

VILPPU KILJUNEN, stage director

Vilppu Kiljunen (born 1960) is a freelance opera stage director whose works can be seen in Finland and abroad. He has contributed to the Savonlinna Opera Festival through its artistic committee and is currently a member of its council.

Kiljunen started out by studying musicology and drama as well as theoretical philosophy at the Helsinki University. He also studied violin at the Helsinki Conservatory of Music, dance among others at the Finnish National Opera Ballet



School, and pantomime at the international school of Marcel Marceau in Paris. In 1990, he graduated as a Master of Arts in Stage Directing from the Theater Academy of Finland.

Vilppu Kiljunen was the artistic director of the Theater Pieni Suomi and taught at the Arts Academy of Turku, at the Aalto University School of Design, at the Theater Academy Helsinki, and at the Sibelius Academy. He debuted as an opera director with Mozart's *La Clemenza di Tito* in 1993. In addition to his work on the main stages in Finland, he has staged operas abroad in Sweden, Middle Europe as well as in Russia at the Marinsky Theater in St.Petersburg and the Bolshoi Theater in Moscow.

His latest works are rock opera *Indigo* by the “Apocalyptica” at the Finnish National Opera, *Cardillac* in Estonian National Opera in Tallinn, The double bill *The Mine* by Einojuhani Rautavaara and “*Love*” by Judith Varga at the Hungarian National Opera in Budapest and Wagner’s *Tannhäuser* for the Latvian National Opera in Riga. His next stagings will be the *Magic Flute* by Mozart for the Estonian Nationalopera and the world premier of the opera “*Vanapaga*” at the Vanemuine Theater in Tartu, Estonia.

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