

This unique production competition offers young creative teams from all of Europe a production space and budget to produce their own piece of about 30 minutes running time – to be presented in a premiere gala event and performances at Neuköllner Oper.



BERLINER opernpreis 16
VON NEUKÖLLNER OPER UND GASAG
GAME OVER # GO ON

FOR A NEW DEFINITION OF OPERA

The BERLINER OPERNPREIS (Berlin Opera Award) stands for an enhanced musical theatre concept: from scenic-musical pieces of opera, operetta, and crossover, to performance, in short: theatre with a focus on music. The competition is therefore open to diverse means of composition and instruments.

FOR COLLECTIVES AND INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

Today, musical theatre is often developed in a collective creative process. We would like to support this aspect as a “social” one (meaning: created in a group). Hence, the BERLINER OPERNPREIS seeks to address not only individual composers, but also collectives like performance groups, bands, and production teams.

FOR A PASSIONATE MUSICAL THEATRE

We would like to see opera reflect society again, as it used to. Today, an individual more than ever before experiences her or his helplessness in the face of global turbulences. Individual room for action and responsibility are more appealing to us than the deployment of large choirs, the authentic is more interesting to us than any formal extreme following merely esthetical interests.

FOR A MUSICAL THEATRE WITH HUMAN PROPORTIONS

A musical theatre of the small, socially committed form constitutes an artistic as well as a social alternative to the majority of the pieces and their performance rituals celebrated today. More than any other house in the German-speaking landscape, Neuköllner Oper represents this approach.

THE BERLINER OPERNPREIS – AN AWARD FOR DOERS

It aims at young artists with stage experience (35 years of age max.), endowing each award winner with a production grant of up to 10,000 EUR and an award sum as well as a performance series at Neuköllner Oper. It is open to all genres of a musical theatre.

THE PROCEDURE

The competition consists of three steps:

• STEP 1 - APPLICATION

You submit

a) a piece/musical theatre in the sense described above that you already created, or, if applicable, parts of it – in the form of concept papers, notes, sound and image recordings (best digitalised or as a link).

The submitted piece should allow for an estimation as to whether you are able to create a performable and interesting work for the stage within the framework provided for the competition.

b) a detailed proposal for a piece in the sense described above of about 30 minutes about the topic Game over#Go on, which you yourself or members of your artist group shall perform or which shall be performed by artists of Neuköllner Oper. Teams may consist of up to seven people including the production team and performers/singers/musicians. Your work should focus on two aspects: live music (**played or sung**) as the central means of expression in a **scenic** work. Hence, exclusively electronic or pre-produced music as well as “static works” in the sense of sound installations are excluded.

c) On the basis of the contributions entered, the jury shall choose up to six concepts for presentation at Neuköllner Oper.

• STEP 2 - WORKSHOP

The selected teams decide on up to two representative who shall present their proposed projects (concept, music, and lyrics/text) to the jury in a comprehensive manner - from Powerpoint Presentation to performance. In addition, they shall receive in-depth insight into the working methods of Neuköllner Oper, its dramaturgy and preferences, and discuss the submitted concepts with the jury members.

Presentation/workshop at Neuköllner Oper are scheduled for the weekend of 2nd – 4th October 2015.

• STEP 3 – REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCES

From the presented works, the jury shall choose two award winners. These will be invited to complete their piece in a rehearsal process of about three weeks in Berlin. Neuköllner Oper will provide the technical infrastructure, competent and dramaturgical support as well as production management. Neuköllner Oper and the artists shall amicably agree upon the allocation of the production budget. The plays' premiere will be presented in a special event (award winners' gala). The following performances shall be at Neuköllner Oper as part of its season. For these performances, the artists shall receive additional compensation. Technical and artistic aspects that the ensemble is unable to manage themselves need to be clarified with Neuköllner Oper in a timely and amicable manner.

The premiere and awarding gala event as well as the performances shall prospectively be scheduled for May 2016.

Competition submissions must be entered in German or English language and need to be translated into German otherwise.

PLEASE SEND YOUR MATERIALS to:

Neuköllner Oper
Att. Berliner Opernpreis
Karl-Marx-Strasse 131
12043 Berlin
Or via email:
altenhof@neukoellneroper.de

THE JURY

Thomas Desi – Artistic director „Musiktheatertage Wien“
Arash Safaian – Composer, Munich
Mária Szilágy – Festival director, Budapest
Wiebke Roloff – Opernwelt
Andreas Altenhof – Board of Directors Neuköllner Oper, Berlin
Bernhard Glocksinn – Artistic Director Neuköllner Oper, Berlin

GASAG creates space for the arts (and for dreams) – as sponsor of the BERLINER OPERNPREIS

The BERLINER OPERNPREIS, mutually offered by GASAG and Neuköllner Oper since 1997, has become a constant in Berlin's cultural landscape and beyond as a supporting award in the musical theatre sector. Addressing composers and collectives from all German-speaking countries, it is internationally advertised and receives entries from all over the world. GASAG is a modern utility company with an eye on not only tomorrow's energy provision, but also mainly the sustainable development of our society. GASAG therefore supports numerous local initiatives from the areas of culture, sports, environment, and education and science. For GASAG, responsibility for coming generation is an important commitment. GASAG emphasizes this by sponsoring long-term collaboration projects and a strong focus on supporting the young generation. Other partners in the cultural sponsoring sector are: the ACADEMY school for stage art (since 2003), GRIPS Theater Berlin with „berliner kindertheaterpreis“ (“Berlin children's theatre award”; since 2005) and their „GRIPS Fieber“ project as well as the Berlinische Galerie with the „GASAG Kunstpreis“ (GASAG Art Award; since 2009). The BERLINER OPERNPREIS, which will be advertised in the coming years together with Neuköllner Oper as well, has been able to pave the difficult way from art school to public recognition for composers, and it will continue to play its part in building a forum for contemporary musical theatre. Please feel welcome to have a part in writing this success story! In this sense, we hope to receive many submissions, and we are looking forward to your entries.

NEUKÖLLNER OPER

More than 160 premieres and world premieres in all genres within only 35 years – Neuköllner Oper is a trademark for the concept of vital and passionate art that continues to deliver the experience: „opera“ is more than society celebrating the next reproduction of the known and limited repertory (occasionally increased by single commissions for new works). Neuköllner Oper offers a completely different experience: you can make musical theatre yourself and use it as an immediate, lively, and

direct exchange of life and everyday experiences and of topics and questions that are personally and socially relevant. In a word: opera does not mean reproducing or answering the same old questions/plays again and again, but inventing and exchanging new content of your own via music and theatre. Again, this kind of theatre is unique and a trendsetter within Berlin's and Germany's opera and theatre landscape that is so rich in forms, institutions, and funding. Naturally, the hunger for the new (material and talent) prevails in such a house, and Neuköllner Oper therefore focusses its commitment on projects that aim at furthering form and content in musical theatre and at the invention of new genres.