

SUMMARIES MAY 2006

Opening Column

JÜRGEN ROOSTE. Is It Difficult to Do Things Well?

In the context of Estonian Theatre Year, May is a month of theatre for children and young adults. Jürgen Rooste asks why there is so much superficiality in Estonian children's theatre, and why it fails to relate to society as, for example, children's literature. As one of the measures, he recommends those involved to distance themselves from the inner (money) censorship.

Replies

AARE TOIKKA

Aare Toikka (b 1965) graduated in 1987 from the culture department of the Tallinn Pedagogical Institute as director. Between 1987 and 1993 worked as director of radio theatre at the Estonian Radio, since 1987 founding member of VAT Theatre, actor and director, since 1993 member of board and artistic director of VAT Theatre. Several of his productions, such as „Kids' Stuff “ (1988), „Dog's Birthday “ (1995), „Stones “ (2001) and „Pál-street Boys“ (2005) have received awards at home and abroad. He is one of the scriptwriters of the children's film of 2006, „Ruudi“; this year a book of the same title was published, which he co-authored. In a long interview Toikka tells about his childhood, first theatre impressions, making theatre at school, studies at the Pedagogical Institute and its teachers. He also talks about his directing work, how he chooses texts, and his vision in making theatre for children and young adults. Another topic includes international relations of the theatre and the hope to get his own theatre house, as they now mostly play in the theatre hall of the National Library. Questions were put by Rait Avestik, well-versed in children's theatre.

Persona Grata

VAHUR KELLER

Anna-Liisa Õispuu, literary editor of the Estonian Puppet Theatre, presents a portrait, in the form of a play, about Vahur Keller, director and dramatist of the Puppet Theatre, about his arrival in theatre via his music education, and the influences in the field of figurative arts.

THEATRE

OTT KARULIN. Too Big Shoes

In April, Rakvere hosted the festival „School Theatre 2006“, which also celebrated the 25th anniversary of this undertaking. As there is always a lot of talk how theatre made by adults for children and young people ignores the interests of the young, the author tried to establish the true aesthetic beliefs of the young theatre-makers on the basis of the festival programme. Alas, he had to admit that the performances he saw did not contain too much of a personal message of the young, and thus the accusations against professional theatre occasionally sound rather feeble.

ERKKI LUUK. Performance and Interpretation

On the basis of such productions as "A Hundred years...", "Portrait of the Freezing Artist", „Hell Stuff“ and „Adolf“, the author contemplates whether plays derived from literary classics or historical material can have any „correct “ interpretation and whether such productions have a say in society.

MONIKA LÄÄNESAAR. Pictures in Front, Words Behind the Eyes

At the end of last year, the scenographers Mari-Liis Küla, Liina Pihlak, Aime Unt and Liina Unt published a book for professional theatre designers, „Book for the Artist “ that received the annual award of the Cultural Endowment. Monika Läänesaar examines the profession of a scenographer relying on the material presented in the book, and seeks replies to the eternal questions of why the work of a stage designer is largely forgotten in most reviews, and how to bring it to the attention of people writing about theatre.

CD Design as an Extra Bonus. Interview with Jaan Evert

Last summer, the Rael Artel Gallery presented Jaan Evert's personal exhibition „Various artists“, based on Evert's diploma work at the graphic design department of the Estonian Academy of Arts, which gathered and examined various CD designs. Curator Rael Artel talks with Jaan Evert about CD covers as a separate area of art, and about its trends at the era of iPod and mp3.

MUSIC

EVI ARUJÄRV. New Music and Metaphysics. „Estonian Music Days 2006“

Evi Arujärv examines the music days that take place every spring. This year's programme focused on the composers Helena Tulve and Udo Kasemets.

MAIT JÜRIADO. New Sci-fi Discs. Kismabande „Polüpale“ and Muschraum's „Naterijeka“

The critic's debut of Mait Jüriado, composition student of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre. Jüriado analyses two CDs of new Estonian alternative electronic music.

HEIE TREIER. Winning Urban Space: Estonia Theatre Monument Competition

On 30 December 2005 a competition was announced for the design of a monument celebrating the one hundred years since establishing the professional theatre Estonia in 1906. The chosen location was the green area in the middle of the Rävåla road, towards the department store, which is closest to the original building of the theatre (no longer existing). By 10 March 2006, 12 entries had been submitted. On 27 March the jury decided: I-II award – „Time Axis“, authors Tiiu Kirsipuu and Üla Koppel; „The Curtain“, authors Ekke Väli, Tiit Kaljundi and Angela Vahter. III award – „H2SO4“, authors Liisi Linamaa and Lauri Vaimel. One entry was nominated – „Time Stage 1906“, author Rene Sauemägi.

ELS HEINSALU. Year 1756 in the Life of Leopold Mozart and Mozarts' Homes

Els Heinsalu, PhD student at the Tartu University and a music lover active in Augsburg, uses reliable sources to describe the role of Leopold Mozart in the composing life of his son Wolfgang. The article focuses on 1756, the birth year of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and also the year when his father Leopold published his remarkable textbook of violin playing.

Is Cello the Most Beautiful Instrument. About Playing and Teaching Cello with Toomas Velvet.

Ivalo Randalu's longer interview with the prominent cellist, professor of Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre, and music critic Toomas Velvet.

CINEMA

DONALD TOMBERG. Man, Idea and Everyday Life II

Continuation of the overview of Nikita Mikhalkov's (b 1945) work. The first part appeared in the January issue. This time the article tackles his films „Family Relations “ (1981), „A Few Days from the Life of I. I. Oblomov “ (1979) and „An Unfinished Piece for a Player Piano “ (1977). The article was published in connection with the retrospective of his films in Estonia last year celebrating the filmmaker's anniversary.

SILVIA KIIK. Avo Paistik's Struggle with Authorities, Censorship and Goskino II

Next part of the memories of Paistik, former caricaturist and renowned animated film-maker and current painter and religious man, who turned 70 in April. The article tells about his arrival at Tallinnfilm, and how his first works were completed. The June issue publishes the third and last part of the series, where he examines the making of his last films and the opposition from Goskino.

KADRI KÕUSAAR. Caught by the Femme Fatale

The film festival Femme Fatale took place in May in cinema Sõprus, showing 7 famous films by Henri-Georges Clouzot, Roger Vadim, Jean-Luc Godard, Louis Malle and Luis Buñuel. The article introduces these masterpieces.

RAIT AVESTIK. Village Realism for Play and for Real

Review of Katrin Laur's (b 1955) children's film „Ruudi“ (studios Allfilm, Scmidtz Katze Filmkollektiv GbmH & KG, MRP Matila Röhr Productions Oy, 2006). The reviewer generally agrees with previous, largely positive, criticism about the film. It has the main qualities that make a film captivating for children: exciting plot, good acting by children, moderately funny and serious, moderately thought-inspiring and with moderately absurd incidents. Despite some minor complaints the reviewer regards the film as joyful like childhood and at the same time merrily absurd.

ILONA MARTSON. Our Ruudi

Another review of Katrin Laur's children's film „Ruudi“. The critic sets this film apart from other domestic films because of its visual sincerity and the natural and

captivating acting, especially from children. The weaker aspects include evoking pictures of fantasy.