DOSSIER / EN

Samuel Harjanne

Stage Director



REPRESENTED BY KANTTILA MANAGEMENT

info@kanttilamanagement.com
+49 172 642 6891
Arcisstrasse 43, 80799 München

01 / PROFILE

Biography

> *“Samuel Harjanne must be the most wanted musical theatre director of Finland at the moment.”*
>
> Rolf Bamberg, Demokraatti

In the early phase of his directing career, Mr. Harjanne started directing musical theatre for youth theatre companies, and in 2008 he made his professional directing debut with *Altar Boyz* in Helsinki, starring one of the biggest pop-stars in Finland - Antti Tuisku.

His other directorial credits include The Wedding Singer (2010), You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown (2011), Disney's Aladdin – bilingual version (2012), Hevisaurus ja Velhojenvuoren salaisuus (2013), I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change! (2014, 2016), and Stiles & Drewe's The Three Little Pigs (2014), Loserville (2015), and Don’t Run – A New Musical (2015). Spring Awakening (2017), and Les Misérables (2017). Kinky Boots (2018), Billy Elliot (2018) and Disney's The Little Mermaid (2019), Maailma On Tehty Meitä Varten (2020), a transfer of Kinky Boots (2020), Groundhog Day (2020) and Sister Act (2020). In 2021 Samuel opened Spring Awakening, in Sweden, and at Tampereen Työväen Teatteri, Finland, Roald Dahl's Matilda and Come From Away.

Mr. Harjanne is educated in Sibelius Academy (BA Music Education) and GSA - Guildford School of Acting (MA Creative Practices & Direction). He has been taught by many of the leading musical theatre professionals in the world, e.g. David Brunetti (USA), Anne-Marie Speed (UK), Julian Woolford (UK), Michael Moor (UK) and Terrie Fender (UK). His work is strongly influenced by the theories of Keith Johnstone (UK) and improvisation has had a huge impact on his career.

02 / BACKGROUND

Education & awards

Aalto University Executive Education · 2024

Business of Culture

Guildford School of Acting · 2015

MA Creative Practices & Direction · Theatre Director

Sibelius Academy · 2012

BA Music Education

Award

Ensi Linja Award · 2012



03 / LANGUAGES

Languages

Finnish native · English fluent · Swedish good · Danish good

Special skills

Musical theatre · leadership · scheduling · budgets · music · piano · sight-reading · acting · singing · voice-over

04 / STAGE · SCREEN · 2008-2025

Directing credits

2025

Risto Räppääjä ja kaksoisolento

Film Director

Solar Films, Finland

2024-

School of Rock*

Director

Tampereen Työväen Teatteri, Finland

2024

La Traviata

Director

Tampere Opera, Finland

2024

The Witches of Eastwick

Director

Balettakademin Gothenburg, Sweden

2023-

Annie*

Director

Scenekvelder, Norway

2023-

Wicked*

Director

GöteborgsOperan, Sweden

2022-2023

Anastasia

Director

Tampereen Teatteri, Finland

2022-2023

The Bridges of Madison County

Director

Turun Kaupunginteatteri, Finland

2022-2023

Priscilla - Queen of the Desert

Director

Helsingin Kaupunginteatteri, Finland

2022-2023

Come From Away

Director

Tampereen Työväen Teatteri, Finland

04 / STAGE · SCREEN · 2008-2025 / CONTINUED

Directing credits

2021-2022

Matilda

Director

Tampereen Työväen Teatteri, Finland

2020-

Sister Act*

Director

Teater Vanemuine, Estonia

2020

Groundhog Day

Director

Helsinki City Theatre, Finland

2020

Maailma on tehty meitä varten

Director & Dramaturg

Suomen Komediateatteri, Finland

2019

The Secret Garden

Director

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, UK

2019-2024

Disney's The Little Mermaid

Director

Helsinki City Theatre, Finland

2018

Fiddler on the Roof

Director

Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, UK

2018

9 to 5

Director

Guildford School of Acting, UK

2018-2022 / 2024-

Kinky Boots*

Director

Finland / Estonia

2018

Billy Elliot

Director

Tampereen Työväen Teatteri, Finland

04 / STAGE · SCREEN · 2008-2025 / CONTINUED

Directing credits

2018-2019

Spring Awakening

Director

Edinburgh Fringe Festival, UK

2017-

Les Misérables*

Director

Teater Vanemuine, Estonia

2017

Chicken Little & Dinostory

Director

The Other Palace, UK

2017 / 2021

Spring Awakening

Director

UK / Finland / Sweden

2016

I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change!

Director

Suomen Komediateatteri, Finland

2015

Don’t Run - A New Musical

Director

Waterloo East Theatre, UK

2015

Dusty

Assistant Director

Charing Cross Theatre, UK

2015

Loserville

Director

Ivy Arts Centre, UK

2015

Dirty Rotten Scoundrels

Assistant Director

ATG UK Tour

2015

On the Town

Associate Director

Ivy Arts Centre, UK

04 / STAGE · SCREEN · 2008-2025 / CONTINUED

Directing credits

2014

The Three Little Pigs

Director

Koko Theatre, Finland

2014

I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change!

Director

Skärgårdsteatern, Finland

2012

Disney’s Aladdin · dual-language

Director

Alexander Theatre, Finland

2011

You’re a Good Man, Charlie Brown

Director

Porvoo Centre, Finland

2010

The Wedding Singer

Director

Musikhuset Jakobstad, Finland

2008

Altar Boyz

Director

Alexander Theatre, Finland

* Currently playing

Voice-over direction

SELECTED CLIENTS

Movies, television, games and commercials for Walt Disney Company, Sony Pictures, Warner Bros., DreamWorks Studios, Universal Pictures, Nickelodeon, EuropaCorp, Nintendo and others.