

SUMMARIES AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2006

Opening Column

MADIS KOLK. One Hundred Years of Professional Myth Production Industry

A brief overview of topics tackled by Estonian dramaturgy through the one hundred years of existence of Estonian professional theatre, and of the ability of drama to create or shatter myths.

Replies

TAISTO NOOR

Interview with the young singer and opera director Taisto Noor who has been a leading figure at Vanemuine Theatre since 1977. Questions asked by Virge Joamets.

Persona Grata

HELEN LOKUTA

Since January 2006 Helen Lokuta is a soloist at the National Opera Estonia (mezzo-soprano). Over the past few years she has charmed the listeners with her musicality, beautiful timbre, brilliant performances on theatre and concert stages. She has also participated in Nargen Opera's project productions (Haydn's „Solitary Island”), in the vocal-symphonic projects of the Tallinn Philharmonic Chamber Choir and Estonian National Symphony Orchestra. Among her roles she values most the main role in „Carmen”, Polina in „The Queen of Spades”, Lola in „Cavalleria Rusticana”; she participated in Tõnu Kõrvits's operas „My Swans, My Thoughts” and „The Fiery Garden” etc. In November 2006 she will sing the lead in Rossini's „La Cenerentola”.

THEATRE

ANNELI SARO. Real and Not Real: Theatre in Postmodernist and Post-dramatic paradigm

Summary of the theatre festival „Baltoscandal” that took place in June in Rakvere. In the author's opinion, the productions in the repertory did not aim to impress the viewer with new styles and means of expression, but instead to create an environment for coming together and communicating, often without any literary text or fictional role, but just as themselves.

BERK VAHER. Notes on the Year of Theatre II – How to Finish Writing about Theatre?

Next part of the overview started in the April issue about the events in the Estonian Year of Theatre and of the monthly documentaries dedicated to

theatres. This time Berk examines the reviews about the Year of Estonian Theatre in the press, and the role of theatre criticism and professionalism.

ÜLO TONTS. Estonians Between Themselves – in Heaven and on Earth

The author takes a look at how the history of Estonian theatre is reflected in Andrus Kivirähk's „Theatre Paradise” (director Ain Mäeots) premiered at Vanemuine in spring, and in Urmas Lennuk's „Koidula” (director Andres Dvinjaninov) premiered in summer at Emajõe Suveteater (Summer theatre). As both productions attracted lively attention, the current article deals with polemics as well.

HEIE TREIER. Artists and Their Roles

Last summer, already a third play by Mart Kivastik about an Estonian artist was staged in the Viinistu Art Museum. Two years ago, „Portrait of a Freezing Artist” about Konrad Mägi was produced there; last year saw the production of „Hell Stuff” about Eduard Wiiralt, and this year Kivastik wrote a play based on the diaries of Elmar Kits, „Kits with a Violin and a Fishing Rod”. Heie Treier who had been worried before that Estonian artists were usually shown in literature in a bad light, regards Kivastik's trilogy as a significant step forward and acknowledges the national mission establishing the myths of the trilogy.

Refusing Motion II

Continuation to the articles started in the previous issue about Vsevolod Meierhold's biomechanics.

MUSIC

EVA POTTER. Estonia People on Television I

In September 2006 the National Opera Estonia celebrated its 100th anniversary. The long-time music editor at Estonian Television, Eva Potter, gives an overview on the basis of the TV archives about programmes, series of programmes, films and other recordings about Estonia Theatre soloists, directors, guest performances abroad, etc., from its beginning in the 1950s until today. She tackles both opera, operetta and dance. The first part focuses on the recordings of Georg Ots on television. The article continues in TMK no 10 2006.

HEILI EINASTO. Stories Written with Body and Soul II. Performances of Finnish National Opera in Spring 2006: John Neumeier's „Seagull”

(First part in no 7 2006)

The second part examines John Neumeier's Chekhov-based ballet „Seagull” („Lokki”) at the Finnish National Opera (Continues in no 10 2006).

LEELO KÕLAR. Chasing the Dream

Overview of the Tallinn international competition of pianists from 4 to 15 June 2006. I prize – Mihkel Poll (Estonia), II – Gay Sun (China), III – Sten Lassmann (Estonia) and Daniil Sayamov (Russia).

JAAN-EIK TULVE. The Story of Vox Clamantis

The best expert of Gregorian chant in Estonia, conductor and singer Jaan-Eik Tulve vividly and with great detail describes the birth and life of ensemble Vox Clamantis. It was founded in autumn 1996 and has become one of the most acclaimed representatives of Estonian musicians abroad and has initiated several innovative concert programmes at home.

