

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Stinging political parody, calculated to offend liberals and conservatives alike, is set alongside deadly-serious news clips in a pop score, laced with saxophone riffs, the mellow ooze of blues and the twang of bluegrass.

PITTSBURGH POST GAZETTE

It takes a brave composer to sublimate his work to the steamroller of modern TV imagery. THE NEWS is a multimedia experience that splashes political hot potatoes across the stage - yet refuses to be cynical or polemical. It leaves the audience puzzled and delighted at the same time.

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE

THE NEWS is far more entertaining, innovative and provocative than anything on CNN or Fox News. Often amusing, sometimes horrifying or maddening but always enlightening and hypnotic.

CHICAGO SUN TIMES

Visually slick in the best sense of the term. Tasty, engrossing entertainment. From baroque flights and austere laments to languorous blues & bubblegum pop. Stoppelenburg's clear, pure soprano soared in slow, long-lined melodies with an ironic nobility. Loire sang in the rapid-fire clicks and clacks like a set of castanets, echoing the frantic speed and confusion of non-stop news. Flashy, occasionally confounding, THE NEWS brought operatic intensity to everyday reality.

ITALIAN REVIEWS 2012 - quotes + links

LA REPUBBLICA

The news and its melodic information turn into a pop opera. What is news and what isn't? Who decides when an event enters the universe of the news? Does information appear in the realm of reality or of fiction? That question cuts like a sword through THE NEWS, the new 'reality opera' by JacobTV, which the ensemble Contemporanea has presented for the first time to a European audience. On two large coupled screens at a dizzying pace, 34 short clips whirl around, taken from tv broadcasts around the globe. The voices and faces of Obama, a Somali refugee, Berlusconi, Lady Gaga, a protester at Tahrir Square, Pope Ratzinger, Sarah Palin, an Iraqi woman repeated, enlarged, stretched and extracted to reappear in amazingly melodic intonation. And two pop singers imitate them, live, in perfect sync. The PMCE by Tonino Battista is the smooth and powerful musical motor in an authentic, pulsating feverish and hectic pop opera: hard and knocking you out like a fist.

LONG BEACH OPERA - west coast production June 2016
all articles, reviews, pictures: [here](#)

DE VOLKSKRANT *****

Collage of tv news in a witty and harrowing opera. Breathtaking. Food for thought. Both the manipulated images and the powerful, driving music are an ingenious magnifying glass on our world. JacobTV's magnum opus is often witty, but more often harrowing. JacobTV has a fine nose for penetrating footage. The faltering, repeated images have quite often a caricatural effect: The creepy things that Wilders and Assad do with their mouth is relentlessly exposed. But above all the music itself is uplifting. Burlesque sounds add counter accents to the steely rhetoric of politicians. Dark tones turn moaning women into tragic stars. No matter how unorthodox, The News is genuine opera. Its form, a collage of 'numbers', matches exactly with its content. And beneath the seemingly orderless range of issues, an argument lies hidden. The ultimate irony: The News painfully shows us that the way in which world news is presented to us on tv does not differ all that much from a pageant.

HET PAROOL

Everything in his reality opera culminates, in which JacobTV mixes fleeting footage from the media with music that is ideally timeless and eternal. And this seemingly impossible paradox JacobTV gloriously overcomes. JacobTV's music is called avant-pop, an apt term: THE NEWS is more related to pop music with its periodic rhythms and clear structures than to classical opera.

JacobTV is an eclectic. He uses every style he needs, from circus music (with Berlusconi) to reggae, from the polyphony of Palestrina to nightclub jazz, Willem Breuker-like punk jazz and ghostly beautiful eastern litanies on static drones. And with Nora and Loire he has two incredibly good singers. Both perform solos that belong to the absolute highlights of the opera. Such masterly moments make one gasp for air. Do not miss this!

Quite a challenge for Nationale Reisopera to collaborate with JacobTV: A composer who is still alive, who is pert and cheeky, asks singers to use a microphone, and who believes that video images are more important than what is happening on stage. Very courageous and successful indeed! An overwhelming production full with spectacular music that keeps you on the edge of your seat. About this mad world in which the most horrible news items don't seem to bother us anymore. An opera packed with great music that also would have worked well on a rock stage. And that's why Paradiso is the next stop.

NRC ****

JacobTV draws huge audiences with THE NEWS. The Muziekgebouw in Amsterdam was sold out, quite unusual for new music series. In this regard JacobTV is different than other contemporary composers. His music sounds pointedly pleasant. JacobTV has called his modernist colleagues 'lifeless navel-gazers'. But JacobTV's harmonious music makes one realise that news has become infotainment. The News soundtrack pours forgotten emotions in your face. At high speed and non stop surprising. JacobTV successfully developed his own niche: virtuoso edited contemporary music theater, musically entertaining and mind-boggling.

OPERA MAGAZINE

A multimedia music theater show that holds a mirror in front of us. It shows a society that is addicted to an endless stream of news, as long as it does not get too close. That visual and auditive overdose makes the reality opera by JacobTV an extremely successful and topical production.

JAZZ FLITS

THE NEWS is a radical statement, controversial, shameless and moralising. Images and music are extremely fascinating, penetrating and confronting. THE NEWS is like a ride in roller coaster, leaving you confused and dazed after you've reached the end. While I watched and listened, my thoughts went back to an article in the Chicago Tribune of 1922: 'Moral disaster is coming to hundreds of young American girls through the pathological, nerve-irritating, sex-exciting music of jazz orchestras, according to the Illinois Vigilance Association.' A warning about the moral implications of jazz in those days. The work of JacobTV shows, 90 years on, a similar moral dimension. This is jazz that's invasive and intriguing to the bone.