

Worldwide Competition for New Opera and Music Theatre Announced

The International Theatre Institute (ITI) has published the second 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 organisation for the performing arts, is to promote exchange in among artists and presenters. „The world of opera and music theatre is exploding“, observed Laura Berman, project director, „more and more works are being produced around the globe. But only a few producers have the opportunity to see work from abroad – and this kind of performance does not travel very much.“

First productions of new works, which were realized anywhere in the world since January 1, 2008 may be entered. Composers, librettists, publishers, conductors, stage directors and/or presenters are invited to participate. A jury made up of internationally renowned theatre makers from five continents will select a total of eighteen works. Operas and music theatre large and small, works made for large opera houses, or works created by a single person for tiny venues can be entered. ITI especially encourages the creators of aesthetically innovative performance or dramatic works, which explore the notion of music theatre, to submit.

When the competition was first held in 2008, ITI received 200 applications from 30 countries. This time the goal is to receive more entries from outside Europe so that the pool of winners 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 Swedish Biennial, an international performing arts festival in Jönköping in May 2013. There the selected artists will have the opportunity to present their work to a professional audience in the form of lectures. Winners also have the chance to receive invitations for guest performances. Partner institutions, such as the Shanghai Dramatic Arts Centre, China's largest theatre, plan to give awards as part of the event. Music Theatre NOW offers a unique opportunity in this area of the performing arts.

The entry deadline is July 25.

More information can be found on the webpage: www.mtnow.iti-germany.de