

Family Photos (Photos de famille)

Author : Jean-Pierre Dopagne

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First Production: At Spa, the 8th of August 1997, by Belgian New Theatre (le Nouveau Théâtre de Belgique), with Rosalia Cuevas, directed by André Debaar, in a Festival of Spa co-production

Theme: Mother-child relationships, family, education, the thoughts of a mother, a woman, and a wife

Genre : Comedy drama

Form: Monologue

Length: 1h30

Casting: 1 woman

Comments:

The second monologue in the trilogy completed by *The Teacher (L'enseigneur)* and *The Young Film Debutante (La jeune première)*

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

Synopsis:

She has always been a good mother, despite the canned products and frozen foods, despite her work and the difficulties she had speaking to her children...

But she still doesn't understand why her husband left her, why her daughter left to live 10.000 km away, and above all why her son has just committed suicide...

This sensitive and powerful monologue gives voice to a woman, a mother and a wife. But it is also, and primarily, the portrait of a certain mentality which forgets that strong relationships and virtues always pass through the heart.

Extract:

They took me to the site. They placed me next to a stretcher with a blanket on it. The blanket was not well stretched out; a shoe was sticking out of it. It was one of Guillaume's trainers. Something like hysterical laughter was in my lungs: I couldn't stop myself thinking about his teacher, whom I had met the previous week. He had told me that he had the *distressing habit of balancing on his chair and spreading his be-trainered feet out on the desk*. The expression had amused me. *His be-trainered feet!*
