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Schwarz-Bart, Simone

(1938–)



Guadeloupean novelist and playwright. In *Ton beau capitaine* (*Your Handsome Captain*, 1987), a monodrama in the tradition of Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*, Wilnor is an exploited Haitian worker in Guadeloupe. Alone on stage he plays and answers a tape-recorded letter from his wife in Haiti. Schwarz-Bart portrays a drama of love, separation, exile, and resistance through detailed stage directions. The songs, dances, music, silences, ancestral rituals, and voodoo set up Wilnor's spiritual evolution to a liberated Christ figure who grows to understand his wife's infidelity. This precise and poetic text has been performed at the Limoges Festival, in New York, and elsewhere.

MICHELINE RICE-MAXIMIN

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