

The Orderly Old Man (Le vieil homme rangé)

Author : Jean-Pierre Dopagne

Publisher: Lansman Editions, in 1999, in the « Nocturnes Théâtre » series

First Production: At Antwerp, the 14th of January 1999, by RaamTeater of *Een opgeruimde ouwe heer*, in a Dutch version translated by Willem Tillemans, with Katrien De Becker and Roger Van Kerpel, directed by Julienne De Bruyn.

At Spa, the 4th of August 1999 by the Jean Vilar Theatre Workshop (l'Atelier Théâtre Jean Vilar), with René Hainaux and Fanny Delbrice, directed by Michel Wright, in a Festival of Spa co-production

Theme: Father-daughter relationships, communication, memories, reunions

Genre : Comedy drama

Form: Dialogue

Length: 1h50

Casting: 1 man + 1 woman

Synopsis:

A young woman is sorting out the books, clothes and belongings of her father, who disappeared a year previously. He appears suddenly, as if nothing had happened.

In this verbal duel between a father and his daughter, and despite an ever present tension, the gulf between their aspirations and their regrets is little by little filled in, thanks to the apt and precise words the author knows the secret of.

It is impossible to remain unmoved by this meeting between history and the present, by this set to between generations where the need for love and communication remain cruelly far from being realised.

Extract:

Henri In writing novels I create children.

Jeanne I understand...

Henri You don't yet.

Jeanne When I will be old?

Henri When you will remember the snowman you never made with your children. (*One beat*) When you left to go to school, in the morning... Do you remember? When you left I used to say *WORK HARD*. I never said *I LOVE YOU*. There are some things that just go without saying that one forgets that they have to be said everyday...

Jeanne Is it easier to write them?
