
UNDERSTANDING

THOMAS
BERNHARD

BY STEPHEN D. DOWDEN

Understanding Thomas Bernhard

JG Myers



Understanding Thomas Bernhard:

Understanding Thomas Bernhard Stephen D. Dowden, 1991 *Three-Part Inventions* Thomas J. Cousineau, 2008-05 The epigraph to *Correction* Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard's masterpiece reads A body needs at least three points of support not in a straight line to fix its position *Three Part Inventions* finds in this simple geometrical axiom a surprisingly complex key to an understanding of Bernhard's major novels It argues that each of them although firmly anchored in Austrian history emerges from an archetypal story involving a trio of figures a protagonist who having been deprived of a desired object by a more powerful adversary displaces his frustration upon a scapegoat who suffers in his place It further shows that Bernhard transforms this destructive protagonist adversary scapegoat pattern into a creative trio formed by the author himself the artistic precursors who serve as his models and the readers who receive the finished work This study is intended to enrich for English language readers the unforgettable experience of reading the author whom Italo Calvino once called the greatest writer in the world *Thomas Bernhard's Afterlives* Olaf Berwald, Stephen D. Dowden, Gregor Thuswaldner, 2020-10-01 In his prose fiction memoirs poetry and drama Thomas Bernhard 1931-1989 one of the 20th century's most uniquely gifted writers created a new and radical style seemingly out of thin air His books never tell a story in the received sense Instead he rages on the page he rants and spews vitriol about the moral failures of his homeland Austria in the long amnesiac aftermath of the Second World War Yet this furious prose seemingly shapeless but composed with unparalleled musicality and taxing by conventional standards has been powerfully echoed in many writers since Bernhard's death in 1989 These explorers have found in Bernhard's singular accomplishment new paths for the expression of life and truth *Thomas Bernhard's Afterlives* examines the international mobilization of Bernhard's style Writers in Italian German Spanish Hungarian English and French have succeeded in making Bernhard's Austrian vision an international vision This book tells that story **Missing Persons** William E. Gruber, 2011-04-01 In the hands of the twentieth century's most innovative dramatists characters have revealed their identities on stage in a variety of unconventional ways they speak with electronic voices or engage in solipsistic monologues they are lost in self-conscious third person forms of communicating or are expressed simply as movement sound and decor *Missing Persons* is a study of character and its representation on the modern stage Within broad literary contexts William E. Gruber addresses specific questions about the dramatis personae of the playwrights Gordon Craig Bertolt Brecht Samuel Beckett Thomas Bernhard and Maria Fornos Among the questions Gruber considers are why mechanical actors or the abrupt dislocations of oriental acting styles meant so much to dramatists as different as Brecht and Craig why figures in Beckett's late plays are so often flat schematized heraldic and why such contemporary dramatists as Fornos and Bernhard share a profound fascination with the mechanics of theatrical representation quoting reciting reproducing or impersonating an absent text The figures who move across these stages are frail contradictory occasionally mutilated or even dismembered They are grim reminders says Gruber that the individual's place in the world is not as secure or as central as we imagine it

once was Yet character Gruber argues remains for these authors a crucial element of drama even if it is more fragile more ghostly more enigmatic than ever before The study of character as a crucial component of drama has been neglected for much of this century Missing Persons attempts to restore character to the current discourse by developing a vocabulary for discussing it in plays in which conventional terms seem insufficient or irrelevant Drawing on evidence from five dramatists whose work has long been considered antagonistic toward character as the term has typically been understood Gruber maintains that modern drama is never anticharacter even when it is most aggressively antirealist and suggests that character remains a defining ideal throughout the modern and postmodern period especially among dramatists who seem deliberately to have forsaken it

Thomas Bernhard Gitta Honegger, 2001 Thomas Bernhard 1931-1989 a literary figure of international acclaim and arguably Austria's greatest post World War II writer became the first of his generation to expose unrelentingly his country's pathological denial of complicity in the Holocaust Bernhard's writings and indeed his own biography reflect Austria's fraught efforts to define itself as a nation following the collapse of the Habsburg monarchy and the trauma of World War II Repeatedly he scandalised the nation with novels plays and public statements that exposed the convoluted ways Austrians were attempting to come to terms with their Nazi past or defiantly avoiding doing so This book the first comprehensive biography of Thomas Bernhard in English examines his life and work and their intricate relationship to Austria's geographical political and cultural transformations in the twentieth century While Bernhard was the scourge of his native culture Gitta Honegger explains he was also a product of that same culture Appreciation of his controversial impact on his society is possible only through an understanding of the contradictions the shame and the achievements that mark Austrians self perception

The Loser Thomas Bernhard, 2010-11-10 Thomas Bernhard was one of the most original writers of the twentieth century His formal innovation ranks with Beckett and Kafka his outrageously cantankerous voice recalls Dostoevsky but his gift for lacerating lyrical provocative prose is incomparably his own One of Bernhard's most acclaimed novels The Loser centers on a fictional relationship between piano virtuoso Glenn Gould and two of his fellow students who feel compelled to renounce their musical ambitions in the face of Gould's incomparable genius One commits suicide while the other the obsessive witty and self mocking narrator has retreated into obscurity Written as a monologue in one remarkable unbroken paragraph The Loser is a brilliant meditation on success failure genius and fame

