

**Josef Marek**

author's text

## ***Training H & S***

The tabloid phenomenon surrounds us at every turn. It is enough to get on a tram or metro, or to enter a doctor's waiting room. At least half the passengers or patients will be devouring articles on and photographs of our so-called celebrities, about whom we learn everything that we have no need whatever to know. One marvels at the unflagging interest that a certain section of the population has in such information. And when I consider that such people also have the right to vote, I am not surprised in the least about what is happening around us. But – what if I am standing to one side of events? What witty conversations to lead at various parties (which I naturally avoid on principle) when I haven't a notion about the social elite of our era? I don't even have an overview of who has silicone breasts and who hasn't. Is it possible to function properly at all in today's society without such basic information? I said to myself, then, that I'd tackle this basic issue head-on and, for the first time in my life, I bought a number of tabloids. The truth is the newsagent lady looked at my rather suspiciously, wondering if I was serious about the purchase. When I told her I wanted to write on the subject she softened and gave me some advice – do you mainly want pictures? Or news? I want both, I replied, and paid around CZK 70 for absolute nonsense. That was the first, and hopefully the last, money I've ever completely thrown away in my life. But mind you, university studies will be fee-paying here in the near future, and I used this argument to justify my purchase and calmed down. I asked Robin Král, with whom I had in the past created a melodrama entitled Interpelace (Question Time), if he'd write with me and – to my great joy – he was taken with the subject of tabloids. So another melodrama of mine with a contemporary social theme – **Školení H & S (Training H & S)** – was born. I won't reveal to you what H & S stands for just yet. You'll be pleasantly surprised.

*Josef Marek*