

BIO - CV
NIILLAS HOLMBERG



Niillas Holmberg (b. 1990, Utsjoki) is a Saami poet, musician and scriptwriter. He has published six books of poetry and has been translated into more than ten languages.

As a musician he has worked as a vocalist, guitarist, composer and lyricist. He has performed with several internationally performing bands with genres ranging from World Music to Electronic. Nowadays he work with his band Guorga. Formerly Holmberg worked as an actor in theatre and TV.

For many years Holmberg has been involved in several movements against exploitation of nature, such as mining, in the traditional Saami areas. Environmental and cultural aspects are the core of his artistic expression and he is known as an upfront spokesman for Saami and indigenous rights.

Books:

Jalkapohja (Gummerus, 2019)
Juolgevuodđu (DAT, 2018)
Roadđi (Sivuvalo, 2016)
Oaidnaleapmai Čáhcesiellu (Dat, 2016)
The Way Back (FrancisBoutle, 2016)
Jos itseni pelastan itseltäni (Palladium kirjat 2015)
Dego livččen oaidnán iežan (Dat, 2009)

Music albums:

YLVA (Bone Voyage Recordings, 2016)
Assimilašuvdna blues (Tuupa Records, 2014)
Live in Riddu (Finito Bacalao Records, 2014)
Ima Hutkosat (Dat, 2011)

Awards:

Kirsi Kunnas Poetry Award 2020
Nomination for the Nordic Council's Literature Prize 2020, 2015
State Award for Publishing Information 2017
Sámi of the Year 2016
Lapland Art Prize 2015
Rajaseutuliitto's Honorary Award 2015
Premio Giovani Literature Prize 2015
Helmi Prize by Pohjolan Osuuspankki 2015
Saami Council's Literature Prize 2014
Kalevala Society's Young Artist's Prize 2011
Young Artist of the Year at Riddu Ridđu 2010

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2020

- Kirsi Kunnas Poetry Award 2020
- *Juolgevuodđu* nominated for the Nordic Literature Prize 2020
- *Modjegobit* music video. Music by Guorga, film by Katja Gauriloff.
- *Såle*, Norwegian translation of *Juolgevuodđu* poetry collection. Translation: Endre Ruset. Publisher: Dat.
- Yoik soloist on Lapland Chamber Orchestra's concert "Celestial Incantations", world premiere of *Kumollisuus* (Holmberg-Mäenpää). Conducted by John Storgårds.

2019

- Publication of *Jalkapohja* poetry collection. Gummerus Publisher
- Guest editor of Nuori Voima cultural magazine 4/19.
- First self-written play *Gutnagierdu* premieres at Giron Sámi Theatre.
- Poems on *A Greater Miracle of Perception*, a publication by the Miracle Workers collective.
- Poems on *Europoe* by the European Poetry Festival. Editor: Steven Fowler.
- Poems on *Worte verschwinden fliegen zum blauen Licht*, an anthology of Sami literature. Publisher: Samica.
- Communal art work Moratorium Office (www.moratoriadoaimmahat.org) in collaboration with Outi Pieski and Jenni Laiti, exhibitions at Venice Art Biennial, Mänttä Art Festival, Oulu Art Museum.
- Communal art work Rájacummá (Kisses from the Border) in collaboration with Outi Pieski and Jenni Laiti, opening at the Sami Center for Contemporary Arts.
- Moratorium Office featured on Kritiker magazine n. 52.

2018

- Publication of *Juolgevuodđu* -poetry collection. Publisher: DAT os.
- Publication of *Jalatald*, Estonian translation of *Juolgevuodđu*. Publisher: Allikaäärne.
- Publishing contract with Gummerus Publisher on *Jalkapohja*, Finnish translation of *Juolgevuodđu*.
- Communal art work Moratorium Office (www.moratoriadoaimmahat.org) with Outi Pieski and Jenni Laiti, exhibitions at Emma Art Museum and Artsi Art Museum.
- Environmental art exhibition Rájacummá with Outi Pieski and Jenni Laiti.
- Poems in Swedish in *10TAL - Kulturvrede*, Swedish literary magazine.
- A poem in Sámi in the zine of Suohpanterror

2017

- Publication of Poetry collection in German, *Der dem Wind auf dem Schoß sitzt*
- Poems in German in a poetry anthology: *Am Herzen Europas 10*. Publisher: Hochroth
- Poems in Swedish in *Provins* cultural magazine in Sweden.
- *Arkinen Odysssea*, Finnish National Theatre, actor-writer
- Texts to *Co2onial Nation*, playscripts for Giron Sámi Teahtr
- The State Award for Publishing Information
- Arctic Odyssey theatre documentary in the National Theatre of Finland. Role: Performer, writer.
- Establishing of Ellos Deatnu movement.
- Publication of one poem in *Ikäisekseen hyvin säilynyt - Satavuotiaan Suomen runoja* poem anthology.
- Sápmi Verddet musical production in Fest-Spillene i Nord-Norge music festival

