

## GABI GLEICHMANN

### Biography

Writer and literary critic, currently lives in Norway with his wife and son. He is also Head of Agora Publishing that publishes, among others, the works of **Péter Nádas** in Norwegian. His first novel, *The Elixir of Immortality*, became a bestseller within weeks and has been published in 14 other countries.

Gabi Gleichmann was born in **Budapest** in 1954. He moved to Sweden with his parents when he was ten and later on studied philosophy and literature there. In the 1990s, he worked as a prominent cultural journalist and was President of the Swedish PEN for four years (1990—1994). He did interviews and became friends with writers of international repute, and because of his connections many approached him with regard to guessing the Nobel Prize winner of a given year.

He is a humanist man of letters and critic with a coruscating pen: It was him who eked out the right of asylum in Sweden for Islam-critical Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen who was threatened with death, and he was the one who had a row with his fellow writer Jan Myrdal who showed understanding for Khomeini when he issued a fatwa on Salman Rushdie.

In the 1980s and 1990s, Gabi Gleichmann was a prominent figure of Swedish cultural life, but then withdrew from public life. After marrying Anette Skaugen, heir of Brynjulf Skaugen, owner of the shipping company of the same name, he moved from Stockholm to Oslo in 1998. In 2010, he and his wife established Agora Publishing that publishes world literature hitherto not published in Norway.

### **The Elixir of Immortality** (Udødelighetens elixir – A halhatatlanság elixírje)

*A chronicle of 36 generations full of blood and passion*

From times immemorial, the Spinoza family has been Jewish, probably more as a result of circumstances than out of conviction. After an unexpected discovery, a member of the family gets hold of the recipe of immortal life that is both a gift of God and the Devil's heritage. Ari Spinoza is the last descendant with the past and the present in his hands: a chronicle of 36 generations full of blood and passion; of ancestors who witnessed the major events of European history and are knowers of horrifying secrets.

*The Elixir of Immortality* is a terrifying and simultaneously humorous family saga about the power of remembrance and all those who could have subdued death, but contented themselves with immortality...

Gabi Gleichmann's family saga, translated by Péter Papolczy, will be published by Athenaeum Publishing on 18 April.

Supporters:

