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Oslo Literary Agency | Evy Tillmann:
evy@osloliteraryagency.no

Jarl André Bjerke (1918-1985)

Funny-verses

Andre Bjerke's "Funny Verses" is one of Norway's most popular books of poetry and nursery rhymes for children. The book is a compilation of Bjerkes previous works *For fun* (1956) and *More fun* (1957). His poems are characterized by nonsensical playfulness, and humorous play on words.

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André Bjerke (1918-1985) was born in Oslo. He made his debut with a collection of poetry, *Singing Earth*. He was a versatile author, who has not let any genre escape his work. His essays and non-fiction often dealt with linguistic matters, and Bjerke had a column in the journal "Ordet" ("The Word"). Under the pseudonym Bernhard Borge, he wrote a number of crime novels, one of them *Lake of the Dead* from 1942 has been adapted into a movie.

Bjerke's reinterpretations include drama (Shakespeare, Molière, Goethe, Racine), lyricism (Rudyard Kipling, Dorothy Parker, Edgar Allen Poe) and prose (Hermann Hesse, Heinrich Heine, Karen Blixen).

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