

OPERA LAB BERLIN presents

SALES OF A DEADMAN

MUSIC THEATER | WORLD PREMIERE

Fri 24.2.2023, 20:00 | Sat 25.2.2023, 20:00

Only a suitcase remains of the most famous salesman in theater history.

Our story picks up where Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman* left off: after the suicidal car crash and subsequent funeral, everyone is still out to make money. This version of purgatory is all about selling, as death has now also become part of the vicious economic cycle. It is now a marketplace where the human being has been transformed into a commodity with their stories, relationships and memories all just waiting to be bought and sold.

With this world premiere, the experimental music theater collective **Opera Lab Berlin** presents the current state of the art of contemporary music theater once again. In the leading role, the brilliant soprano Gina May Walter sings a dialogue with the various instruments, which turn out to be objects with unexpected functions and equally unexpected sounds. **A contemporary response to the classic by Arthur Miller** as a critique of consumption between this world and the realm of the dead!

A co-production by Opera Lab Berlin and English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center

Soprano: Gina May Walter | Tenor Saxophone: Inés González | Paetzold Recorder: Marita Gehrler | Trombone and Tuba: Jack Adler-McKean | Composed by Evan Gardner | Directed by Daniel Brunet | Stage and Costume Design by Hannah Beeck | Lighting Design and Video by Christian Maith | Video Art by Samuel Puccini | Sound Design by Tadklimp | Makeup by Martin Rink | Communication and Production by Kirsten Voss Petersen | Key Visual by Ksenia Yanko

The music theater ensemble Opera Lab Berlin is a hybrid collective that represents all the links in the creative chain, thereby forming the foundation for their work. Our artists come from a variety of branches in the creative industry: musicians, actors, composers, directors, choreographers, set and costume designers, light designers and dramaturgs - together they are united by the desire to create **unique music theater experiences**. All lab members strive to dare challenging boundaries and always explore new perspectives. As such, the virtuoso skills of all expands in each project. At Opera Lab Berlin, there is an equal principle between music and theater, between sounds and movement that **interact and create a whole**. Since its founding in 2013, the collective has staged over **30 independent productions**, with compositions by over **40 different contemporary composers** and over **18 different directors**.

The core of the ensemble has now grown to over **30 members**.



Gina May Walter is a director, singer and performance artist equally at home on and off stage. Whether in classical operatic roles such as Frau Fluth in *Die Lustigen Weiber von Windsor* (Nicolai) or Elektra in *Idomeneo* (Mozart), in more classical contemporary works such as the solo soprano in Micha Tangain's *In Absentia* (premiered at the Tischlerei of the Deutsche Oper Berlin) or in the wholly contemporary children's opera *Kuck kuck im Koffer*, Mathias Kaul (*Junge Deutsche Oper*) - her operatic stage craft and presence are undeniable.

She transfers these skills to other stages as well, touring with her song partner Kunal Lahiry or her extensive work with music theater groups of Berlin's independent scene, such as gamut inc. (this is not a swan song, R.U.R. - Eine Roboteroper), Manos Tsangaris (*Winzig*), or with her home ensemble Opera Lab Berlin.

English Theatre Berlin | IPAC is supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Europe.

Presseinformation

Some of her memorable roles, Dolly Parton in Gunfighter Nation (Gardner), PT Barnum Humbug(Lang), Soprano 1 in Stimmung (Stockhausen) - a fully choreographed version in which she danced and sang harmonics simultaneously. Opera Lab Berlin was the obvious partner for her 2022 directorial debut with HUM-AN Orchestra at Theater im Delphi, a reinterpretation of Kagel's two-man orchestra for the non-binary, digital age. On digital platforms, Gina also has an intersectional feminist podcast, The Vagitators. Along with her co-host Mathilde Monge, also known as Barnaby Alive, she explores the pitfalls of absolute female power. This theme is a common thread throughout Gina's work and informs her current commissions, a new project on Barbara Strozzi, a revival of the operetta Magna Mater with Tutti d'amore - and everything else she has in store for the future.

<https://www.ginamaywalter.com/>

"Gina May Walter ist ein grandioses Multitalent zwischen Jazz-Blues, Koloratur und avantgardistischem Stimmenspiel." (Neues Deutschland)

"... doch es ist Gina May Walter als Frau Fluth, die von der ersten Minute mit einer unvergleichlichen Bühnenpräsenz und einem brillanten Sopran glänzt und bei der jede noch so virtuose Koloratur wie ein Kinderspiel wirkt." (Der Tagesspiegel)



Evan Gardner began his composition studies at Oberlin Conservatory with Randolph Coleman and Pauline Oliveros in 1996. He later studied at the Norwegian State Academy of Music with Henrik Hellstenius and Olav Anton Thommessen (2003-2005).

His piece for orchestra, "Lights Out" (2006), was selected as a finalist for Gaudeamus prize in the 2006 Gaudeamus Music Week. Active also in collaborative artistic projects, he composed the original music for the Norwegian short film "Sniffer," winner of the 2006 Palme d'Or for Best Short Film at the Cannes Film Festival. In 2012, Evan was one of three winners of the Deutsche Oper Berlin's composition prize, "Neue Szenen." In 2014 he and

stage director Michael Höppner founded Opera Lab Berlin, a collective for experimental music theatre that can already boast of several successful productions. His music has been performed by Klangforum Wien, Ensemble Intercontemporain, The Netherlands Radio Kamer Filharmonie, the Norwegian Radio Orchestra, Ensemble Ernst, The Norwegian Wind Ensemble, Neue Vocalsolisten Stuttgart, The Bergen Philharmonic Orchestra, JACK Quartet, Arditti Quartet, Ensemble Contrechamps, Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop, Ensemble Mosaik, Zafraan Ensemble, Boulanger Trio, the Hamburger Symphoniker and Opera Lab Berlin.)<https://www.evanguardner.com/about>



Daniel Brunet is a director, performer, producer and translator. He was born in Syracuse, New York in 1979 and received a BA in theater arts and film studies from Boston College. He moved to Berlin in 2001 with the support of a Fulbright Scholarship. He became Producing Artistic Director of English Theatre Berlin | International Performing Arts Center in 2012. Daniel Brunet has received multiple awards for his play translations. He was a guest director and instructor for German drama at the New School University in New York City in 2017. Brunet has served as the speaker for the performing arts within the Speakers' Circle of the Coalition of the Independent Arts and as a co-opted board member of LAFT – Landesverband freie darstellende Künste Berlin e.V.

since the end of 2018.

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