



ERIC-EMMANUEL SCHMITT

Dramatist, novelist, philosopher and French film-maker.

In about ten years, Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt has become one of the most read French-speaking authors and his plays are the most performed in the world.

His works are translated into more than 45 languages and more than 50 countries have put on his plays on stages.

In Germany and Russia, within the space of a few years, he is even more played than Molière...

*Publishing Trends, 2004.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(French original versions)

Theatre

La Nuit de Valognes, (Don Juan's Trial), 1991

Le Visiteur, (The Visitor), 1993 - 3 Molières (French theatrical awards) : theatrical revelation, best author, private theatre's best spectacle

Golden Joe, 1995

Variations énigmatiques, (Enigma Variations), 1996 - 2 nominations in the Molières - his most performed play in the world

Le Libertin, (The Libertine), 1997 - 6 nominations in the Molières

Frederick ou le Boulevard du Crime, 1998 - Balzac academy's prize - 2 nominations in the Molières

Hôtel des deux Mondes, (Between worlds), 1999 - 7 nominations in the Molières

Petits Crimes conjugaux, (*Partners in Crime*), 2003 – huge and international public success

Mes Evangiles (La Nuit des Oliviers & L'Evangile selon Pilate), 2004 – 1 nomination in the Molières

La Tectonique des Sentiments, (When Feelings Shift), 2005 – Played in Paris on January 2008.

Novels

La Secte des Egoïstes, 1995 - first novel Prize.

L'Evangile selon Pilate, (The Gospel according to Pilate), 2000 - won "Elle" readers' Grand Prix.

La Part de l'Autre, 2001

Lorsque j'étais une Œuvre d'art, 2002

Ma Vie avec Mozart, (My life with Mozart), 2005 – fictitious autobiography – also performed as play

Odette Toulemonde et autres histoires, 2006 – short stories

La Réveuse d'Ostende, 2007- short stories

Le Cycle de l'Invisible– narrative stories also performed as plays

Milarepa, 1997

Monsieur Ibrahim et les Fleurs du Coran, (Monsieur Ibrahim and the flowers of the Koran), 1999– won German Readers' Grand Prix, 2004

Oscar et la Dame rose, (Oscar and The Lady in Pink), 2003– named along with the Bible and "Le Petit Prince" by magazine Lire's French readers among the books that changed their lives.

L'Enfant de Noé, 2004.

Adaptations in French

Les Noces de Figaro by Mozart

Sarah by John Murell

Lunes de Miel by Noël Coward (Private lives).

Feature films

Odette Toulemonde, 2007, written and directed by EE Schmitt – 2007

Monsieur Ibrahim et les Fleurs du Coran, 2003, director Fr. Dupeyron – Cesar of the best actor for Omar Sharif

WORKS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

all stage translations: on request

Plays

Don Juan's Trial (*La Nuit de Valognes*), translated by Jeremy Sams, 1993, Dramatic Publishing

The Visitor, translated by Jeremy Sams, 1993, published by Methuen (Plays I); new translation by Liz Merrill, 2006.

Enigma Variations, translated by Jeremy Sams, 1993, published by Methuen (Plays I); new translation by Stephane Laporte, 2005

The Libertine, translation by Stephane Laporte, 2005

Between Worlds (*Hôtel des deux mondes*), translated by John Clifford, 1993, published by Methuen (Plays I);

Partners in Crime (*Petits Crimes conjugaux*), translation by Stephane Laporte, 2005

My Gospels (*Mes Evangiles*) – includes '**The Night of the Olives**' and '**The Gospel according to Pilate**'.

Two plays to be performed either together or separately: translation by Stephane Laporte, 2005

My Life With Mozart: translation by Stephane Laporte, 2005

When Feelings Shift (*la Tectonique des Sentiments*) – translation by Stephane Laporte, 2005

Narratives – also performed as plays

Monsieur Ibrahim And The Flowers Of The Koran, 1999, published by the Other Press

Monsieur Ibrahim And The Flowers Of The Qu'ran, 2005, stage adaptation by Patricia Benecke and Patrick Drive, published by Methuen

Oscar And The Lady In Pink, 2003, translated by Adrianna Hunter, published by Atlantic Books, 2005; stage translation by Stephane Laporte 2005

Feature films

Monsieur Ibrahim et les Fleurs du Coran, 2003, director Fr. Dupeyron – Cesar of the best actor for Omar Sharif

ON STAGES

La Nuit de Valognes (Don Juan's Trial)

_ Written in 1991. The third act has been rewritten by EE Schmitt in 2005.

_ Contemporary variation on the myth of Don Juan:

“One night, in a Norman moor's lost manor, five women meet to sue Don Juan. His former victims want to force him to marry his last conquest. But curiously, Don Juan accepts that. Did life already sue him”?

