

PUBLISHING NEWS



Carles Batlle
Transit (Transit)

Merlin Verlag
Translation into German by
Thomas Sauerteig and Hans Richter
2007

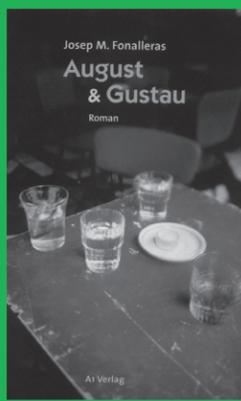
This play presents us with a portrait of contemporary Europe, a continent in transition and one replete with challenges and contradictions. Three men and two women are travelling through Europe by train. All of them hide desires and secrets they cannot confess and all of them will have to make decisions. The lives of these characters are interwoven and this means they will have to adjust their plans. The work is set in a not-too-distant future and the plot is constructed around a curious time sequence. Carles Batlle is the director of the Obrador of the Sala Beckett in Barcelona, a space for experimentation, creation for the stage, and where the theatrical review *Pausa* is based.



Narcís Comadira
La vie éternelle (Enduring Life)

Editions de l'Amandier
Translation into French by Raul David
Martínez Gili
2006

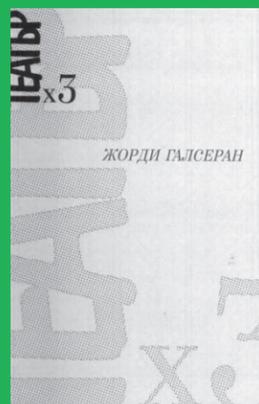
A woman of about seventy years old and her youngest son, about forty, come together over lunch, and enter into an argument. In the course of their conversation, the spectator discovers the complex situation of this bourgeois family living in Catalonia in the mid-1970s. None of the mother's children lead the kind of life she considers proper and has wanted for them, especially her youngest. Also present is the memory of her husband who died twenty years earlier. The son resembles him, which disturbs the mother because when she had been confronted with the father's scandalous conduct, she never forgave him and ended up destroying him. Comadira speaks of intolerance, lack of understanding, absence of respect for differences, lying and hiding the truth. Besides being a playwright, he is a poet and painter.



Josep M. Fonalleras
August & Gustau

Barcelona: Ed. Empúries Narrativa
2001

A solitary man, "without father nor mother nor genealogy" works in a museum. At home he listens to Tom Jones and works on puzzle everyday. It is a reproduction of *El Taller d'Apel·les*, a canvas from 1630 by a Flemish painter. With this fixation on this painting, we face a man's worrisome and obsessive story with the ever-present suggestion of death. On All Saints Day in the bar "O pecado" he suffers love's disillusionment that goes from fantastic to delirious. In the same month, he meets two unique characters, August and Gustau with whom he will share his final days. *August and Gustau* is a parable that seduces as much for its metaliterary perspective as for its elegaic charge in its anonymous voice that speaks with the proverbial simplicity of the Bible.



Jordi Galceran
El Mètode Grönholm
(The Grönholm Method)

Panorama+ plus Edicions
Translation into Bulgarian by Neva
Gueorguieva
2007

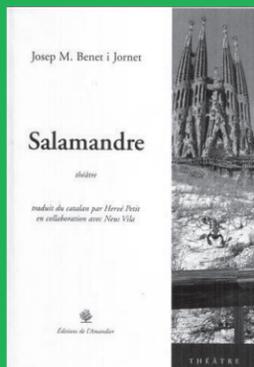
Four candidates, three men and a woman, show up for the final phase of a series of unconventional tests organised by a multinational company in order to select a senior executive. What are they prepared to renounce in order to get the job? *El Mètode Grönholm* is a caustic comedy whose humour is tinged with tension, intrigue and cruelty because Galceran takes a real-life situation to its limits, reflecting the conflicts of the workplace, its power struggles, the ferocious competition, and the abuses committed by companies. The play has been widely acclaimed by critics and audiences alike.



Maria Barbal
Wie ein Stein im Geröll
(Mountain Scree)

Trad. HeikeNottebaum
Transit
2007

Gives us a view of simple woman who takes part in the injustice of war after a radical shift in her calm life. After this, social changes succeed in driving her from her village in the Pyrennes to Barcelona. Based on true events, the story has been experienced by a great number of readers since its publication in 1985. The style is restrained yet often full of images that show the beauty of daily life.



