

## Jüri Reinvere's opera *Puhdistus* (*Purge*): Perspectives from cultural studies, theatre research and musicology

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### Abstract

The paper integrates cultural studies, theatre research and musicology studying Jüri Reinvere's opera *Puhdistus* (*Purge*) and its interpretation on the stage of the Finnish National Opera (2012). Sofi Oksanen's novel *Purge* and the discussions generated by this work have been the greatest influence on the creation and reception of the opera. The composer only took the basic plot lines from Oksanen's play and novel; he also plays with shifts in time and places. In a sense it could be said that Reinvere's score is akin to a 21st-century composer's idiosyncratic interpretation of the music of the early 1900s (Strauss's proto-expressionism, Debussy's impressionism, at times also Schoenberg's atonality).

The paper observes the influence of Oksanen's ideas on the opera, discusses the opera performance itself as an act of communication, and opens up its many contexts in order better to understand the performance's meaning for its immediate participants (the stage crew, the performers, the audience). Tackling performance analysis and its interpretations the authors are proceeding from the notion of theatrical production as a chain of interpretation and a complex mechanism of representation. Finally, the reception and the wider socio-cultural impact of the opera have been studied.