

Press Release

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Worldwide Competition for New Opera and Music Theatre Announced

Music Theatre NOW 2015

The Music Theatre Committee of the International Theatre Institute (ITI) has announced the third call for entries for their competition 'Music Theatre NOW'. The main goal of this unique event, which is produced by the German centre of the world's largest organization for the performing arts, is to promote creative exchange among artists and presenters.

"From a strategic point of view, 'Music Theatre NOW' is an engine to push the concept and practice of music theatre to new frontiers", observed Danny Yung, renowned director and producer from Hong Kong and jury-member of the 2012 competition. Although more and more works are being produced around the globe, only a few producers have the opportunity to see work from abroad – as these kinds of performances do not travel much.

The competition is open to works which are new or have been staged for the first time after June 2012: operas and music theatre large and small, works made for large opera houses, or works created by a single person for tiny venues. Composers, librettists, publishers, conductors, stage directors and/or presenters are eligible to submit works - creators of visually innovative performances or dramatic works, which explore the notion of music theatre, are especially encouraged.

The international jury for Music Theatre NOW 2015 consists of Sara Joan Fang (music producer for Singapore's national performing arts centre 'Esplanade - Theatres on the Bay'), Guy Coolen (director of the production company 'Muziektheater Transparant' and artistic director of the international opera festival 'Operadagen' in Rotterdam), as well as Joseph V. Melillo (executive producer of the 'Brooklyn Academy of Music'), Ana Lara (Mexican composer and founder of the festival 'Música y Escena') and Brett Bailey (South African playwright, designer and director, who continues his commitment from the 2012 jury).

The competition was first held in 2008 and over 400 works were entered into the competition the last time it was held in 2012. This time the goal is to encourage more entries from outside Europe so that the pool of winners better reflects the diversity of music theatre being created today.

The 18 prize winners will be invited to a special meeting which will be held at the 'Operadagen', an annual performing arts festival in Rotterdam in May 2016. There the winning artists will present their works to an invited group of performing arts festival directors and presenters from all over the globe - giving the winners a unique opportunity to introduce themselves to important professionals in the field.

During this major networking event in the performing arts field selected works will receive invitations to perform at other events across the globe. Previous competition winners have been invited to Shanghai, Buenos Aires and Rotterdam.



Deadline for entries: 30th June 2015

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More information: www.mtnow.iti-germany.de