Josep M. Benet i Jornet
Salamandra (Salamander)

Editions de l'Amandier
Translation into French by Neus Vila
and Hervé Petit
2006

A successful Californian film director is tackling his next project, from the security of his home. The work concerns his mother, his never-questioned nationality and the identity he has forged. Clinging to this certainty, he resists taking on another reality, one raised by people close to him, and in particular by a letter he does not dare to open because it is from his biological father whom he has never met. The play presents today's great ideological debates: identity, cultural traditions, memory, and the destruction and preservation of nature. In this work, Benet i Jornet clearly sets out the consequences of oblivion.

MONTSERRAT SERRA

ON STAGE

A clear, determined institutional decision to showcase literature Temporada Alta, the Autumn Festival of Catalonia, which stages seventy shows from fifteen different countries, aims to rank as the foremost Catalan theatre arts festival. This is a festival in which theatre, dance, circus and the music of the finest international artists share spaces around the city with the latest offerings by Catalan creative artists.

In the fifteen years it has been held, in collaboration with public and private institutions, the Temporada Alta Festival has provided a setting for established and emerging artists, innovative staging, worldwide premieres, and the participation of such first-rate guest artists as Ute Lemper, Isabelle Huppert, G. Strehler, Chéreau and Lepage.

This year Peter Brook, one of the regular attendants, will join Dario Fo to offer an artistic review of the twentieth century through three of its most prominent personalities – themselves, with Samuel Beckett as the third member of the trio. The version of "Krapp's Last Tape" that Beckett directed will also be performed.

The Temporada Alta Festival is a showcase for the very best of international theatre. For example, this year offers another exceptional threesome, Christoph Marthaler, Jan Lauwers and the Polish artist Krystian Lupa, as well as a magnificent overview of Argentine theatre.

Again, the Temporada Alta Festival is noteworthy as a platform for performance, offering incentives for the creation of contemporary works and promoting the most promising performances in the national theatre scene. Finally, the Festival takes place in a part of Catalonia that stand to grow artistically in 2007 with the inauguration of the Salt-Girona Canal Centre of Scenic Arts, to be held in the final week.

SALVADOR SUNYER

ON LINE

Teatre Nacional de Catalunya (National Theatre of Catalonia)
<http://www.tnc.cat/> (website in Catalan and Spanish)

It is now ten years since Tony Kushner's *Àngels a Amèrica* (Angels in America) inaugurated the National Theatre of Catalonia, then under the directorship of Josep Maria Flotats. Over time it has developed a reputation of combining quality, a willingness to take aesthetic risks and the desire to provide first-rate service for the theatre-going public. The present director is the playwright Sergi Belbel.

Teatre Lliure

<http://www.teatrelivre.com/> (website in Catalan, Spanish and English)
Created in 1976 by a group of professionals engaged in independent theatre, the Teatre Lliure was distinguished from the outset by its commitment to text-based theatre. With directors like Fabià Puigserver, Lluís Pasqual and Lluís Homar, key names in Catalan theatre circles, the Lliure was one of the founding members of the Union of Theatres of Europe. Since 2003, Àlex Rigola has headed the artistic direction of the theatre, which now works in concert with all the public entities and is located in a new venue, the former Palace of Agriculture on the slope of Montjuïc.

Sala Beckett

<http://www.salabeckett.com/> (website in Catalan and English)
The Sala Beckett theatre first appeared in 1989 as a space-cum-headquarters for the company, El Teatro Fronterizo, directed by José Sanchis Sinisterra. It has now become a benchmark for research-oriented proposals in the field of stage language and contemporary Catalan theatre in general. The present director is Toni Casares.

Misteri d'Elx (The Mystery of Elx)

<http://www.lafesta.com/> (website in Catalan and Spanish)
The *Festival* or *Mystery of Elx* is a late-medieval re enactment of the death, assumption and crowning of the Virgin. It is sung in Catalan in the Church of Santa Maria in the town of Elx (in the Valencia region) on 14th and 15th August. The drama, in which the town's residents participate, has been performed every year since the Middle Ages. It is the only performance in the world that has been declared a Masterpiece of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO (2001).