

LAW AND ORDER IN ESTONIAN MUSICAL THEATRE

In Estonia, activity in the field of musical theatre seems to take place in two parallel worlds (without diving in to questions of terminology, I consider the wider term of musical theatre to embrace opera as well). Opera performances are staged in National Opera Estonia and in the multi-genre theatre Vanemuine. Especially the National Opera Estonia stands out as conservative in its choice of repertoire as well as opera directing. When the renowned German opera director Tobias Kratzer staged 2016 Verdi's "Aida" at the National Opera without the typical Egyptian attributes, whilst also including more physical expression, a large part of the audience as well as the critics saw it as crossing the borderline. A different attitude rules outside institutionalised theatre and especially in the case of new productions, where at least nearing the borders is acceptable and new performative solutions are being sought. The presentation uses case studies to analyse the setting of borders in institutional and non-institutional musical theatre productions and asks what it would take to cross those borders.

Biography

Kristel Pappel, Estonian musicologist, special research areas (1) history and theory of the opera and musical theatre, (2) history of the nineteenth-century music. Studied violin and musicology at the Estonian Academy of Music and Theatre (EAMT), PhD 2004 („Opera in Tallinn in the Nineteenth Century“). Professor for music history and since 2015 head of the Centre for Doctoral Studies at the EAMT. Several research scholarships (Stadt Lübeck; Forschungsinstitut für Musiktheater, Universität Bayreuth; International Wagner Society; Viro-Säätiö Helsinki etc.). 2011–2014 guest lecturer and guest professor for music theatre at the Vienna University; guest lectures at the universities of Göttingen, Dresden, Tartu etc.

Publications: several articles in Estonian, German and English; editor (with Michael Heinemann) of the essays by Joachim Herz (3 volumes, 2010–2012, Köln), of the essays in musical theatre (Res Musica 5/2013) and of the anthologies about August von Kotzebue

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See also: https://www.etis.ee/CV/Kristel_Pappel/est?lang=ENG&tabId=CV_ENG