

Friedrich Dürrenmatt Reviews

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Dürrenmatt's essays are among his most impressive achievements. Their range alone is astonishing: he wrote with authority and charm about art, literature, philosophy, politics, and the theater. His best known essays are ›Theatre Problems‹, ›The Winter War in Tibet‹, ›The Bridge‹, ›The Brain‹, ›Winter‹ and ›Monster Essay on Justice and Law‹.

Book factsheet

Contemporary Literature
176 pages
11.3 x 18 cm
February 1980

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Movie adaptations

2015: *Im Labyrinth / Friedrich Dürrenmatt. Der kritische Geist der Schweiz*

Director: Sabine Gisiger
Screenplay: Sabine Gisiger

2010: *Schurkenstück*

Director: Torsten C. Fischer
Screenplay: Eva Zahn
Cast: Katharina Schüttler und Oliver Korritke

2008: *Der Besuch der alten Dame*

Director: Nikolaus Leytner
Screenplay: Thomas Eifler
Cast: Christiane Hörbiger, Michael Mendl,
Muriel Baumeister, Rolf Hoppe, Rüdiger Vogler

2001: *The Pledge*

Director: Sean Penn
Cast: Margaret Larsen, Helen Jackson

1997: *Es geschah am hellichten Tag*

Director: Nico Hofmann
Cast: Joachim Król, Barbara Rudnik, Axel
Milberg

1996: *Es geschah am hellichten Tag*

Director: Bernd Eichinger
Cast: Joachaim Krol, Barbara Rudnik, Axel
Milberg

1995: *Tod im kalten Morgenlicht*

Director: Rudolf van den Berg
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Lynsey Baxter, Perdita
Weeks

1994: *Der Wiedertäufer*

Director: Heinrich Koch

1994: *In the Cold Light of Day*

Director: Rudolf van den Berg
Cast: Richard E. Grant, Perdita Weeks, Simon
Cadell

1993: *Justiz*

Director: Hans Werner Geißendörfer
Cast: Maximilian Schell, Thomas Heinze,
Matthias Gnädinger, Anna Thalbach

1992: *Hyänen / Hyènes, Ramatou*

Director: Djibril diop Mamberty
Screenplay: Djibril diop Mamberty
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate



Friedrich Dürrenmatt (1921 – 1990) was born in Konolfingen near Berne as the son of a protestant minister. He studied philosophy, German literature and history of art in Berne and Zurich and worked as a playwright, novelist, essayist and painter in Neuchâtel, where he lived with his family.



Subject Matter
2352 pages
2021



The Plays
1584 pages
2015

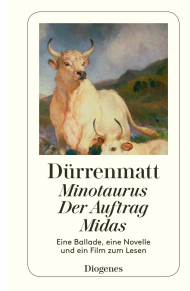


The Crime Novels
992 pages
2011

Labyrinth / Turmbau
(Subject Matter I-IX)
736 pages
2002



My Switzerland
256 pages
1998



The Minotaur/ The Assignment; or, On the Observing of the Observers/ Midas
Eine Ballade, eine Novelle und ein Film zum Lesen
208 pages
1998



Switzerland - A Prison
80 pages
1997



The Pledge
160 pages
1996
🎬 **Movie Adaptation**

🎬 **Movie adaptations (cont'd)**

1992: Hyènes

Director: Djibril diop Mamberty
Cast: Mansour Diouf, Ami Diakhate

1989: Die Welt ist ein Irrenhaus: Achterloo IV

Director: Roman Brodman

1988: Abendstunde im Spätherbst

Director: August Everding
Cast: Mario Adorf, Horst Bollmann

1988: Achterloo

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Helmut Lohner, Georg Preusse

1982: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Max Peter Ammann
Cast: Maria Schell, Adolphe Spalinger, Günter Lamprecht

1982: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Max Peter Ammann
Cast: Maria Schell, Günter Lamprecht, Ruedi Walter

1975: Der Richter und sein Henker

Director: Maximilian Schell
Cast: Jon Voight, Jacqueline Bisset, Helmut Qualtinger, Robert Shaw, Friedrich Dürrenmatt

1974: Der Mitmacher

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Buddy Elias, Elmar Schulte, Werner Schumacher

1973: Der Wiedertäufer

Director: Werner Schlechte
Cast: E. Marks, F. Schütter, V. Lechtenbrink

1973: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Hans/Cella Gaugler/Ettore
Cast: Hasle Rüegsau

1972: La piu bella serata della mia vita

Director: Ettore Scola
Cast: Alberto Sordi, Michel Simon, Pierre Brasseur

1971: Porträt eines Planeten

Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: W. Reichmann, H. Lohner, Ch. Hörbiger

1971: König Johann

Director: Vaclav Hudcek
Cast: H. Qualtinger, H. Seeböck

1967: Der Meteor

Director: Leopold Lindtberg
Cast: Leonard Steckel, Wolfgang Forester, Gert Westphal, Peter Brogle

1967: Frank V. Opfer einer Privatbank

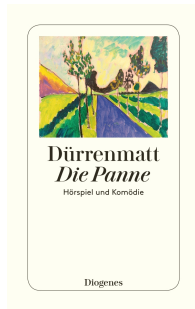
Director: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Therese Giehse, Hubert von Meyernick

