

# 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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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

**Praise**

*Vatzlav*

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.

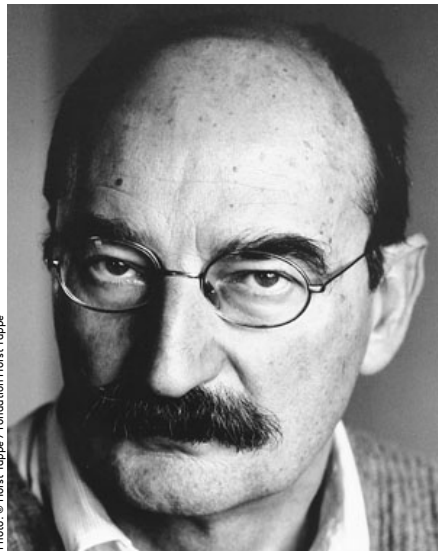


Photo: © Horst Tappe / Fondation Horst Tappe

Sławomir Mrożek 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.

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#### Praise (cont'd)

»Many stylistic elements from the theatre of the absurd emerge in Mrożek'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

Sławomir Mrożek

»Mrożek'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



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

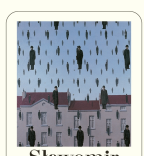
All Sinners and A Lovely  
View  
208 pages  
2002



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

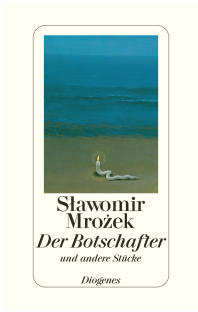
Secrets of the Beyond  
256 pages  
1993



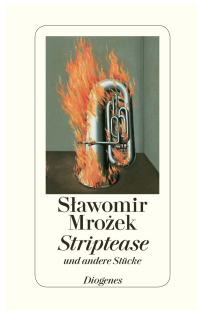
Slawomir Mrozek  
*Tango*  
Schauspiel  
in drei Akten

Diogenes

Tango  
368 pages  
1993



**The Ambassador**  
544 pages  
1993



**Striptease**  
304 pages  
1992

 **Movie Adaptation**



**The Giraffe**  
320 pages  
1992