

Hans Rønne.

Travel Bursary 2010.

It may seem paradoxical to award a travel bursary to Hans Rønne. For if there is something he already does, it is indeed to travel around, constantly, everywhere in Denmark. Often alone, as in this season when he has been travelling around with just a chair. Nothing more was needed to give one of the season's great, and for Hans Rønne, highly characteristic theatre experiences in Fars Dreng (Daddy's Boy). The story of a carpenter, Joseph, who not only has to deal with the fact that his beloved Maria is to have a baby was someone else, but that that someone is God and the son turns out to be somewhat different from the other children.

The telling is a humorous, very warm, very loving story. And totally absorbed, we listened to every word from this quietly spoken, charismatic, charming man as he sat on the chair and spoke about being the stepfather to an unusual child and of loving him just as if he were his own, and a bit more at that. And in this way, "Daddy's boy" became a modern story too, of merged families and of loving a child even though it is not your own, and right at the heart of a fine Bible story.

Hans Rønne is, in the best, most important sense, an institution in Danish theatre. It is with every possible right that he calls his theatre just that, the Theatre. For that is how it is with him: theatre in its purest form. It is in the telling, or in the unspoken acting, the mimicry as in the highly prized performance of "August" with the four clowns who are so enchanting, confused, naive, caring, challenging, ghastly and totally irresistible.

Like no other actor in this country, Hans Rønne has the ability to tell a big story with small artistic effects.

Should there still be someone in the room who has not experienced Hans Rønne on stage other than just here, then do not cheat yourself of such a fantastic experience. He will just be off travelling a bit first.

Congratulations on the prize.

Rikke Rottensten