1966: Griechen sucht Griechin

Director: Rolf Thiele
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Irina Demick, Charles Regnier



The Pensioner
200 pages
1995



Traps
144 pages
1995

Movie Adaptation



The Enormity of the Possible
144 pages
1993

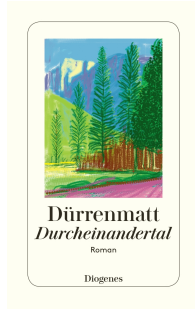


Gedankenfuge
208 pages
1992



Greek Man Seeks Greek Wife
160 pages
1992

Movie Adaptation



The Vale of Confusion
176 pages
1989



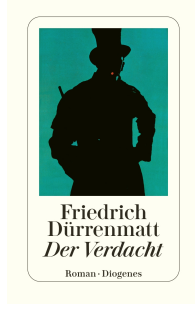
Trials
184 pages
1988



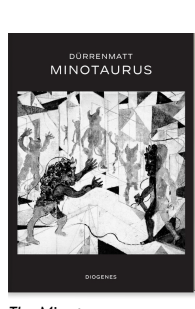
The Judge and His Hangman
128 pages
1986



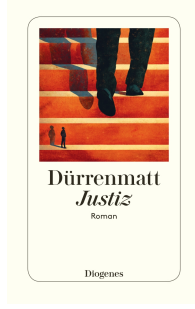
The Assignment
136 pages
1986



Suspicion
128 pages
1986

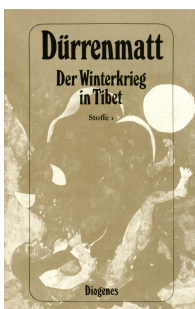


The Minotaur
56 pages
1985

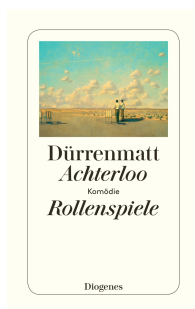


Justice
376 pages
1985

Movie Adaptation



The Winter War in Tibet
192 pages
1984



Achterloo
128 pages
1983



**The Winter War in Tibet/
Lunar Eclipse/ The Rebel**
360 pages
1981

Movie Adaptation



Nexus
240 pages
1980

Movie adaptations (cont'd)

1965: Romulus der Große

Director: Helmut Käutner
Cast: Romuald Pekny

1964: Die Physiker

Director: Fritz Umgelter
Cast: Therese Giehse, Gustav Knuth, Kurt Ehrhardt, Wolfgang Kieling, Siegfried Lowitz

1964: Ein Engel kommt nach Babylon

Director: William Dieterle

1963: The Visit

Director: Bernhard Wicki
Cast: Ingrid Bergmann, Anthony Quinn, Hans-Christian Blech

1961: Die Ehe des Herrn Mississippi

Director: Kurt Hoffmann
Cast: O.E. Hasse, Johanna von Koczan, Martin Held, Charles Regnier, Max Haufler

1960: Abendstunde im Spätherbst

Director: Rudolf Noelte
Cast: Ernst Schröder, Friedrich Maurer, Günter Meissner

1959: Der Besuch der alten Dame

Director: Ludwig Cremer
Cast: R. Wanka, E. Flickenschildt, A. Schradiek

1958: Es geschah am hellichten Tag

Director: Ladislao Vajda
Screenplay: Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Cast: Heinz Rühmann, Michel Simon, Gert Fröbe

1957: Die Panne

Director: Fritz Umgelter
Cast: Peter Ahrweiler, Carl Wery, Harry Hardt

1957: Der Richter und sein Henker

Director: Franz Peter Wirth
Cast: Herbert Tiede, Maria Körber, K.G. Saebisch

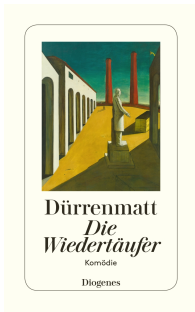
Praise

Friedrich Dürrenmatt

»Even after the death of its author, his huge and unique work is still a dark continent, largely unilluminated and untested, a continent in motion, always good for intellectual surprises and dramatic adventures.« – Gert Ueding

»One of Europe's most important postwar dramatists.« – The Daily Telegraph, London

»Dürrenmatt was addressing the real crowd assembled in real theaters with all their swiftly changing feelings, their ignorance, bad habits and vaulting possibilities. At the same time he was a philosopher-poet with one eye on the picture of the real, on artifice, and on the long preoccupations of philosophy and art through the ages.« – Arthur Miller



Dürrenmatt
Die Wiedertäufer
Komödie
Diogenes

The Anabaptists
144 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



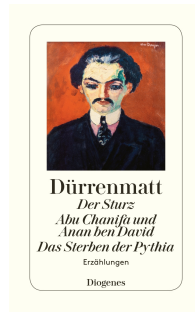
Dürrenmatt
Urfaust Woyzeck
Bearbeitungen
Diogenes

Urfaust/ Woyzeck.
Adaptations
208 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Theater
Essays, Gedichte und Reden
Diogenes

