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Clemens J. Setz

autorinresidenz

Biography

Born in 1982 in Graz where he lives as a student of mathematics and German language and literature. Publications include contributions to magazines and anthologies (manuskripte, Stimmenfang (Residenz, 2006). His first novel, Sons and Planets , was nominated for the aspekte literature award 2007. 2008 he was awarded the Ernst-Willner-Preis at the Bachmann-Wettbewerb.

Publications

Novels

Sons and Planets, (Residenz, 2007)

Frequencies, (Residenz, 2009)

Translations

John Leake, Entering Hades (Der Mann aus dem Fegefeuer) (Residenz, Herbst 2008)

Awards

- **Ernst-Willner-Preis** at the German Literature Days 2008 (Bachmann-Wettbewerb)
- Awarded by the Austrian Federal Ministry for Education, Arts and Culture for an especially successful literary debut 2008
- Nominated for the **aspekte literature award 2007**
- Nominated for the **German Book Prize 2009 (shortlist)**

Die Frequenzen
(Frequencies)
Novel



Walter and Alexander used to be friends when they were only children – now their ways meet again.

This is the story of Walter, the son of an influential architect. He wants to become an actor – or is that what his father wants? Walter is given a chance when Valerie, an exhausted psychiatrist, asks him to play the parts of fictitious patients' roles in group therapy sessions. Only he is too much absorbed in his part.

This is the story of Alexander. He is a nurse, a young man of spreading imagination, which developed in the shadows of his lonely childhood.

Alexander quits his job and tries to get rid of his girlfriend in order to be with Valerie. But one day she is found being beaten up brutally...

After his debut “Sons and Planets”, for which he received nothing but approval from the critics, Clemens J. Setz presents a piece of work which exceeds all expectations: breathtakingly vigorous, colourful, of powerful expressions and yet gentle.

Press commentary:

It is for sure: „Frequencies“ is more poetical, more amusing and crazier than the most books one gets to read.

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, Tobias Lehmkuhl

The more detailed one is reading the novel, the more one gets the impression that the phat sprawl and the overshooting lust in language is accurate calculus – a equivalent to the venturous blueprints of the architect Zmal. But what makes this book that extraordinary within its contemporaries and what at the same time makes this author to a promise for German literature is the acute view and the stunning fantasy in his expression.

FAZ, Richard Kämmerlings

THE Austrian novel of this spring. A masterpiece.

KURIER, Peter Pisa

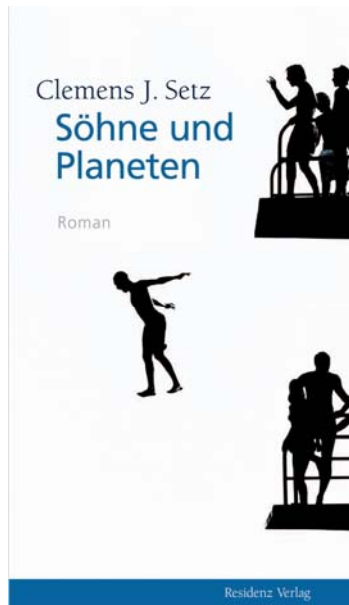
Setz's talent lies in his digressions, which he uses to embellish the subtle horror of his narrations. He matches the high quality of his literary debut with ease.

FORMAT, Thomas Schindl

Pedro Almodóvar meets Kafka – or rather the great Austrian author Robert Musil? His dialogs are masterpieces, sharp, yet humorous. Setz wins us over with effortlessly vibrant and striking sentences that shine from each page of the text.

DER STANDARD, Daniela Strigl

Söhne und Planeten
(Sons and Planets)
Novel



A haunting novel on fathers who remain sons, and sons who become fathers. An impressive literary debut.

René Templ, a young man and writer, finds a mentor, his intellectual paternity, in Karl Senegger. At the same time, however, he shirks his duties towards his wife and his child – as soon as he feels needed as a father, he shrinks to the size of his son.

Karl Senegger, on his part, failed as a father; his son Viktor jumps to death. Was it an irrational act, the final drop of attraction between opposite poles? Or a desperate attempt to stand up against the one you owe your life? Karl Senegger shirks his responsibilities. The father who lost his son finally publishes his child's literary legacy.

Four interwoven stories form this novel, all connected through their subjects, characters and motives. Clemens J. Setz illustrates how sons make their fathers grow, and fathers their sons – and how they break in the presence of each other. Sensitive and tender, joyously playful, but also with confidence and ease – this is a new voice, young and so diversified, a fascinating find.

Press commentary:

If you wouldn't know that this is a literary debut and if this novel were not so fresh and forthright, you may be tempted to think that "Söhne und Planeten" was the late work of a well-weathered author – it is with such poise and nonchalance that Setz tells this at times highly complex story. Like one of his characters from the literary world, you want to kiss your own knee in delight.

SÜDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG, Tobias Lehmkuhl

With this almost hauntingly intelligent book, Clemens J. Setz has written one of the best literary debuts of the year.

FAZ, Richard Kämmerlings

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