Frost Thomas Bernhard, 2008-01-08 Thomas Bernhard combined a searing wit and an unwavering gaze into the human condition His debut novel Frost marked the beginning of one of the century's most provocative literary careers Visceral raw singular and unforgettable Frost is the story of a friendship between a young man beginning his medical career and a painter in his final days The youth has accepted an unusual assignment to travel to a miserable mining town in the middle of nowhere in order to clinically and secretly observe and report on his mentor's reclusive brother the painter Strauch Carefully disguising himself as a law student with a love of Henry James he befriends the aging artist and attempts to carry out his mission only to

find himself caught up in his subject's apparent madness **Understanding Elias Canetti** Richard H. Lawson,1991

Correction Thomas Bernhard,2013-01-23 The scientist Roithamer has dedicated the last six years of his life to the Cone an edifice of mathematically exact construction that he has erected in the center of his family's estate in honor of his beloved sister Not long after its completion he takes his own life As an unnamed friend pieces together literally from thousands of slips of papers and one troubling manuscript the puzzle of Rotheimer's breakdown what emerges is the story of a genius ceaselessly compelled to correct and refine his perceptions until the only logical conclusion is the negation of his own soul Considered by many critics to be Thomas Bernhard's masterpiece *Correction* is a cunningly crafted and unforgettable meditation on the tension between the desire for perfection and the knowledge that it is unattainable *Thomas Bernhard, Interviews* Thomas Bernhard,1993 *Histrionics* Thomas Bernhard,1990-03-09 Although he is best known in the United States as a novelist Austrian writer Thomas Bernhard has been hailed in Europe as one of the most significant and controversial of contemporary playwrights George Steiner has predicted that the current era in German language literature will be recognized as the Bernhard period John Updike compares Bernhard with Kafka Grass Handke and Weiss His dark absurdist plays can be likened to those of Beckett and Pinter but their cultural and political concerns are distinctly Bernhard's While Austria's recent political history lends particular credibility to Bernhard's satire his criticisms are directed at the modern world generally his plays grapple with questions of totalitarianism and the subjection of the individual and with notions of reality and appearance **Thomas Bernhard, Essential Companions and Legacy** Martin Huber,Manfred Mittermayer,Peter Karlhuber,2001 Cyclopedia of World Authors Frank Northen Magill,1997 Containing biographical and critical essays on 2 057 writers from antiquity to present Averaging 1000 words per entry *Thomas Bernhard* ,2023-08-31 Thomas Bernhard one of the most significant post war European writers continues to fascinate The twenty essays in this bilingual volume offer new readings of the Austrian writer's works via the three interconnected strands of language history and subjectivity Thomas Bernhard einer der bedeutendsten europaischen Autoren der Nachkriegszeit hat nichts von seiner Faszinationskraft eingebüßt Die zwanzig Aufsätze in diesem zweisprachigen Band liefern neue Deutungen und Lektüren von Bernhards Werken mit besonderem Bezug auf drei miteinander verbundenen Themenschwerpunkte Sprache Geschichte und Subjektivität *A Companion to the Works of Thomas Bernhard* Matthias Konzett,2002 New essays by leading scholars on major aspects of the most significant Austrian writer of the postwar generation *Modern Austrian Prose* Paul F. Dvorak,2001 The sixteen articles compiled here are devoted to individual prose works published after 1970 that reflect the Austrian tradition within the field of German literature The works treated include those of the popular and widely recognisable names of world renowned writers such as Peter Handke Thomas Bernhard Ingeborg Bachmann and Nobel Prize winner Elias Canetti as well as of less well known figures Collectively these authors display a distinctly Austrian point of view they are the literary voice of modern day Austria a country whose cultural and artistic achievements are often too casually

subsumed under the more general German rubric The authors and their works clearly demonstrate that Austria has made and continues to make a unique contribution to modern German language literature and to world literature that is greatly disproportionate to its modest size and population The essays in this volume have been written by experts in the field of Austrian cultural and literary studies With but one exception the works they present are readily available in English translation The essays reveal a variety of interpretative perspectives but all share the common goal of explicating a single literary text for a diverse readership interested in the modern literary scene

Yes Thomas Bernhard, 1992-11 The narrator a scientist working on antibodies and suffering from emotional and mental illness meets a Persian woman the companion of a Swiss engineer at an office in rural Austria For the scientist his endless talks with the strange Asian woman mean release from his condition but for the Persian woman as her own circumstances deteriorate there is only one answer Thomas Bernhard was one of the few major writers of the second half of this century Gabriel Josipovici Independent With his death European letters lost one of its most perceptive uncompromising voices since the war Spectator Widely acclaimed as a novelist playwright and poet Thomas Bernhard 1931-89 won many of the most prestigious literary prizes of Europe including the Austrian State Prize the Bremen and Br chner prizes and Le Prix S guier

Gathering Evidence Thomas Bernhard, 1993 The author chronicles his early life in this account of growing up an unwanted child in Austria from the terrors of the prewar years to the anarchy of the occupation

New German Studies, 1991 Eugène Ionesco Nancy Lane, 1994

Delve into the emotional tapestry woven by in **Understanding Thomas Bernhard** . This ebook, available for download in a PDF format (PDF Size: *), is more than just words on a page; it's a journey of connection and profound emotion. Immerse yourself in narratives that tug at your heartstrings. Download now to experience the pulse of each page and let your emotions run wild.

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Understanding Thomas Bernhard Introduction

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