_ It has become a classic play.

Le Visiteur (The Visitor)

- _ Written in 1993.
- _ Hypothetical meeting between Freud and maybe God?
- “Vienna 1938: the Nazis have invaded Austria and persecuted the Jewish. By optimism, Sigmund Freud does not want to leave yet; but on this night of April, the Gestapo takes Anna, his daughter, to interrogate her. Desperate, Freud receives a strange visit then. A man with a morning coat, a cynical dandy, enters by the window and delivers incredible speeches... Who is he? A madman? A magician? Freud's dream? A projection of his unconscious? Or is he indeed the one that he pretends to be: God himself”?
- _ 3 Molières in 1994: Best author, theatrical revelation of the year, Best private spectacle
- _ This book is the most sold theatrical edition in French-speaking countries
- _ It is also a classic play
- _ Already played in more than 25 countries.

Golden Joe

- _ Written in 1995.
- _ Contemporary variation on the myth of Hamlet:
- “To be or not to be, Golden Joe never asked himself the question. To have is his key word; to possess his only preoccupation. But when he discovers his family's criminal plots, he realizes that man is not a robot devoid of feelings”.

Variations énigmatiques (Enigma Variations)

- _ Played in 1996 at the Marigny Theatre by Alain Delon and Francis Huster.
- _ Is shared love only a happy misunderstanding?
- “On the eternal mystery of love, two men confront one another: Abel Znorko, literature Nobel prize who lives far from men on a lost island of the Norway Sea, where he dwells on his passion for a woman with whom he exchanged a long correspondence, and Erik Larsen, a journalist who pleaded an interview to meet the writer”.
- _ This play is currently Schmitt's most performed one and it was put on in all big capitals from Tokyo to Moscow via Berlin with Mario Adorf, or in Los Angeles and London with Donald Sutherland.

Le Libertin (The Libertine)

- _ Played in 1997 at the Montparnasse Theatre by Bernard Giraudeau and Christiane Cohendy.
- _ Huge popular success, it is Schmitt's most cheerful play.
- _ A mad day for Denis Diderot:
- “In baron Holback's hunting lodge, Diderot poses half naked for Mrs. Therbouche while bantering when his secretary interrupts their love games to ask him to write as soon as possible the Encyclopedia article on morality (or ethics). A mad day begins for Denis Diderot constantly disturbed, whether he undertakes seduction or philosophy”...
- _ Played in 29 countries.

Milarepa

- _ Written in 1997.
- _ First opus of the Invisible Cycle dedicated to Buddhism.
- _ “Simon makes every night the same dream of which an enigmatic woman delivers him the key: he is the reincarnation of Milarepa’s uncle, the famous Tibetan hermit of the 11th century, who nursed an inexpiable hatred of his nephew. To get out of the rebirths’ cycle, Simon must tell the story of the two men, identifying with them to the point where their identity and his mingle. But where does the dream begin, where does reality end?”

Frédéric ou le Boulevard du Crime

- _ Written in 1998, it was put on stage quite simultaneously in Paris at the Marigny Theatre with Jean-Paul Belmondo and in Germany (in Cologne and Baden - Baden). It is today one of Russian’s theatrical biggest success (in Saint - Petersburg and Moscow).
- _ "Paris is fascinated by Frederick. A popular comedian, an extravagant and playful character, a seducer and a revolutionary, he seems ready for anything except love. Passion? He plays it or buys it. When he meets Berenice, a mysterious young woman who does not belong to the world of theatre, he has to choose: dreamed love or lived love? Stages or life?"
- _ Played in 8 countries, it is an ode to all arts.

Hôtel des deux mondes (Between Worlds)

- _ Run the whole 1999-2000 season at the Marigny Theatre (Popesco room), its success forced to three successive distributions.
- _ “No customer knows how he has arrived at the Hotel between worlds. No one knows when he could leave, nor towards which destination. In this strange place, everything is possible, even miracles. The invalids recover the use of their limbs and the liars say the truth. The enigmatic doctor S., in charge of their stay, sharpens his hosts’ questions”.
- _ Already played in more than 20 countries and in some prestigious cities such as London and New York.

M. Ibrahim et les fleurs du Coran (Mr Ibrahim and the flowers of the Koran)

- _ Written in December 1999 and played during three seasons in a row: more than 400 performances in France. François Dupeyron directed the movie for which Omar Sharif was awarded the Cesar of the best actor in 2004.
- _ Second opus of the Invisible Cycle dedicated to Moslem Sufism.
- _ “In Paris, during the sixties, Momo, a small Jewish boy aged 12, becomes the friend of the old Arabic grocer of the Blue Street. But appearances are deceptive: Mr. Ibrahim, the grocer, is not Arabic, the Blue Street is not blue and the child is probably not Jewish”.
- _ It has become a classical school play.

