

## **TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT!**

### **An International Competition for Alternative Music Theater**

**The BERLINER OPERNPREIS (BERLIN  
OPERA PRIZE) Awarded by Neuköllner  
Oper Berlin and GASAG**



Hurray, we are heirs! A truly generous inheritance is just around the corner. The question is: who is actually up for which inheritance, who is seeking something out, who wants to receive something and who would rather prefer not to receive something during the reading of the will? The inheritance is enormous: over 400 years of music theater in Europe! What enriches and helps you as material in order to found and lead your company "NEW MUSIC THEATER"?

The BERLINER OPERNPREIS will provide the opportunity to produce a half-hour piece of music theater under the motto TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT! at the expenses of those presenting the prize with a world premiere production in Berlin.

To apply, you simply need to submit a concept for a new piece of music theater which combines your personal artistic signature with the coming to terms with the legacy you have decided upon which you will produce yourself or arrange to have produced in conjunction with the production conditions listed below.

The competition is open to composers and/or music theater teams based in Germany and the rest of Europe.

Neuköllner Oper stands for undogmatic music theater incorporating all genres, styles and cultures and looks forward to vital, cosmopolitan, skillful works open to all experiences with music as the central protagonist on stage.

## THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The competition consists of 3 steps:

### • STEP 1 - APPLICATION

1. You present a piece of music theater that you have created and already performed in the form of a description of the piece, the musical notation as well as audio and video recordings (in digital form or as a link, if possible).
2. You submit a concept on the topic TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT! in the sense described above. The concept will formulate, in detail a) The reasons for the acceptance of the legacy - that is: what is the value of the legacy and why and in which way you are "continuing" it and which clearly presents b) your new, half-hour piece of music theater based upon this. TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT! explicitly includes all genres of musical theater between Monteverdi and the Beatles, Zappa or clever musicals, that is, also including the field of pop culture. A possible focus could be placed on regional/national composers or works, another possible focus could be works that have been unfairly forgotten. The teams can consist of a maximum of seven members, meaning the production team and including performers/singers/musicians. You have the option of performing the work yourselves and/or members of your group of artists or to allow it be interpreted by artists from Neuköllner Oper. The central focus of your work should be the music which is performed live or sung as the central expressive medium of a theatrical work, meaning that exclusively electronic or pre-produced music as well as "static works" in the sense of a sound installation are thus excluded from the competition.
3. You send the CVs of all members involved in your group along with their corresponding contact information to Neuköllner Oper Berlin.

On the basis of the applications submitted, the jury will select up to six concepts for a presentation at Neuköllner Oper Berlin.

Application deadline: May 1, 2017

### • STEP 2 – PRESENTATION/WORKSHOP

**Presentation:** The selected teams will name up to two representatives who will present their project suggestions (concept, music, text) to the jury and the other participants in the context in a suitable and clear manner.

**Workshop:** You will discuss and refine your concept in conversation with the jury - presentation/workshop at Neuköllner Oper Berlin over the weekend of October 20 - 22, 2017.

### • STEP 3 – REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

The jury will select two finalists from the works presented. These finalists will be invited to finish their pieces in Berlin over the course of an approximately three-week rehearsal process. To do so, Neuköllner Oper Berlin will provide a production budget of up to 10,000 EUR per finalist, its technical infrastructure, technical and dramaturgical support, the production management and, if desired, the required artists. The distribution of the production budget will be decided mutually by Neuköllner Oper Berlin and the respective finalists. The world premiere performance will take place within a special framework (a prize winners' gala at a special location). During the gala, the works will be evaluated by the jury and awarded prizes. The subsequent performances will be held at Neuköllner Oper Berlin and will be part of the official schedule of programming. The performers will receive additional compensation for these performances. Technical and artistic aspects that cannot be handled independently by the ensemble must be jointly clarified with Neuköllner Oper Berlin in a timely manner.

The world premiere performance/awards gala as well as the additional performances are currently intended to be held in May 2018.

The application materials must be submitted in German or English and may need to be translated into German.

#### **THE JURY**

Thomas Desi – Festival Director, Musiktheatertage Wien (Music Theater Days Vienna)

Arash Safaian – Composer, Munich

Mária Szilágy – Festival Director, Budapest

Wiebke Roloff – Opernwelt

Andreas Altenhof – Leadership, Neuköllner Oper, Berlin

Bernhard Glocksinn – Artistic Director, Neuköllner Oper, Berlin

#### **Full of Energy for Berlin**

Our company is firmly connected with the capital so promoting the arts and culture is a matter close to our heart. Many years we have been cooperating closely with partners from the cultural scene in Berlin. We have thus been able to emphasize the positive aspects of cultural funding and empower projects that would not have taken place without us. Collaborations like the one with NEUKÖLLNER OPER are part of our corporate agenda and demonstrate our vital role as one of the oldest and most traditional Berlin companies. Uniqueness, entrepreneurial courage and persistence, developing ideas and initiatives plus sustainable value for everyone involved – these are generally the characteristics of any successful product. They are at the same time crucial features of any artistic work – and of the long-standing cultural commitment of GASAG.

Over the past 20 years the BERLINER OPERNPREIS has been awarded to Young Talents in Musical Theatre by our two institutions. We are very proud that this prize has over these years become a landmark not only in the cultural landscape of Berlin but also beyond. Please do help us to continue: Send us your ideas and concepts and be part of a success story!

MORE INFORMATION: Andreas Altenhof | [altenhof@neukoellneroper.de](mailto:altenhof@neukoellneroper.de) | +49 30 688907 12