

Diogenes

Slawomir Mrozek
Vatzlav

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Original title: *Vatzlav*



**Slawomir
Mrozek**
Watzlaff
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
272 pages
11.6 x 18.4 cm
October 1994

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Translation rights currently sold:

Czech

 **Movie adaptations**

1978: Amor

Director: Jerzy Lipman
Cast: Andy Pap, Martin Lüttge, Ingeborg
Lapsien, Dieter Prochnow

1966: The Enchanted Night

Director: George R. Foa
Cast: Bernard Finch, Dudley Foster, Margaret
Nolan, Richard Pearson

1966: En förtrollad natt

Director: Yngve Nordwall
Cast: John Harryson, Nils Nygren, Kerstin
Tidelius

1964: Das Martyrium des Peter O'Hey

Director: Peter Lilienthal
Cast: Angelika Hurwicz, Joachim Wichmann

1963: Striptease

Director: Peter Lilienthal
Cast: Max Haufler, Joachim Wichmann

 **Awards**

- 2012 Ehrendoktor der polnischen Universität Slaski
- 2006 Deutsch-Polnischer Literaturpreis ›Samuel-Bogumil-Linde-Preis‹ für sein Gesamtwerk
- 2000 Am siebten Internationalen Budapester Buchfestival erhält Mrozek den Budapest Grand Prix
- 1994 Erster Preis für ›Liebe auf der Krim‹ (Milosc na Krymie) beim Wettbewerb um das beste Theaterstück in Paris
- 1993 Hitar-Petar-Preis des Hauses für Satire und Humor in Gabrowo, Bulgarien
- 1987 Franz-Kafka-Literaturpreis, Klosterneuburg, Österreich
- 1984 Jahrespreis des ›Polnischen Schriftstellerverbandes in der Fremde‹, London
- 1972 Österreichischer Staatspreis für Europäische Literatur
- 1964 Prix de l'Humour Noir für ›Der Elefant‹ (Slon)
- 1954 ›Julian-Brun-Preis‹ für journalistische Arbeiten

In ›Nochmal von vorn‹ an elderly gentleman and his daughter-in-law withdraw to a country cottage to have a tête-à-tête in peace. However, a ghost appears who turns out to be a dictator to whom the father-in-law had been enslaved in body and soul in younger years. What begins as an erotomaniac farce and seems to escalate into a grotesque conflict of the generations finally becomes a deadly serious political satire about a subject which is still of topical interest: the ghost of totalitarianism.

In ›Propheten‹ a dictator promises his people a prophet in order to preserve power. However, two of them appear at the same time looking exactly alike. Who is the right one? The one who entered from the right or the one who entered from the left? Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar, the state intellectual counsellors, do not know what to recommend. However, since the nation cannot be expected to accept two prophets, they advise the dictator to have one of them decapitated by the official servant...

Watzlaff lives in the ›land of restraint‹. When he crosses the sea he suffers shipwreck. A good opportunity for Watzlaff to flee to the ›land of freedom‹. His alter ego, in the figure of a double expresses some last doubts - but Watzlaff, unmoved, lets him drown in the sea. Now there is nothing more to prevent him from becoming rich, powerful and happy, or so Watzlaff thinks. However, it becomes quickly apparent that it is not so simple to find one's way in the beautiful, new world.

Praise

Vatzlav

»Many stylistic elements from the theatre of the absurd emerge in Mrozek's grotesques, and what at the first glance may appear to be pure fun in the absurd, is seen to be deliberate camouflage as soon as the political heart of the matter has been recognised: the bizarre ideas that seem to belong to a playful world of fantasy to start with, capture the dictatorial cravings of the real world in a satirical manner - and not only in the East, let it be understood, but all over.« - Georg Hensel

Slawomir Mrozek

»Mrozek's literature is addictive.« - El País, Barcelona

»The author, known primarily as a playwright, reveals himself as a writer of incisive prose who captures the absurdity of reality and its interaction with unreality in polished, witty formulations.« - Neue Zürcher Zeitung

»Brilliant [...] the writer is an Aesop for our times.« - Publishers' Weekly, New York

