

Michał Zdunik (born 1990), playwright, director, essayist, composer of theatre music. He is a graduate of Polish Studies at the University of Warsaw (2015) and of directing at the A. Zelwerowicz Theatre Academy in Warsaw (2019).

He is the author of dramas - these include: *Lalki* (2010, publication in „Dialog” 7-8/2010, premiere at the Witkacy Theatre in Zakopane), translated, published and produced in France (*Lalki/Les poupées*, Universitaires du Mirail, translation: Kinga Joucaviel), *Origami* (2011, inspired by Waław Berent's *Ozimina*, premiere: XII Days of Drama, J. Szaniawski Drama Theatre in Wałbrzych, directed by T. Węgorzewski), *Aż do samego końca* (world premiere at the Polish Radio Theatre, PR I, directed by Julia Mark) and *A Detailed Theory of Living and Dying* (publication "Dialog", 5/2018 and anthology *Poland is a Myth*, premiere Polish Radio Theatre. translated into German by Saskia Herklotz, published in the anthology *Polen ist ein Mythos*) and *Pattern for a Triangle Field* (2020, Nowy Teatr in Słupsk, directed by Jan Hussakowski).

He directs dramatic performances (performances based on T. Różewicz's works at OPT Gardzienice: 2015: *Matka odchodzi*, 2016: *Witnesses or Our Little Stability*, 2020: Ibsen's *Nora*, Polish Stage, Tešinske Divadlo in Cieszyn, 2021: Hromova's *Ninth Moonlight Day*, Adam Mickiewicz Theatre in Częstochowa, 2021: *The Return* of Bukowski and Zdunik, City Theatre in Gliwice, 2022: *Dark Night. Stories by Franz Kafka* at the Ochota Theatre in Warsaw), *Beloved* according to his own text, Rampa Theatre in Warsaw), radio plays at the Polish Radio Theatre and Radio Białystok (2017: *Gate o*, 2018: *A Detailed Theory of Living and Dying*, 2020: *Forest*, 2021: *Requiem for Stanisław Wyspiański* and *Morning*, 2023: *Katyn. De profundis*, 2024: *Voices of Darkness* based on his own texts, 2019: *Things I Didn't Throw Away* by Wicha, 2020: *The Silence* by Iwona Rusek, *Ba!* by Wojciech Kass, 2021: Maeterlinck's *The Intruder* in his own translation, 2022: Zaremba's *Prague Rejtan*, *Pled* by Kass, Maeterlinck's *Blinders* in his own translation, 2023: *Cień* based on Żeromski, *Matka odchodzi* by Różewicz, 2024: *Sen o jesieni* by Fosse), television plays (2018: *Pradziady* by Kuczkok, series "Teatroteka" by WFDiF), operas (2017: Francesco Cavalli, *Il Giasone*, TCN - AT Warsaw) and concerts (2016: *Goodnight* based on his own script, Festival Gorzkie Żale - New Epiphanies). He has also directed performance readings and audio series on many occasions. His work has been presented at many festivals - including „Two Theatres”, New Epiphanies, Teatroteka Fest or the Festival of Directing Art "Interpretations".

In 2018, he was the winner of the Talanton Award for Best Dramatic Debut on Radio One. The justification states: For his ability to write about what is not seen. For creating his own style that combines tradition with modernity. In turn, the radio play *Szczegółowa teoria życia i umierania* (*A Detailed Theory of Living and Dying*) won the Krzysztof Zaleski Honorary Award for creativity that rejects stereotypes and easy novelties, is grounded in memory and history, and deals with contemporary issues at the 19th Festival of Polish Radio Theatre and Polish Television "Two Theatres - Sopot 2019". At the 20th Festival of Polish Radio and Television Theatre "Two Theatres - Zamość 2021" the script, which is an adaptation of Marcin Wicha's text *The Things I Didn't Throw Away*, was awarded. He is also a five-time semi-finalist of the Gdynia Drama Award (2012, 2018, 2020, 2023, 2024). The television play *Pradziady* won a Bronze Remi at the 53rd WorldFest International Film

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Festival in Houston in the Independent Shorts - Dramatic - Adaptation category. In 2024, the radio play *Voices of Darkness*, which he wrote and directed and for which he wrote the music, was entered into the international Prix Italia 2024 competition as a representative of Polish radio in the category 'Broadcast about music', and - it also qualified for the final of the Grand Prix Nova festival in Bucharest.

He composes music for drama and radio plays and is also the author of musical arrangements.

He is an essayist and cultural critic, writing about literature, music, film and theatre. He has published his texts in "Dwutygodnik", "Ruch Muzyczny" and "Teatra", among others, as well as in opera and festival programmes and exhibition catalogues. His academic texts have been included in literary and cultural studies periodicals and collective volumes. In 2017, he published a monograph *Teoria polskiego dramatu postsakralnego na przykładzie twórczości Stanisława Wyspiańskiego i Tadeusza Różewicza* [Theory of Polish Post-Sacral Drama on the Example of the Works of Stanisław Wyspiański and Tadeusz Różewicz] (Publishing House: Faculty of Polish Studies, University of Warsaw).

For several years he taught courses in the history of Positivist and Young Poland literatures and in Polish language didactics at the Faculty of Polish Studies of the University of Warsaw, he taught at a secondary school with the International Baccalaureate programme, and conducted literature and radio workshops on many occasions.

He was a scholarship holder of, among others, the Minister of Science and Higher Education, the Rector of the University of Warsaw and the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and a winner of the Artistic Scholarship of the Capital City of Warsaw.