



de Theaterschool
Amsterdam School of the Arts

HALF 6

Column by Christiaan den Dulk, 1 October 2013, de Theaterschool

ACT WITH WORDS

by Christiaan den Dulk

After Samuel Beckett

ACT ONE

The living.

Concrete ceiling, floor, walls

Morning light

A bit off-centre

a table

old wooden boards on an unstable workbench that is

Red carpet

Wooden chairs

A couch.

Behind the table

A curtain

White, thick fabric

In the back

Barely visible

A small, improvised kitchen

A fridge

A wooden cupboard

A sink

Cups and glasses in different sizes

A coat rack

On the left side

A door to another room

Silence.

Man appears from left room

Unshaved

Scruffy hair-do

Plastic bag

Long, brown coat

Old-fashioned spectacles

Enters

Looks around for a moment

Takes of his spectacles

Polishes them

Puts them back on again

Looks around again

Takes of his spectacles

Polishes them a second time

Puts them back on again

He reflects

Walks towards the table



HALF 6

While trying to take off his coat
Unbuttons it
Shakes shoulders and arms
He stops
Exhausted.
Puts his plastic bag on the table
Tries again
Succeeds
Puts his coat on the coat rack
Walks towards one of the chairs
Stands

Second man enters
Blue coat
Beard
Brown sweater
Greets the first
Takes of his coat
Drops it
Looks at it for a moment
Walks away
Turns
Walks back
Takes his coat
Walks to the coat rack
Puts his coat on it
Walks away
The coat falls
Sound of running water

First man takes the blue coat
Puts it on
Buttons it
Stretches out his arms
Lowers them again
Pulls the sleeves
Stretches out his arms
Lowers them again
Disappointed
Unbuttons the coat
Puts it back on the coat rack
It falls immediately
He puts it back
It falls
As before

ACT TWO

Living. One hour later.
Ten people around the table



HALF 6

Coffee
Paper
Pens
Biscuits
Coffee

Man speaks
Man says:
“Het mag absoluut niet logisch zijn. Dan kun je het net zo goed niet doen.”
Gestures
Reasons
Others listen
Sigh
Frown
Silence

Joke
Laughter
Cups of coffee

Conversations
About art
About groceries
About philosophy
About love
About god
About sex
About flyers
About conversations

Voices
Loud
Slow
Soft
Quick
Blending together
Like an orchestra
“dramaturgie”
“reduceren”
“schrappen”
“schrijven”

ACT THREE
Living. One hour later.

All around the table
They read
Read out loud
Words of others



HALF 6

Words of their own
Words of others becoming words of their own
More coffee
Joke
Laughter

ACT FOUR

Living. One hour later.
Empty cups
Crumbs

Eight around the table
One standing at a distance

Louder voices
Beginning of a discussion
Beginning of an argument
Unfinished sentences
Unfinished thoughts
Bold statements

In the distance
Sound of a flushing toilet
Man returns
Enters
Sees the table
Stops
Walks towards the kitchen
Looking for something
Finds nothing
Walks to the table
Listens

Joke
Silence

ACT FIVE

Living. One hour later.

Room appears to be empty
Voices
Unseen
Clearly heard

Movement behind the curtain
Now and then an arm appears
Sound of plates
Sounds of knives
Laughter



HALF 6

Boy appears
Eats a piece of bread
Talks
Walks
Chews
Stops
Takes another bite
Walks on
talking
Disappears

ACT SIX

Living. One hour later.

All around the table.
Sitting
Standing
Red faces
Restless hands

Suddenly
Idea
Vision
Bad idea turns out to be good idea
Better idea after good idea
Even better idea after better idea after good idea
Enthusiasm
Wild drawings in the air
Rapidly writing
Silence

Man rises
Tries to speak
Coughs
Sits down
Coughs
Red face
Others speak for him

ACT SEVEN

Living. One hour later.

Two remaining
Table
Dirty cups
Empty plates
Forgotten notes
Ripped up remains



HALF 6

First man sitting on the couch
Takes out his phone
Holds it with one hand
Fumbles with his hair with the other

Second man doing dishes
His back turned towards the other
Singing softly
Calls out for the first man
No response
Calls again
No response
Calls again

First man gets up
Takes his coat
Takes his plastic bag
Looks in it
Empty
He reflects
Looks again
Holds it upside down
Shakes it
Looks in it
Takes off his coat
Folds it
Puts it in the bag

Walks to the second man
Second man wants to say something
Can't remember what it was
Says something else instead
They embrace.
First man walks towards door at the left
Stops
Turns
Says goodbye
They don't move.

PART TWO

ACT ONE

Next day. Same time.
The living.
Concrete ceiling, floor, walls
Morning light
A bit off-centre
a table



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As before.