

Lauritzen Prize.

Travel bursary 2009 to actor Rasmus Botoft.

Award speech by Rikke Rottensten, editor, cultural journalist and critic, Kr. Dagblad.

Rasmus Botoft is practically two people. He is a nice boy, a poetic romantic hero whom we have seen in several major classics, most recently as the young Achilles who out of an honest, pure heart endeavoured to fight the powers that be to save an innocent young woman's life in *Ifigenia at the Royal Theatre*. A real hero. And then there is the absolutely crazy, absurd comic that can add bottomless depth, and psychological dimensions to a spineless lad with button eyes and make a dry and mystic man in a brown roll neck sweater into something dangerous and inscrutable behind the slick, friendly facade as when he is one half of *"Dusk and Bomholt"*. Not choleric like his colleague but then all the more reason to have one's reservations about this man.

It is especially satire that has brought Rasmus Botoft to the attention of a large audience. And he is extremely funny when for example talking darkly like the extremely flirtatious caretaker making Ulla, the emotionally disturbed anchor woman, fall over her feet in embarrassment in *"Er du skidt skat?"* (Are you ill, Darling?). Or with Martin Buch giving the most desperately politically incorrect answers in *Dusk and Bomholt's* readers' letters in the *Tisvildeleje Revue*, where one of the classic sketches was also a marital drama involving the four spineless guys that could make a Strindberg shiver with cold in the summer heat. But in parallel with all that crazy humour, there is a serious, classic actor who made his great breakthrough at the Royal Theatre as a young, sorrowing lover in Staffan Valdemar Holm's phenomenal, ice-cold staging of Schiller's *"Kabale and kærlighed"* (Patience and Love). A loving young man who loves to the full but unfortunately does not know how to react in the power play that his father and father in law direct at his and his girl friend's love.

Rasmus Botoft has genuineness and sweetness, even though that might not be just what a man would want to hear. Which is a gift for this kind of role. And which is definitely not always so easy for modern actors to play.

Most recently, there has been a new shoot to his career with the script for the really good film *"The Gift"*, in which Rasmus Botoft himself appeared in a minor role as a second Hitchcock. So there should be lots to spend a travel bursary on, perhaps inspiration for new work or for well-deserved relaxation.

But remember to take some good slides on your trip! Because you above all know just how much pleasure a good, and especially a long, slide show from one's travels can bring so much pleasure to all of us who have unfortunately not been along on the trip.