

SYNOPSIS

Infinite Now intercuts the novel **Homecoming** by Can Xue with excerpts from the play **FRONT** by Luk Perceval, based on *Im Westen nicht Neues* by Erich Maria Remarque and other texts and letters from the time of the First World War.

ACT ONE

HOMECOMING

X arrives under the cover of darkness in a strange, yet familiar area and makes it to a house which, according to the owner, sits on a cliff. X does not want to believe it. The owner, an old man, tries to convince X of the situation of the house. But X persists in her disbelief.

FRONT

Paul Bäumer, Lieutenant De Wit and Colonel Magots each describe the course of the war from their own perspective.

ACT TWO

X still tries to take stock of the situation, but she does not believe the old man.

In the distance, soldiers Seghers en Van Outryve hear the death struggle of a soldier who's been hit.

ACT THREE

X is taken to a small, dark room where she has to adapt. After a while, X makes a small fire, but notices few new things. The old man talks about a dead fisherman who is said to have built the house.

Katinczsky shows how violent noise pierces the night. Bäumer and his companions are at the end of their tether.

ACT FOUR

X tries to crawl out of the house. Outside, the landscape has changed, looking unfamiliar. X loses her bearings.

The soldiers are mentally exhausted. Their thoughts are with home. The enemy is now within sight.

Nurse Elisabeth evokes memories of the victims. Letters are sent to the home front.

ACT FIVE

The old man says that X must find harmony in the house. The world by the sea below is appealing, but cannot be reached.

A heavy grenade attack on the trench. The battle also continues in the trenches. But there are small signs of humanity. Nurse Elisabeth continues to be haunted by the terrible memories.

ACT SIX

X tries to remember the path to the house, but she has a vague memory. Each new day looks like the previous one. Where is the path?

The madness of battle goes on unabated. Death is everywhere.
But life keeps trying to find its way.