

Felix Mitterer



Biography:

Felix Mitterer was born on the 6th of February 1948 in Achenkirch, Tyrol, as the son of the widowed farm labourer Adelheid Marksteiner and a Rumanian refugee. Immediately after birth he was adopted by a couple befriended with his mother who were also agricultural workers. He went to school in Kitzbühl and Kirchberg, after that he attended the Teacher training centre in Innsbruck and worked from 1966 at the customs office in Innsbruck. In 1970 his first written articles were made public by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation. Since 1977 he has been an independent author. Apart from his literary activities he also was an actor, as in his first play “No place for idiots”. Felix Mitterer has worked and lived in Castleyons (Ireland) since 1995.

Text source: Wikipedia

Photo: blog.seniorennet.be

Mitterer sees himself as a Tyrolean folk poet and author and carries this tradition on in his work, which often serves an artistic oral dialect, in content and form. Hereby he usually occupies himself with problematic and controversial themes such as in the play “No beautiful country with the invasion of Fascism” (Kein schöner Land das Eindringen des Faschismus) in the rural community, or the relationship between Germans and Austrians with the example of tourism in Tyrol in the satire “Die Piefke-Saga”. This was broadcasted in 1991 by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation as a multi series television programme and was highly controversial at that time.

Recension: Die Piefke- Saga, Vlg. Haymon, 1991



The German family Sattmann leaves the hotel full of outrage and moves in with the family Wechselberger in their mountain farm in Tyrol. Mr. Sattmann repeats again and again his standard phrase: “I am leaving”, when he and his family are dissatisfied. Yet, they always come back to the mountains. Mr. Sattmann even builds a house and opens a factory for snow cannons where many villagers find employment. For this he is awarded hunting rights. More and more family Sattmann feels almost Tyrolean, the children have ties to the locals.

Photo: kundendienst.orf.at

During many years Felix Mitterer pursued the fate of Berliners and Tyroleans, the interplay of aversion and affection. The fourth and last part of the book and television film is especially macabre and shows a Tyrol which has been transformed into an artificial landscape and the inhabitants into soulless caricatures.

The creating of consciousness and the thought-provoking impulses of this book and of the visual transposition into a television series, purposefully exaggerated, is in my opinion helpful for an improved cohabitation of the neighbouring German and Austrian peoples. Hopefully also cultural mediation against so many prejudices. As such I see the work on this theme as an exemplary contribution to a European project.

By Elisabeth Marek