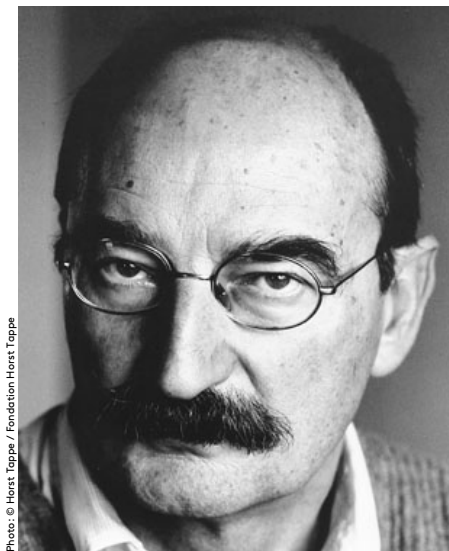


Photo: © Horst Tappe / Fondation Horst Tappe

Slawomir Mrozek was born in Borzecin, Poland, in 1930. He was first known as a caricaturist and author of satirical short stories. His plays (*Tango*, *The Emigrants*, *Striptease*, and many others) made him world famous. In 1968 he went into exile. After living many years in Paris and later in Mexico, he returned to Poland in 1996 and spent the final years of his life in southern France. He died on August 15, 2013 in Nice.



Slawomir
Mrozek
Tagebuch
1962 - 1969

Diogenes

Journal 1962 - 1969
544 pages
2014



Slawomir
Mrozek
Karneval
oder
Adams erste Frau

Diogenes

Carnival or The First Wife
of Adam
80 pages
2014



Slawomir
Mrozek
Balthasar
Autobiographie

Diogenes

Baltazar
384 pages
2007



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Das Leben für
Fortgeschrittene*
Ein altherthassisches ABC
mit Zeichnungen von Charal

Diogenes

Life for the Advanced
240 pages
2006



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Das Leben
für Anfänger*
Ein zeitloses ABC
mit Zeichnungen von Charal

Diogenes

Life for Beginners
192 pages
2004



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Lauter Sünder
Schöne Aussicht*
Zwei Stücke

Diogenes

All Sinners and A Lovely
View
208 pages
2002



Slawomir
Mrozek
Lolo
und andere Geschichten

Diogenes

Lolo
304 pages
2000



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Der
Doppelgänger*
und andere Geschichten

Diogenes

The Doppelgänger
272 pages
2000



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Mein unbekannter
Freund*
und andere Geschichten

Diogenes

My Unknown Friend
192 pages
1999



Slawomir
Mrozek
Amor
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Amor
544 pages
1998

 **Movie Adaptation**



Slawomir
Mrozek
Emigranten
und andere Stücke

Diogenes

Emigrants
400 pages
1997



Slawomir
Mrozek
Der Perverse
und andere
Geschichten

Diogenes

The Pervert
272 pages
1995



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Liebe auf
der Krim*
Eine tragische Komödie
in drei Akten

Diogenes

Love on Crimea
208 pages
1994



Slawomir Mrozek
*Auf hoher See
Striptease*
Zwei Einakter

Diogenes

Out at Sea
80 pages
1994



Slawomir
Mrozek
*Die
Geheimnisse
des Jenseits*

Diogenes

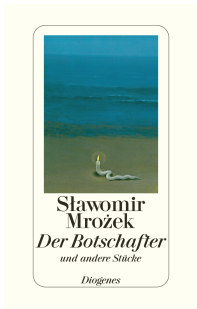
Secrets of the Beyond
256 pages
1993



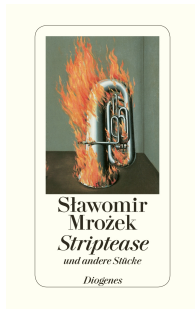
Slawomir
Mrozek
Tango
Schauspiel
in drei Akten

Diogenes

Tango
368 pages
1993



The Ambassador
544 pages
1993



Striptease
304 pages
1992

 **Movie Adaptation**



The Giraffe
320 pages
1992