

*When I think of grass,*

I think of an evening spent hanging out on a field of grass with friends. In the evening, with the sun going down, painting the sky with a nice colour. Maybe a pinkish one, or perhaps purple or ultramarine blue. I don't necessarily think of any particular lived experience of such, just more of a kind of ideal version of the past.

According to Wikipedia, the most reliable of sources, "the smell of freshly cut grass is connected through olfactory memory to past experiences involving the odour and may evoke nostalgia, eliciting associations with spring or summer."<sup>1</sup>

Now, writing this text, I try to think of something more concrete; a particular memory that has to do with grass and friends. A kind of cluster of half-formed memories hovers on the surface of my mind. I grab one and let it expand.

We have organized a small film festival (and when I say small, I mean very small; it could be better described as a gathering of friends around films) with the people of this exhibition for four years now. We have always built an outside theater in addition to the one inside (the term "we" also includes my father, I must admit). The theater has been built on a slightly reclining slope covered in grass in the yard, with a screen made of wood and a large tarp that covers the screen and the people inside it.

One night, we were screening a film -the particularities of which are probably smarter not to disclose due to some elusive copyright laws. It was two in the night, and pretty much everyone had already fallen, or fell, asleep during the first five minutes of the film (it was quite a slow-paced film). Ossi and I were soon the only ones awake, and kept watching for an hour or so, until we, too, fell asleep.

Perhaps you, too, can lie down on the grass, close your eyes, and see where it takes you. Maybe you can even fall asleep.

<sup>1</sup> "Smell of freshly cut grass," *Wikipedia*, last modified 19 December 2024, at 21:18, [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smell\\_of\\_freshly\\_cut\\_grass](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smell_of_freshly_cut_grass).