

A Class Act ! (Prof !)

Author : Jean-Pierre Dopagne

Publisher: Lansman Editions, in 2002, in the « Théâtre à l'affiche » series

First Production: At Paris, the 14th of October, 2002 par le Théâtre de la Gaîté Montparnasse, with Jean Piat, directed by Jean-Claude Idée

Theme: Teaching, theatre, communication, education, youth

Genre : Comedy drama

Form: Monologue

Length: 1h30

Casting: 1 man

Comments:

A Class Act! is an updated version of *The Teacher (L'enseigneur)* (1994)

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

Synopsis:

Teaching ! It's the best job in the world. Like the soil, it makes things germinate. This idealist, shattered by the violence of the school environment, has committed an irreparable act. A modern hero, he refuses to resign himself to it and aspires to put the soul back into the school.

Taking the opportunity of redesigning *The Teacher* in order to give it a political dimension, the author disturbs our schoolday memories in order to scare us, to make us cry, and to make us laugh and reflect.

Extract:

That year, right from Day One, upon entering, I knew. I knew that I wouldn't make it to the end. I knew, that year – as if I'd finally understood that I'd chosen the wrong route – that one day I'd turn over the last page of my life as a teacher, as one turns over the last page of a book.

There are signs that can never be misinterpreted. Low-flying swallows, black cats crossing your path, dogs howling at the moon... Or members of the audience coughing... In the theatre, *that's* a sign. A sign that you're losing them.

In class, the sign is the slump. If the body of a pupil makes, with the desk, an angle of 80 or 90 degrees, that's OK, that signifies a glimmer of hope that they might do some work. But if the chest sinks so low that it reduces the angle to less than 40 degrees... forget it! It's like in volcanic countries: madness to stay at home when the wildlife is fleeing from the neighbouring forest; the earth is about to shake. One must never go against nature. And the pupils are very close to nature. They act according to instinct. Like animals.
