

# LOW LIFE

(*La vita bassa*)

Full length play in one act by Marco Calvani

“The struggle of man against power is the struggle of memory against forgetting.”  
(*Milan Kundera*)

Characters:

JAY

NINA

KYR

PEG

PAT

EVA

TEHO

SOLDIER 1

SOLDIER 2

Plot and author's notes:

LOW LIFE is a one act, physical theatre performance. On stage, nine characters struggle with the contradictions of the modern world—the difficulties of being a part of society, as well as being an individual human being. Two soldiers are caught in a futile war. Three couples are enjoying their roles as stars of an absurd reality show, without limits, oblivious of their surroundings. A director, charismatic and cruel, is poised to take control of their lives and serve them up to an audience that has also been avoiding the truth.

Production history:

Italian première: 25 February 2005, Teatro della Limonaia, Florence. Directed by Michele Panella and Serena Mannelli. with Elisa Alessandro and Marco Calvani.

English première: 17 October 2005, Phoenix Theatre, London. Translated by Zack Kinney.

German première: 27 September 2005, Theater Schlachthof, Bremen (Germany).

Dutch première: 10 June 2006, Festival Nieuwe Grond, Utrecht (Holland).

Play commissioned by the Phoenix Theatre, London, for the inter-European project Citizens on Stage.

Originally written in Italian. Available also in English.