TIIA TEDER. Despatching Contemporary Music

Overview of the International Rostrum of Composers 2006 in Paris.

SAALE KAREDA. Visible Sounds I. Discoverer of the Phenomenon Ernst Chladni

The fact that sounds influence man's soul and body and also the so-called inanimate matter, is ancient. The article series „Visible Sounds” focuses on the topic of sounds visualised in matter in the life work of three scientists. The discoverer of this phenomenon, the German natural scientist Ernst Chladni (1756–1827) used his violin bow to make a thin plate covered with fine sand vibrate, and discovered the sound figures named after him. Thus Chladni managed, probably for the first time in the history of mankind, to prove that sounds touch not only the soul, but are also able to influence matter.

Fame Based on Unique Crystal Clear Voice

Selected reviews from foreign press, praising the Estonian Philharmonic Chamber Choir as one of the best in the world. Translation from English Elin Sütiste.

CINEMA**ALLAN VALGE. The Solitary, the Sinful and the Violent. Main characters in Martin Scorsese's work on the basis of his film „The Aviator”**

A comprehensive analysis of Martin Scorsese's (b 1942) work, focusing on the choice and depiction of characters in his films; most of the main characters have specific prototypes. The writer has paid most attention to the protagonist of his last but one feature film „The Aviator” (2004), Howard Hughes, and his relations with the Hollywood legends Katherine Hepburn and Ava Gardner. Valge finds that Scorsese's main characters are socially inadequate, occasionally extremely

so. They cannot cope very well in their daily life. Their troubles are always caused by their poor social skills regarding people around them.

MART SANDER. The Art of Cinema under Bombardment

The Black Nights Festival's summer cinema together with the Goethe Institute in Tallinn organised a film week titled „Untergang“ in late August 2005 in cinema „Sõprus“. Six grand feature films were shown, made in Germany during the war. They were: Veit Harlan's „Die Goldene Stadt“ (1942) and „Kolberg“ (1945), Josef von Baky's „Münchhausen“ (1943), Helmut Käutner's „Great Freedom No. 7“ (1944), Georg Jacoby's „The Woman of My Dreams“ (1944) and Géza von Bolváry's „The Bat“ (1946). The article examines the films and also the whole situation and atmosphere in war-time Germany.

MARIANNE KÕRVER. Estonian Full-length Documentaries in 2005

The article takes a look at eleven full-length documentaries made last year. Under the subtitle „Problem Films“, Kõrver tackles Märt Sildvee's film „For a Better Life“ and Arko Okk's film „The Tower of Piisa“. Under „Portrait Films“ she reviews Hardi Volmer's „Pärnography“, Sulev Keedus's film „Tormis' Sledge of Song“, Peep Puks's film „Calling – War Cameraman“ and Peeter Urbla's „A Journey on a Chequered Tablecloth“. The part titled „Documentaries about War“ examines Ivar Heinmaa's documentary „Wounds of Afghanistan“, René Vilbre's „Group Haukka“ and Imbi Paju's „Memories Denied“. The last part of the article, „More Good Films“, shortly focuses on Liina Triškina's „Afanassi“ and Rein Maran's nature film „Estonian Eagles“.

SERGEI STADNIKOV. Six Hours in Tallinn

The historian and tour guide examines Rein Kotov's short documentary „6 Hours „ (2005), completed in the series of „Estonian Stories“. The film tells about the six hours spent in summer in Tallinn by a cruise tourist. The main characters are two young tour guides Stanislav and Merike. The reviewer highly values the film and is well satisfied with the two guides, besides offering his own words of wisdom.

RIIN KÜBARSEPP. Who Knows How it All Actually Happened

The reviewer analyses Rein Kotkas's (born in 1950) documentary „How the Art Museum Was Built“ (2005). The art historian regards the film as a valuable historical document and an interesting story about the building of an important cultural object.

MIKA KAURISMÄKI. My Home is Now in Brazil

Tõnu Karjatse's interview with the famous Finnish film director Mika Kaurismäki (born in 1955), who was present at the opening of the Kumu film auditorium last February with his new film „Brasileirinho“ (2005). Kaurismäki

talks about the diverse Brazilian trends in music, and about modern Brazilian and Finnish feature films.

How Big is the Hello of a Cartoon Character?

On 26 August this year, the classic of our animation Priit Pärn celebrated his 60th birthday. His friend and colleague as cartoonist Toomas Kall and his disciples Kaspar Jancis and Ülo Pikkov talk about their work and their co-operation with Pärn.