
AUTHORS

Monica Isakstuen (Norway)

Monica Isakstuen (b. 1976) is an award-winning Norwegian poet and novelist who, since her playwriting debut in 2016, has become a frequently performed playwright in her home country and internationally. From 2018–21, Isakstuen is a writer in residence at Dramatikkens Hus in Oslo.

Titles

LOOK AT ME WHEN I AM TALKING TO YOU

A post dramatic work about the relationship between woman and man, parent and child, victim and offender. The work is divided into two parts that investigate the relations between mother and son, father and daughter. How difficult can it be to be a good parent? – to form another human being? Can you ever be certain that you are showing your child the right path to choose? How would one react, if your child is offending others? – or is being offended? What power structures are we unconsciously reproducing in our children?

THIS IS NOT US

It's summer, it's morning, there's no more muesli. MY MOTHER, MY FATHER, MY SISTER and MY BROTHER wake up to what might seem like a normal day. But where am I? And how do you deal with reality if the unreal has happened? Monica Isakstuen's play investigates "home" as an electric minefield between security and tyranny. It is about grief and loss, about our roles throughout life, about the relationships and constellations we are part of and which are us,

but still not. In "Dette er ikke oss" / "This is not us" we follow a family through a dramatic day, where the divide between love and disgust, sadness and ecstasy is erased. What is nightmare and reality is not always obvious.

WE ARE WARRIORS

Where does an individual begin – and where does an individual end? How are we responsible for each other? The individual I is alone and looking back on the life lived. Something, or someone, is lost. I starts to speak. Then comes the OTHERS. They interrupt, provoke and comment, they listen and comfort, they confide and accuse. The conversation is brutal and conflict-filled, but also heartfelt and caring. What is the truth and what is a lie? Who is to blame, who needs help, who is obligated to help? And who are the OTHERS, really? The cacophony of their voices destroys the picture and turns reality upside down. The play is about looking beyond one's own world, and about the fact that I and the OTHERS may look more like each other than we want to see.