

Edit in A Dream Play

Edit only has a single line in Strindberg's A Dream Play. Still, she makes an impression.

Strindberg introduces her like this: On the stairs of the house there is a bench, 'Ugly Edit' sits, bareheaded, sad with big, tousled hair. The daughter asks:

...But why is Edit sitting there instead of dancing?

Officer: Don't ask her! She has been sitting there for three hours without getting invited

The mother asks: Why don't you go in like I told you?

And Edit: Therefore....that I can't offer myself. That I'm ugly, I know that, and therefore no one wants to dance with me, but I couldn't avoid being reminded of it!

Then she says no more.

Edit doesn't dance, she barely speaks, but she still expresses a lot, partly in her quiet playing, partly when she, perhaps unexpectedly, starts playing Bach's Toccata con Fuga No. 10, on the piano.

In doing so, she drowns out the dance music and for a moment makes everyone stop and listen to her, before she stops playing and stands, petrified.

A very small role, then, but with a lot of emotional content. So, an actress has a lot to contribute. And "ugly" is called Edit only in the stage directions, with quotation marks around, and by herself.

The actress can be just as beautiful!!

Sara Granath, theatre critic