2016

- The Sámi of the Year (In Finland)

- Publication of YLVA cd-album. Record label: Bone Voyage Recordings
- Publication of *Oaidnaleapmai, Čáhcesiellu* -poetry collection. Publishing house: Dat os.
- Publication of *The Way Back* -poetry collection. Publishing house: Francis Boutle Publishers.
- Publication of *Rummun Kalvo* (poem) in Ex Symposium magazine. Translation into Hungarian: Johanna Domokos
- Publication of Sano se saameksi, the web documentary on Saami languages. Role: translator.

2015

- *Tourist Season* art performance at Márkomeannu -festival.
- Poetry collection *Jos itseni pelastan itseltäni*. Publisher: Palladium Kirjat.
- Helmi cultural prize, awarded by Pohjolan Osuuspankki.
- Nomination for Nordic Council's literature prize.
- Premio Giovani literature prize, awarded by Premio Ostana.

2014

- Saami Council's literature prize for the poetry collection *Amas amas amasmuvvat*.
- Publication of *Assimilašuvdna blues* music video by Niillas Holmberg & Roope Mäenpää. Directed by Eetu Niininen.
- Supporting actor on Beavvváš Sámi national theatre's play *Gurut guvlui Heahtás*
- Publication of *Live in Riddu Riđđu* cd-album by Nordic Namgar.
- Publication of *Assimilašuvdna blues* cd-album by Niillas Holmberg & Roope Mäenpää.

2013

- The poem *Rummun kalvo* poem appears on Parnasso literary magazine.
- Publication of *Amas amas amasmuvvat* poetry collection. Published by Dat.
- Publication of *Giddajoga baldu* music video by Niillas Holmberg & Roope Mäenpää. Directed by Kevin Francett.
- The poem *Rimbauds eneste fot* poem appears in *Gruppe 13*, a Norwegian anthology. Edited by Karin Nygård, published by Korlan Forlag.
- Lader of the Sámi Grand Prix song contest jury.
- Member of the Sápmi Talent competition jury.
- Host of *Unna Junná* children's TV-show.

2012

- One of the artist on Staalon Kaato music project. Collaborations with 22-pistepirkko, Black Motor, Teho Majamäki, Andrew Ashimba ja Staalon Torvet. Produced by Pentti Luomakangas.
- Music for *Peltsin Lappi* TV-show. Produced by Yle.
- Main actor on *Pelle njoammil – Juovllas sáttomiellis* voice book. Produced by Davvi Girji os. Directed by Maret Alette Utsi.
- Musical performance on panel with Herta Müller and Liao Yiwun in Berlin.
- Host of *Unna Junná* children's TV-show.

2011

- A member on Riddu Riđđu festival delegation in Taimyr Arctic Festival in Dudinka.
- Kalevala Society's cultural prize.
- Publication of *Manin guottán girjji fárus* cd-album by Niillas Holmberg & Roope Mäenpää. Published by Tuupa Records.
- Host of *Unna Junná* children's TV-show.
- Publication of *Ima Hutkosat* children's cd-album. Produced by DAT os.

2010

- Member of the Sápmi Talent competition jury.
- Dubbing roles on *Beno ja Nigá* -animation. Directed by Sara-Margrethe Oskal. Produced by NRK Sápmi.
- 1st place in a poetry slam competition Oulussa M.A. Castrén's society's literature conference.
- The young artist of the year in Riddu Riđđu festival.
- Supporting actor on Beaivváš Sámi national theatre play *Allaq*.

2003-2009

- Publication of *Dego livččen oaidnán iežan* poetry collection. Produced by DAT, edited by Inger-Mari Aikio Arianaick.
- Supporting actor on a TV-show *Lopun Alku* . Produced by Making Movies Oy, directed by Heikki Kujanpää
- Numerous roles in *Unna Junná* children's TV-show, produced by Yle Sápmi.
- Leading role on *Pelle Njoammil* sound book. Produced by Davvi Girji os., directed by Sverre Porsanger.
- 1st place in the Sámi Grand Prix song competition with the group PopPoo.
- Supporting actor on *Májjá ja Sujujujjá* TV-show. Produced by NRK Sápmi, produced by Sverre Porsanger.
- Supporting actor on *Juovlaskálla* TV-show. Produced by NRK Sápmi, produced by Sverre Porsanger.