

Sjaron Minailo

Opera Director, Visual Artist and Performer

Sjaron Minailo is an Israeli opera director and performer living and working in Amsterdam. He is the artistic director of Studio Minailo – a laboratory for experimental music theatre and opera performances. Minailo is specialized in highly visual Site-Specific opera performances that break the boundaries of the traditional opera space and experience.

His work is often a reaction to or reflection on social and political developments and aesthetic transformation of cultures. Alongside classical and contemporary repertory he is also known for new creations based on compositions that were not necessarily created to be staged and new collaborations with living composers. Minailo is the director of numerous productions, including the white cube opera trilogy Pornographia-Megalomania-Nostalgia; his adaptation of Malevich's opera Victory Over the Sun for the Stedelijk Museum Amsterdam; his on-going installation Rothko Chapel based on the composition of Morton Feldman and his digital work The Transmigration of Morton F. commissioned by the Holland Festival and Opera La Monnaie.

He has worked with orchestras such as Asko/Schönberg Ensemble, Rotterdam Philharmonic Orchestra and the Residency Orchestra and organizations such as Opera Brno in Czech Republic, Dutch National Opera, Opera Poznan and La Monnaie in Brussels and has been featured yearly at the opera festival Operadagen Rotterdam since 2008.

In previous seasons Minailo created and directed the new opera Medúlla based on the album with the same title by singer Björk at La Monnaie in Brussels; a location performance based on Morton Feldman's Three Voices for Joan La Barbara (Enoa, La Monnaie, Nuit Blanche Brussel); the opera To Be Sung by Pascal Dusapin (La Monnaie) and the Händel's Semele for the Operadagen Rotterdam. Minailo participated in the Jerwood Opera Writing Programme of Aldeburgh and the European Network of Opera Academies; he received the Fast Forward prize from the Dutch Performing Arts fund and is the beneficiary of numerous grants. He was shortlisted in the 'Young Director' category at the 2016 International Opera Awards.

The beginning of the 16/17 season saw Sjaron direct the exciting opera project *Before Present* in collaboration with Amsterdam Dance and Dutch National Opera. This event combined the best of both worlds - contemporary opera and electronic dance music (DJ producer Sjamsoedin remixed music by composer Anat Spiegel into a short dance opera) – into a rousing and compelling show that took place at Noorderlicht, the ADE festival hub located on the post-industrial NDSM Shipyard site.

During 2017, Studio Minailo collaborated with Muziektheater Transparant, Concertgebouw Brugge and Opera Days Rotterdam on a production of *Nightshade: Aubergine*, in which Claron McFadden goes in search of the common roots of our various cultures by focusing on one of the most iconoclastic ingredients on the culinary scene: the aubergine. Sjaron also directed and costume-designed Mozart's *Die Zauberflöte* for Theater Poznan. 2018 began with Minailo directing a world premiere *Future Opera* for the Borealis Festival, Bergen.