

STRONG HANDS

(*Le mani forti*)

Full length play in one act by Marco Calvani

“What strikes me the most is that many terrible things
are committed by people who are not at all terrible.”

(Ian McEwan)

Characters:

HER, 16, alone

HIM, 17, alone

Plot and author's notes:

On the night of February 21st 2001, Erika and Omar, two sixteen-year old students, murdered Erika's mother and baby brother, stabbing them more than fifty times. No apparent motive. Children of the affluent Italian middle class, their private lives and the resulting court case were in the forefront of the media for many months. The case had a shocking effect on public opinion. Freely inspired by their story,

STRONG HANDS doesn't judge or condemn, but simply tries to bring to light the nightmares and neuroses of today's teenagers and their potential victims. Fiction that removes itself from the reported news in a complex and delicate attempt to recreate and explore the roots of such destructive psychoses enhanced by horror, gives life to two characters that leave the audience baffled by their humanity and their 'innocence' forcing us all to observe our moral self and the potential assassin within.

Production history:

Italian première: 31 March 2006, Teatro Javarra (Turin), directed by Vito Vinci,
with Elisa Alessandro and Marco Calvani.

Spanish première: 10 July 2007, Barcelona Festival Grec, directed by Marc Martínez, with Mercè
Martínez and Oriol Vila. Translated into Catalan by Fina Figuerola.

French première: 22 June 2010, Théâtre de la Ville Paris, directed by Myron Meerson, with Marina
Golovine and Robert Louis Stevénin. Translated into French by Marie-Agnès Nobecourt.

American première (staged reading): 16 May 2016, Glucksman House NYU, directed by Erwin Maas
for Origin Theatre Company, with Elisabeth Gelinis and Gareth Balai. Translated by Bing Taylor.

Originally written in Italian

Available also in English, French, Spanish and Catalan