

**NICHOLS, Peter (1927 - 2019)**, England

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## **A Day in the Death of Joe Egg** (1967)

Keine Übersetzung nachgewiesen

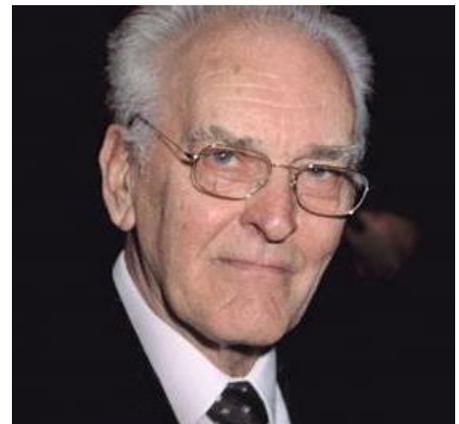
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Bei der schwerstbehinderten 10jährigen Josephine entwickelt sich ein Status epilepticus, weil man ihr in der Tagesstätte das Phenobarbital nicht gegeben hat. Die Eltern, durchschnittliche, sympathische Leute, praktizieren Liebe und Zuwendung zu diesem einzigen Kind, leben aber auch mit Todeswünschen. Ein befreundetes Paar und die Großmutter vertreten gängige gesellschaftliche Einstellungen. Nazideutschland als Beispiel, daß Krankentötungen den Weg zu anderem, etwa den Judenmorden, bahnen können. Die Frage "wer ist schuld?" ist virulent geblieben: Fehler des Geburtshelfers? Gottes Wille? Strafe für sexuelle Freizügigkeit vor der Ehe? Erblichkeit der Epilepsie? Ein kluges, dichtes Stück mit einigen beißend karikierten Arztfiguren.

Zum Autor (Wiki 3.4.25):

„**Peter Richard Nichols** (31 July 1927 – 7 September 2019) was an English playwright, screenwriter, director and journalist.

Born in Bristol, England, he was educated at Bristol Grammar School, and served his compulsory National Service as a clerk in Calcutta and later in the British Army's Combined Services Entertainment Unit in Singapore where he entertained the troops alongside John Schlesinger, Stanley Baxter, Peter Vaughan and Kenneth Williams, before going on to study acting at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School. He later claimed to have studied acting because there were no dedicated courses for playwrights. While working as a teacher, he began to write television plays that achieved notice. His first play for the stage was *The Hooded Terror*, part of a season of new plays at the Little Theatre in Bristol. He later wrote ***A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*** for the stage. An early film script was *Catch Us If You Can* directed by John Boorman.



***A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*** is a one-set drama in music hall style. *The National Health* is a fantasy farce, also interrupted by vaudeville. *Privates on Parade* is a musical comedy, partly inspired by Nichols's own experiences in the Combined Services Entertainments Unit.<sup>[3]</sup> *Poppy* takes the form of a Christmas pantomime.

Despite the comic style, Nichols' plays deal with the most serious of themes. In ***A Day in the Death of Joe Egg*** the burden of raising a hopelessly handicapped child

shatters a couple's marriage. The patients of *The National Health* suffer and die, as do the singing soldiers of *Privates on Parade*. In *Poppy*, a pantomime take on the Chinese opium wars, Dick Whittington's girlfriend becomes a drug addict. *Passion Play* (known as *Passion* in the United States) focuses on adultery and betrayal. In *Blue Murder*, a comic satire about play censorship, a constable investigates a death.

Nichols is often considered an especially autobiographical playwright, and chronicled much of the background to his plays in his published autobiography and diaries. *Joe Egg* is based on Nichols' **own experiences of raising a handicapped child**, *The National Health* draws on a hospital stay of his own, while *Privates on Parade* draws on his own military experiences.

Nichols was appointed Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the 2018 New Year Honours for services to drama.

He died on 7 September 2019 in Oxford, survived by his wife Thelma and three children."

Literatur