Theatre
272 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Der Sturz
Abu Chanifa und Anan ben David
Das Sterben der Pythia
Erzählungen
Diogenes

The Coup/ Abu Chanifa and Anan ben David/ Smithy/ The Dying of the Pythia
160 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Romulus der Große
Ungeschichtliche historische Komödie
Diogenes

Romulus the Great
176 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



The Complete Prose Oeuvre
3024 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Politik
Essays, Gedichte und Reden
Diogenes

Politics
192 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Play Strindberg
Portrait eines Planeten
Übersetzungen für Schauspielerei
Diogenes

Play Strindberg/ Portrait of a Planet
208 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Die Physiker
Komödie
Diogenes

The Physicists
96 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Philosophie und Naturwissenschaft
Essays, Gedichte und Reden
Diogenes

Philosophical Essays
208 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Der Mitmacher
Ein Komplex
Diogenes

The Conformist
336 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Der Meteor
Dichterdämmerung
Nobelpreisträgerstücke
Diogenes

The Meteor/ Twilight of the Poets
208 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Literatur und Kunst
Essays, Gedichte und Reden
Diogenes

Literature and Painting
240 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
König Johann Titus Andronicus
Shakespeare-Umbeitungen
Diogenes

King John/ Titus Andronicus
240 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Der Hund
Der Tunnel
Die Panne
Erzählungen
Diogenes

The Dog/ The Tunnel/ Traps
112 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Hercules und der Stall des Augias
Der Prozeß um des Esels Schatten
Griechische Stücke
Diogenes

Hercules and the Aegean Stables/ The Trial about the Donkey's Shadow
240 pages
1980

Praise (cont'd)

»Dürrenmatt has always been too impulsive for his times but the chaotic world has quickly caught up with him. That's why his work will last. The purifying force of his irony becomes the more important and useful – particularly because it is driven by the profound humanity that Dürrenmatt's friends always knew in him.« – Peter Brook

»Now, like an avalanche in far-off mountains, comes Friedrich Dürrenmatt, a detective-story writer with a genius for the theater, to give us a new theme, or rather to remind us of an ancient one: justice. His vision is a cold one but pure, and very nearly unique in our day, for in his devotion to the idea of justice he has succeeded in casting across an age committed to false Love the dark shadow of the scales.« – Gore Vidal

»It was once observed by Oscar Wilde that a writer should be able to write anything. Mr. Dürrenmatt meets Wilde's requirement. He adopts a manner well liked by some of our better writers, that of a Roman of the later Empire, a golden weariness. Mr. Dürrenmatt chooses compression of style and strictness of form, but the late Imperial feeling is still there.« – Saul Bellow

»One of the greatest writers of our century.« – Corriere della Sera, Milan

»Next to Kafka and Camus, he is one of the great questioners of this world.« – Martin Ebel / Süddeutsche Zeitung, Munich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt belonged to the most cheerful apocalyptic writers of the 20th century.« – Thomas Hürlimann / Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Zurich

»Universal, uncomfortable and visionary: Friedrich Dürrenmatt is the worthy reigning literary monarch of the year.« – Wener Krause / Kleine Zeitung, Graz

»He is evil, he doesn't think anything good of humanity, and he describes this – but he does it with wit.« – Elke Heidenreich / SRF2, Zurich

»Friedrich Dürrenmatt is a centennial author, because he saw the century that was to follow him too.« – Daniele Muscionico / Aargauer Zeitung, Aarau



Dürrenmatt
Griechische sucht Griechin Mister X macht Ferien
Grotesken
Diogenes
Greek Man Seeks Greek Wife/ Mr. X Goes on Holiday/ News about the State of Press during the Stone Age
208 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Nächtliches Gespräch mit einem verachteten Menschen
Hörspiele und Kabarett
Diogenes
Nocturnal Conversation with a Scorned Man/ Stranitzky and the National Hero/ The Vega Enterprise
160 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Die Frist
Komödie
Diogenes
The Deadline
160 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Frank der Fünfte
Komödie einer Privatbank
Diogenes
Frank V
176 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Es steht geschrieben Der Blinde
Frühe Stücke
Diogenes
It Is Written/ The Blind Man
336 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Ein Engel kommt nach Babylon
Fragmentarische Komödie
Diogenes
An Angel Comes to Babylon
144 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Die Ehe des Herrn Mississippi
Komödie und Drehbuch
Diogenes
The Marriage of Mr. Mississippi
224 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



The Complete Dramatic Oeuvre
3408 pages
1980



Dürrenmatt
Der Besuch der alten Dame
Tragische Komödie
Diogenes
The Visit
160 pages
1980
 Movie Adaptation



Dürrenmatt
Aus den Papieren eines Wärters
Frühe Prosa
Diogenes
Early Prose: Christmas/ The Torturer/ The Sausage/ The Son/ The Old Man/ Portrait of Sisyphos/ The Theatre Director/ The Trap/ Pilatos/ The Town/ From the Papers of a Guardsman
208 pages
1980



Friedrich Dürrenmatt
Albert Einstein
Diogenes
Albert Einstein
80 pages
1979