "Nocturnes Théâtre" series
<b>First Production:</b>	At Spa, the 5th of August, 1994, by the Spa Festival, with Alexandre Von Sivers, directed by Pierre Fox.
<b>Theme:</b>	Teaching, theatre, communication, education, youth
<b>Genre :</b>	Comedy drama
<b>Form:</b>	Monologue
<b>Length:</b>	1h30
<b>Casting:</b>	1 man

### Comments:

Literature Prize of the Council of the French Speaking Community of Belgium, 1994

The first monologue of the trilogy completed by *Family Photos (Photos de famille)* (1997) et *The Young Film Debutante (La jeune première)* (2001)

The current version of this play is entitled *Hey! Teacher! (Prof!)* (2002)

**The author expressly forbids the playing of the role by a woman, an adolescent or a child.**

### Synopsis:

*Children are like animals: they act not out of intelligence but by instinct!* That's what he tells us, out of spite, anger and experience, this idealist shattered by the violence of the school environment.

Today, condemned by the law for having committed an act from which there is no going back, *The Teacher* disturbs, with cynicism and tenderness, our schoolday memories in order to scare us, to make us cry, and to make us laugh and reflect. Much more than a settling of accounts with school and the theatre, this monologue is an appeal for a more humane society.

### Extract:

As soon as I entered I understood. I saw their jeans and their trainers. I saw their buttocks precariously placed on the edge of their seats. I saw their slumped torsos. And their chewing gum. Their empty eyes and their dead looks. A terminal class ! The same as every year, I asked them the question: *What does it mean to be a literature teacher?*

When I began my career, very young, I didn't ask myself the question. I never considered that it could be asked. But paradoxically, I had the answer. On growing older, I asked myself the question and had no response. *In any case*, said a pupil one day, *there are more important things.*