



by John von Düffel

July 2007 / 300pp

Fiction

🏆 Longlisted for the  
German Book Prize 2007

This book is outside of the five-year window for guaranteed assistance with English language translation. We suggest getting in touch with the relevant funding body for an informal conversation about the possibility of support. Please refer to our recommendations page for books that are currently covered by our funding

## The Best Years

### *Beste Jahre*

#### review

In this, his sixth novel since his breakthrough success in 1998, the incredibly gifted John von Düffel, who couples the careers of writer and actor, takes on the themes of role-playing (does one ever exist except as a role player?) and fertility, when the principal character, whose wife has undergone treatment so that they can have a child, does a related service to an old friend and jealous rival, a lawyer, who has recently re-entered his life. Combines the poetry of an imaginative and fluent style with the precision of good stage directions and the intelligence of a witty essayist. A talent waiting to take the stage here?

#### about the author

**John von Düffel** was born in Göttingen in 1966 and is currently the resident dramatist at Hamburg's Thalia Theatre. His prize-winning debut novel *Vom Wasser* was published in 1998 and since then he has published three further novels.

#### Translated editions of his work are published by:

Otava (Finland), Albin Michel (France), Mondadori (Italy), Dulnyouk Publishing (Korea), Del Bronce (Spain), Prometheus (The Netherlands), New Sprouts Publishing (Taiwan)

#### rights information

DuMont Literatur und Kunst Verlag

Tel: +49 221 2241942

guarantee.

E-mail: [habermas@dumontliteraturundkunst.de](mailto:habermas@dumontliteraturundkunst.de)

Contact: Judith Habermas

**DuMont Literatur und Kunst Verlag**