Oscar et la dame rose (Oscar and the Lady in Pink)

_ Triumphally played at the Champs-Élysées Comedy in February 2003, with Danielle Darrieux who won the Molière of the best comedian for her double performance of the child and the lady in pink.

_ “Here are the letters addressed to God by a ten years’ old child. They have been found by Granny Rose, the Lady in Pink who pays a visit to him in the children’s hospital. They describe twelve days of Oscar’s life, twelve days full of funny and moving characters. These twelve days could be the child’s twelve last days. But, thanks to Granny Rose who deeply loves Oscar, these twelve days will become legend”.

_ It has become a classical school play, it was also put on stages all over the world and very famous actresses played the role of the Lady in Pink (Witta Pohl in Germany, Angela Lansbury in the United States, Maria Jesus Valdes in Spain, Anny Duperey in France, Jacqueline Birr in Belgium, Valeria Valeri in Italy, Alisa Freindlich in Russia -Gold Mask-, etc...).

Petits crimes conjugaux (Partners in Crime)

_ Paris, Edouard VII Theatre, September 2003, Charlotte Rampling and Bernard Giraudeau performed in “Partners in Crime” at the Edouard VII Theatre several months and the play was sold out.

_ “Gilles is victim of a mysterious accident. Suffering from amnesia, stranger to himself, he comes back at home near Lisa, his wife for fifteen years. Who is he? Who is Lisa? How did their couple live? From what she tells him, he tries to reconstitute his existence. But what if Lisa was lying? ...Is he as she describes him? Is she really his wife? It is an astonishing suspense on a couple searching for the truth. A dark comedy full of surprises where bantering alternates with total war”.

_ A huge popular success, played almost everywhere in Europe and in Latin America where it was nominated for best 2005 spectacle.

Mes Evangiles (My Gospels)

_ In November 2004, Jacques Weber triumphed at the Montparnasse Theatre in “**The Gospel according to Pilate**”, a scenic adaptation made by Schmitt of his novel. At the same time, in the small room, Frédéric Quiring, a young actor aged 30, filled the public with enthusiasm while playing Jesus in “**The Night of the Olives**”. These two plays are published under the title “**My Gospels**”.

L’Evangile selon Pilate (The Gospel according to Pilate)

“The last day of Passover(=Jewish Easter), Pontius Pilate is told that Jesus, the magician of Nazareth, has disappeared from his grave. To avoid any political use of this theft, Pilate leads the investigation and tries to find the body. But Jesus reappears! Alive!

Refusing the irrational, looking for a logical solution to this strange situation, Pilate searches all over Jerusalem, interrogates Herod, Herodiade, the disciples, some doctors, the Big Priest of the Temple, then, infuriated by his failures, walks down the roads of Galilee. But the more he progresses, the more the mystery grows...”

La Nuit des Oliviers (The Night of the Olives)

“On the olive trees’ hill, a few hours before his arrest, Jesus wonders how did it all happen? Is he really the Messiah? How did he end up believing it? Must he die for it? A moving monologue that presents a very well known story from an original angle: it is Jesus himself who doubts and wonders. The Incarnation is reappraised by the Incarnate himself... Dizziness...”

_ Played since 2006 in Germany. Productions are foreseen in Italy and Spain.

Ma vie avec Mozart (My life with Mozart)

_ Directed in 2006 at the Montparnasse Theatre by Christophe Lindon with Didier Sandre and three musicians, changing over: a harpist, a clarinetist and a soloist soprano.

_ " One day, he sent to me a musical theme. It changed my life. Since then, I often write to him. When he feels like answering, he does, during a concert, at an airport, in the corner of a street, always surprising, always dazzling. He became my "wisdom teacher", teaching me very rare things, such as wonder, sweetness, serenity, joy".

_ "At the beginning, a tormented teenager attends by chance a rehearsal of "Les Noces de Figaro". Through the voice of countess Almaviva, Mozart saves his life. One does not leave a world so full of wealth and beauty. Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt and the genius' composer will not leave each other anymore".

_ Productions are in cooperation with Operas or with Muziktheaters.

La Tectonique des sentiments (When feelings shift)

_ Belgium, Brussels, October - November 05: world creation.

_ Can one shift in one second from love to hatred?

"When Feelings shift" tells the damages that Diane provokes when she thinks that Richard does not love her anymore... All the characters' life is going to sustain seisms and tidal waves as, when a feeling shifts, repercussions follow on... The more strong is the pride, the more terrible is the extent of the tremors.

In tribute to Diderot, a cruel but ultimately tender drama which looks at our contradictions through a magnifying glass and dissects our love life".

_ Played in Paris on January 2008 at the Marigny Grand Theatre.

Eric-Emmanuel Schmitt lives in Brussels. His books are published by Albin Michel.