THE SECOND TIME

(La seconda volta)

One-act play by Marco Calvani

"L'amour est l'enfant de la liberté."
(The Rumour)

<u>Characters:</u>
PHILIP, man, older
SOPHIA, woman, younger

<u>Plot and author's notes:</u>
It is a meeting between two people who don't know each other. Apparently.
They are a clever philosophy professor and his favorite pupil. Apparently.
But nothing is ever what it seems and this is also the story of two people who have nothing to hide, until the moment they both begin to wish for an alternative to reality. Philip and Sophia, the two characters in this short *pièce*, have everything to lose -- above all they have outstanding issues with each other and with the law. THE SECOND TIME grew out of the 'task' of investigating the theme of *Desire*. I then decided to take myself into the dark corners of the desire to possess, both something and someone. Guided by the thoughts and the needs of my characters, I found myself facing the delicate boundaries between the need to *Be* and the need to *Have*, a limbo in which Love and Hatred can be mutually confused and nourished and even have the ability to annihilate one another. The title takes its inspiration from Nietzsche's theory of the Eternal Return. As Philip says in the play, "Einmal ist Keinmal" or 'what happened but once might as well not have happened at all,' since everything in life is destined to repeat itself. This is just a theory, but it is also Philip's greatest desire.

<u>Production history:</u>
Preview: 8 August 2014, Biennale Theatre Venice, Corderie dell'Arsenale.
Directed by Neil LaBute. With Francesco Colella and Elisa Alessandro.

Première: 16 October 2014, La MaMa Theatre, New York. Directed by Neil LaBute. With Phil Burke and Meredith Forlenza. Translated into English by Bing Taylor.

Play written for AdA – Author directing Author 2nd edition (Desire)
Play winner of the 2015 S.I.A.D. Calcante Prize, Italy.

Originally written in Italian
Available also in English and Catalan