

Christian Ludvigsen

## *Jens Kruuse, The trumpet of Jutland*

or

*An important background for Odin Teatret to settle down in Holstebro/Jutland.*

Jens Kruuse (1908-78) was indeed one of the most outstanding cultural personalities and literary critics (after Georg Brandes) in Denmark in the last century.

In many aspects he was quite unique in the entire kingdom, born on H.C. Andersens' island of Fiona, educated in the capital, Copenhagen, with a rather quick academic career, MA in 1931 and in 1934 D Phil. on the subject *The sentimental drama in the 18<sup>th</sup> century* (in England and France).

From 1934 to 1938 he was lecturer in Nordic literature at the Sorbonne.

But from 1939 he settled once and for all in Jutland! And this fact is very important in this matter.<sup>1</sup>

Kruuse first got a job at the new University of Aarhus, then at the famous *Askov Højskole* (Folk High School) and again at the new established drama-department at the University of Aarhus (1970 – 74). All this time he wrote books, was active as translator of foreign literature and further, during these (nearly) 40 years, he was closely connected to the most important daily newspaper outside Copenhagen, *Jyllands-Posten*.

In his time, Jens Kruuse transformed his newspaper into a voice that was heard all over Denmark, especially in cultural aspects. He got the nickname *The Trumpet of Jutland* and I believe he was proud of such a title.

He became so well known – nearly a pop star – that his friend, the well-known Norwegian author Jens Bjørneboe, could address him a letter writing only *King of Jutland* on the envelope. It arrived without delay.

Jens Kruuse was a kind of Renaissance-character - maybe born too late - in his lust for life, festivities and human relations. He was open to new aspects in culture, literature and drama. Also towards younger authors who might bring new ways and new thoughts, though he was not left-winged. He was liberal in the best sense of the word, free from prejudices, open to new possibilities in art and culture, with a very sensible mind and judgement for promising qualities.

With nearly no hesitations he let me write in *Jyllands-Posten* because I had introduced the Theatre of the Absurd (Beckett etc.) in Denmark from 1955. I could write free, make articles on demand, both on books and on theatre.

Jens Kruuse showed the best sides of his artistic sensibility in relation to Odin Teatret's radical form of performance. He gave the title *Bridge of Bodies* (*Un pont de corps*) to his review, which was the first official statement of Odin Teatret's first performance - *Ornitofilene* - on tour in 1966 outside Norway.

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<sup>1</sup> If you look at a map of Denmark (illustration, ex. Petit Larousse), the peninsula of Jutland is obviously the mainland. The rest consists of smaller islands, with the capital Copenhagen placed on the eastern coast of the island of Sjælland. But traditionally Jutland is seen from Copenhagen as the provincial part of Denmark. Just a little closer than Greenland or The Faeroe Islands. For a self-sufficient *true citizen of Copenhagen*, to settle down in Jutland is regarded as a sort of exile.

I'm sure it was in the same spirit and liberal awareness that Jens Kruuse engaged Marc Fumaroli to write about French theatre in *Jyllands-Posten* from the late sixties until 1978, recommended by both Eugenio Barba and myself.

After Jens Kruuses' death in 1978 the Odin Teatret has been recognised all over the world as a very special theatre and laboratory though there might be some hesitating towards it in good old Copenhagen. Odin Teatret is still considered with suspicion as a strange and peculiar initiative in the far away Jutland.

Friday - bedes korrekter and Engelsk

Titel

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or "An important ~~xxxxxx~~ background for OT to settle down in  
Holstebro/Jutland."

Jens Kruuse (1908-78) was indeed one of most outstanding  
literary critics and amateur in Denmark, in the last century.  
*after Georg Brandes.*

??  
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In many aspects he was quite unique in <sup>our</sup> ~~the~~ whole kingdom,  
born on H.C. Andersen's ~~own~~ island of Fyen, educated in the  
capital, Copenhagen with a rather quick academic carrier, <sup>1929</sup>  
MA in 1931 og dr.phil 1934 on the subjekt " The sentimental  
drama in the 18th century" (English, ~~xxxxxx~~ French..)  
1934-38 he was (guest) professeur in Danish/Nordic litterature  
at the Sorbonne.

