

SUMMARIES DECEMBER 2007

Opening Column

INGO NORMET. Arithmetic of Drama School

On 30 November the Drama School of the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Ingo Normet, head of the school takes a look at the people who have passed through the school during half the century, and how they have fared later.

Replies

MÄRT-MATIS LILL

Märt-Matis Lill (1975) is a diverse musician, composer and thinker who has studied composition with Lepo Sumera at the Tallinn Music Highschool and then at the Estonian Music Academy with Eino Tamberg and Lepo Sumera. He later furthered his studies at Helsinki University and completed his MA at the Sibelius Academy under the supervision of Veli-Matti Puumala; he has also participated in the master classes of Louis Andriessen, Michael Jarrell, Luca Francescon and Magnus Lindberg, in the summer of 2000 at IRCAM summer courses in Helsinki. Besides composing, Lill is active in the humanities (Japanese language-sinology, philosophy), and has been studying them since 1997 in Helsinki University. He has written reviews, articles and essays for Estonian newspapers and journals. Lill is artistic head of the Pärnu Days of Contemporary Music and since 2003 chairman of the Estonian Arnold Schönberg Society. In 2007 his work *My Weeping Voice is Autumn Wind* was elected among the ten best at the international composers' rostrum in Paris. He is currently teaching history of music at the University of Tartu. Questions to M.-M. Lill were asked by the head of Classic Radio, Tiia Teder.

Persona grata

MART KOLDITS

Madis Kolk talks to Mart Koldits, the young director of the Tallinn City Theatre about the latter's sources of inspiration and work so far, focusing on Viktor Pelevin who has inspired Koldits to create two highly successful productions: debut *Chapayev and Pustota* and the summer project *Proffet*.

THEATRE

Train Trip, Journey and Play

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Drama School, director Merle Karusoo and theatre historians Lea Tormis and Piret Kruuspere talk about the first head of the school, Voldemar Panso. The focus is on Andrus Kivirähk's semi-documentary play *Voldemar*, produced last spring by Merle Karusoo in the Estonian Drama Theatre. They also talk about Panso's diaries on which the play was based.

JANEK KRAAVI. Satan Does Wear Prada

Last summer Mart Koldits produced *Proffet* in the historic Kukenoosi grain dryer at Albu. It was based on Eduar Vilde's novel *Prophet Maltsvet* and Viktor Pelevin's *Generatsioon P*. Janek Kraavi examines the relations between the topics tackled in Vilde's novel and criticism of the media society prevailing in the production in the light of the 'non-narrative theatre' method used by the director.

JAANUS SOOVÄLI. Recovery of a Somnambulist

In February, Mart Koldits directed Tom Stoppard's *Jumpers* in Vanemuine Theatre in Tartu. Jaanus Sooväli explains the play's conceptual foundation as an artistic expression of the early 20th century English moral philosophy.

ÜLO TONTS. Theatre Student and Innovator Mati Unt in Vanemuine (1966–1972)

An overview of Mati Unt's work during the theatre innovation period in Tartu in the late 1960s.

KADRI TUDRE. Body technique in Acting

Sequel (started in no 8/9) to the research based on the author's MA work on body techniques influenced by the Orient propagated by Vsevolod Meierhold, Étienne Decroux, Eugenio Barba, Jerzy Grotowski and others.

MUSIC

EVELIN LAGLE. Primeval Depth of Femininity. Anu Ruusmaa's Dance Performance To Your Own Door at Kumu Art Museum.

Anu Ruusmaa is a diverse dancer, choreographer and teacher. In addition to her long-standing career as a ballet dancer she has studied and developed modern dance as well. Her production is devoted to examining the female essence, where her own deep understanding of a woman's role and being a woman is revealed. A woman, her nature, her world of perception and experience in all its nuance is conveyed via the world of a young girl, mature woman and an old woman. An important role in the production belongs to the folk ensemble Ro:Toro.

