
AUTHORS

Saara Turunen (Finland)

Saara Turunen (née 1981) is an up-and-coming Finnish playwright born in Eastern Finland. She graduated from the Theatre Academy Helsinki. Turunen has also studied screenwriting. At the moment, she works as a freelance playwright and theatre director in Helsinki and abroad. Turunen is known for her straightforward but edgy style. She has a distinct, provocative approach to her subjects; femininity, sex and art. Her plays are both playful and aggressive, often related to the world of fairy tale and pop culture. Turunen uses language to both irritate and charm. Her writing combines trivial verbal approach with clear poetic images. By now, her most well-known play is the favourably received work "Bunny Girl" (2007) which first premiered at the Theatre Academy Helsinki. Due to the great success it was invited to be included in the repertoire of the Helsinki City Theatre. The play speaks about woman's purity and loss of identity. It depicts escape and drowning into dreams, fantasies which become invincible if you cannot let them pass. Bunny Girl asks whether a person can willingly make an object of oneself.

Titles

BROKEN HEART STORY

"Broken Heart Story" is the story of two women. The main characters are a mannish writer and her complete opposite, a vain and love-hungry scatter-brain. Both women seek happiness in the way they see best, but also fettered by the definitions and expectations of the world surrounding them. In the end,

the women's conflicting conceptions of freedom and perhaps a genuine lack of it lead them face to face on the brink of a momentous decision. "Broken Heart Story" is a story of art and love. It examines the surrounding world first and foremost through the internal reality of the characters. The play delves into questions of identity, choices, and how to live to achieve happiness. The play doesn't offer answers or guidance. Instead, it paints a poetic, absurd landscape overflowing with questions. The form of the text borrows influences not only from American pop culture but also Brecht's tableau-like learning plays and their form of direct audience address. The rainy world of the play nevertheless bubbles with humour and a light touch in the face of big questions. Beneath its naive style, Broken Heart Story creates an overview of contemporary society, especially through its female characters. "To be a subject or an object?" wonders a whiskered woman, a cat's skull in her hand.

BUNNY GIRL

A woman sits alone in a restaurant. Images flash in front of her eyes. Her whole life she has wanted to be something else: a sweet, pure little girl, a sexy bombshell, an attractive wife. Someone worth loving. But there's always something wrong with her; she doesn't know how to act the way a woman should. The voice of fate calls out: "You will end up alone." Rage bubbles up inside her, erupting in violent, bloody visions. Tonight she must either turn in a new direction or face the ultimate dead end. Saara Turunen's powerful play progresses in a ferocious stream-of-consciousness, blending levels of reality into a color-saturated fresco. The pressures women face are given a stinging, concrete form, and childhood and adulthood melt into one another in a genuinely theatrical way. The play offers opportunities for a variety of interpretations and executions, and its open format encourages the director and the actors to bring their own original ideas to the work.