But from 1939 he was settled in Jutland! And this fact is  
very important in this matter - See note below.

Jens first got a job at the new University of Aarhus,  
later at the Famous Askov Højskole.. later again 1970-74  
at Ux x the new dramadepartment at the University of Aarhus.  
Besides he wrotes a lot of books, translated etc...

But during all these (nearly) 40 years he was closed  
connected to the ~~biggest~~ most important <sup>Danish</sup> daily newspaper,  
outside Copenhagen, "JyllandsPosten" -

In ~~his~~ his time, Jens Kruuse <sup>developped</sup> made ~~his~~ his newspaper to become  
a voice to be heard, <sup>also</sup> ~~even~~ in cultural ~~xxxxxx~~ aspects in whole  
Denmark, even in Copenhagen. He got the nickname, "The Trumpet  
of Jutland" and I believe he was honoured.

~~In~~ He become so well known - nearly as pop-star -  
that his Norwegian friend, Jens Bjerneboe could adress him  
a letter this way: "King Jens of Jutland" on a letter, which  
arrived with no delay.

?illustration  
note)

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-If you look at a map of Denmark/Danemark ( ex: Petit Larousse  
the peninsula of Jutland/Jylland obvious is the mainland.  
The rest is smaller islands, with the capital Copenhagen  
placed on the eastern coast of the island, Sjoelland.  
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of Denmark, ~~as~~ seen from Copenhagen. Just a little  
nearer than for instance Greenland and the Faroe Island.  
For a self-sufficient 'real citizen of Copenhagen' x is  
a settlement in Jutland etc an exile landsforvisning.

exiliseer  
exclusion

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Jens Kruuse was a kind <sup>of</sup> renaissance-figure- maybe born to late!- in his lust for life, festvitas and human relations. First of all he was very open to new aspects in culture, litterature and drama. And towards ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ younger authors etc who might bring ~~xxxxxxxx~~ new ways new thoughts etc though he was not left-wing.

Rather liberal in the best sense of the word, open to new possibilities in art and culture, with a very sensible mind and <sup>judgment</sup> ~~judgement~~ for promising kvalities.

With nearly no hesitations he let me write in "JyllandsPosten" because I had introduced the Theatre of the Absurd (Beckett etc) in Denmark since 1955...I could write free, make critics on demand, both on books and theatre etc. (Which at that time was nearly impossible for me in Copenhagen) Only as an honour with bad ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxx~~.

Concerning Eugenio Barba and his Odin Teater from Norway ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Jens Kruuse showed his best, on top of his artistic sensibility for ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>this ex</sup> radical new ~~xxxxi~~ form of theatrical performazance, "The Bridge of Corps" as he ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>titled</sup> his review - The very first more official statement/critic from the very first performance af "Ornitofilerne", outside Norway.

OBS!-~~xxxxxx~~  
Tryk også JK's  
'Kroppenes bro'  
på fransk

I'm sure it was in the same spirit of liberal awareness Jens Kruuse engaged Marc Fumaroli <sup>to</sup> ~~to~~ <sup>free</sup> ~~to~~ write about French theatre i Jyllandsposten from ca. 1968???? til 1978. -Recommende by both Eugenio Barba and myself.

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After Jens Kruuse's ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>xxxxxxxx</sup> ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>xxxxxxxx</sup> death in 1978 the 'Odin-Teater' has been ~~xxxxxxxx~~ recognized all over the world, as ~~xxxxxxxx~~ <sup>a</sup> very special theatre and laboratory. But still very hesitating in good old Copenhagen. OT is still a little suspicious as an iniativ fra Jutland, also supported by the Trumpet of Jåtland: It is <sup>still</sup> ~~is~~ really hard to recognize that Copenhagen ( like Paris?) not is: The only ~~Place~~ <sup>entire</sup> place for cultural developments in ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Denmark, even Jutland has its own voice, ~~or~~ <sup>for instance</sup> the very underlain ~~Odin-Teater~~.

*John Ludvigsen*