Choreological Perspectives. Interview with Valerie Preston-Dunlop

Dr Valerie Preston-Dunlop (Great Britain) is an internationally acclaimed lecturer and consultant at the London Laban Centre, where she initiated the choreological research of dance. She studied and worked with Rudolf Laban, examined his life and work and researched his archive; she has written and edited many books, including the awarded biography *Rudolf Laban: an Extraordinary Life*, *Looking at Dances: a choreological perspective on Choreography and Dance* and in co-operation with Ana Sanchez-Colberg, *The Performative: a Choreological Perspective* and *Dance and the Performative: Laban and beyond*. Her interview was conducted in April 2007, when she lectured at the Tallinn University with *Interdisciplinary analysis of dance and dance criticism*. See also Theatre. Music. Cinema 2007, nor 11, p 68.

GERLI KÄTTMANN. Always Able to Surprise. 13 Years of Pärnu City Orchestra

The 18-year-old music student Gerli Kättmann offers an extensive overview of the birth of the Pärnu City Orchestra and its development into a serious professional orchestra. It is on its way up: the performances are increasingly acclaimed, and the orchestra has an outstanding chief conductor – Jüri Alperden, plus the best possible working conditions in the Pärnu Concert House.

SIRJE NORMET. Impressions of the Riga Opera Festival

Impressions of performances at the Riga opera festival: Shostakovich's opera *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk*, Wagner's *The Valkyrie* (Latvian National Opera), Francis Poulenc's mono-opera *La voix humaine* (Opéra National de Lyon). The author was also impressed by the premiere of the new Latvian opera, Eriks Ešenvalds' *Joseph's Prolific Family* (*Auglu koks ir Jazeps*).

CINEMA

JARMO VALKOLA. Visions of Estonian Modernist Film: New Starting Points for Future I

The first part of the article by Jarmo Valkola, Finnish film historian, guest lecturer of film theory at the Baltic Film and Media School of Tallinn University, examines three recent Estonian films: Elmo Nüganen's feature *Mindless* (2006), Jaak Kilm's feature for television, *Encounter with the Unknown* (2005) and Kersti Uibo's documentary *Still Life with a Woman* (2006). The writer appreciates Nüganen's work in producing the mood and atmosphere, but finds that the acting of Rain Simmul as the main character is not always convincing. Kilm's farce focuses on national issues, depicting historical events mostly with domestic viewers in mind. Uibo's film has excellently captured the characters and conveyed something more general than the life of just one family.

JUTA KIVIMÄE. Three Art Documentaries about Senior Artists

The art historian examines Peeter Brambat's (b 1954) film *Man from the Town of Masters* (studio AD Oculos Film, 2007) about artist Ants Viidalepp, and Rein Raamat's (b 1931) films *Lembit Saarts* and *Evi Tihemets* (both studio Raamat-Film, 2006). The critic considers them valuable documents in recording Estonian artists.

RUTH ALAKÜLA. Phantoms of Maria Theatre Open the Metaphysics of the Spirit of Russian Ballet

In Marianna Kaat's (b 1957) documentary *The Last Phantoms* (Baltic Film Production, 2006) five ballet fanatics in St Petersburg talk about the past and present of the famous Maria Theatre ballet. The critic musicologist regards it as a good overview film with sensible analyses of the characters, plus excellent shots of the theatre's history and the present day.

ANDRIS FELDMANIS. Belarus as Documentary Film-maker's Paradise – *Kalinovski Square*

Review of the most prominent Belarus film director Yury Khashchevatski's documentary *Kalinovski Square* (Baltic Film Production, 2007), recording the recent presidential elections in Belarus. The producer is Marianna Kaat.

URMAS TARTES. Matsalu Nature Film Festival 2007

Overview of the 5th Matsalu International Nature Film Festival, taking place from 19 to 23 September 2007 in Lihula. Altogether 135 films from 41 countries were shown. The main award, grand prix, went to Bo Landin and Jan Henriksson's film *Nature's Dance* (2007), made in USA.

LIINA KEEVALLIK. Like the Real Thing! Artistic Image in Cinema and Street. Tale of an Offended Artist

Longer theoretical article by the theatre and film designer about images in film. There are numerous examples of using images in various films at different times and thoughts of several film theoreticians and film-makers about the essence of image in film. The author is doing her PhD at Paris 8th University and Estonian Academy of Arts.

SULEV TEINEMAA. Fifty Years of Puppet Film – from Tuganov to Laas

On 25 November 2007 studio Nukufilm (Puppet Film) celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. The article gives an overview of the first years of the studio, some significant landmarks, and the current puppet film-makers and their films.