

Awet Terterjan

The Earthquake

Libretto: Gerta Stecher and Awet Terterjan

World Premiere: Theater am Gärtnerplatz, Munich / Germany, March 16, 2003

Music Direction: Ekkehard Klemm

Stage Direction: Claus Guth

Stage and Costume Design: Christian Schmidt

Video: Alex Buresch and Kai Ehlers

Lighting: Georg Boeshenz

Synopsis

The story line – related by the two protagonists, SHE and HIM, a few soloists, and a choir – builds upon a freely-adapted version of Kleist's novella *The Earthquake of Chile*: The daughter of a nobleman is put in a monastery to hinder all contact with her lover, the household's private teacher. Just the same, the two lovers manage to come together in the monastery garden. As a result of this, she is sentenced to death; he plans to take his life in prison. Shortly before the execution both are freed by way of an earthquake, and they meet once again before the gates of the destroyed city. Intending to take part in a religious service and thank god for their miraculous rescue, they enter the city's half-ruined cathedral. Here the lovers are recognized, labeled responsible for the catastrophe, and the mob kills them.

Awet Terterjan

born 1929 in Baku / Aserbajdschan, died 1994 in Ekaterinburg / Russia

Awet Terterjan studied composition in Baku, at the Romanos Melikian Music School, and at the Jerewan Conservatory. From 1960 to 1963 he was executive secretary for the Armenian Composers' Association and served as its vice president from 1963 to 1965. As chairman, he directed the music department of Armenia's Ministry for Culture from 1970 to 1974. Beginning 1985 Terterjan worked as a professor at the conservatory. In 1993 and 1994 he headed the master class at the Ural Conservatory in Jekaterinburg. In 1994 he spent six months as a grant recipient at Wiepersdorf Castle in Brandenburg.

Awet Terterjan died in Jekaterinburg on December 11, 1994.

His works reveal a deeply affinity to the Near Asian cultural circle, which he combined with techniques of the western avant-garde.

Claus Guth

born 1964 in Frankfurt, Germany

Claus Guth studied German, philosophy, theater and stage direction. He came to specialize in contemporary music theater: alongside other productions, he has staged works by J. Müller-Wieland, Hiller's *Ljob*, *Kepler's Dream* by G. Battistelli, Febel's *Morel's Invention*, Bhagwati's *Macht Masse Mensch*, and Henze's *El Cimárron*. Claus Guth was likewise responsible for numerous world premieres such as *Prima ... Ins Innere* by Czernowin, Oehring's *Blauwalddorf*, *The Earthquake* by A. Terterjan, and *Schwarzerde* by Klaus Huber. He often devotes himself to great and well-known works of opera such as Gluck's *Iphigénie en Traurid*, completed for the Salzburger Festspiele; *The Flying Dutchman* by Richard Wagner, his debut in Bayreuth, and scheduled for 2005 in Basel, Rossini's *The Barber of Seville*.