

# INTERNATIONALES THEATERINSTITUT

Zentrum Deutschland

Press Release

Federal Republic of Germany Centre of the International Theatre Institute / Die Theater Chemnitz / The Festival Academy, Brussels / Kulturhauptstadt Europas Chemnitz 2025 GmbH

## 2026: FESTIVAL THEATER DER WELT IN CHEMNITZ

Germany's largest international theatre festival, THEATER DER WELT, will be held in Chemnitz in 2026. On Tuesday, on the occasion of their visit to THEATER DER WELT 2023 in Frankfurt and Offenbach, Claudia Roth, the Minister of State for Culture, and ITI President Yvonne Büdenhölzer entrusted the festival to Christoph Dittrich, the artistic director of Theater Chemnitz, and to Dagmar Ruscheinsky, the Chemnitz Mayor for Culture.

"With THEATER DER WELT, an internationally renowned event on the theatre scene is coming to Chemnitz. THEATER DER WELT stands for diversity and openness, for a wide range of influences and forms of expression – all of which can enrich not just the performing arts, but also social cooperation. In 2006, THEATER DER WELT will be able to access the networks and infrastructure that Chemnitz is building up as European Capital of Culture 2025. Chemnitz will thus be able to bring new life into the festival, just as the festival will bring new life into Chemnitz. I wish the team in Chemnitz all the best," said Minister of State for Culture Claudia Roth.

The awarding of this 17th edition to Saxony was accepted unanimously by the Board of Directors of the International Theatre Institute – German Centre following a call for applications.

"The concept put forward by Die Theater Chemnitz, Chemnitz 2025 European Capital of Culture and The Festival Academy in Brussels sustainably and convincingly combines national and global cultural management and curation resources. At last, the Board of Directors is awarding the Festival to an East German city," as Yvonne Büdenhölzer, the President of the German ITI Centre, explained the decision.

Die Theater Chemnitz, The Festival Academy in Brussels and Chemnitz 2025 European Capital of Culture will together be responsible for the festival and its organisation. For the first time in the history of THEATER DER WELT, a municipal theatre including all five performing art forms will be managing applications together with an internationally-renowned cultural management organisation from Belgium and with the extra support of the infrastructure connected to a Capital of Culture.

The artistic directors of the festival, which include Christoph Dittrich, general manager of Die Theater Chemnitz, Inge Ceustermans, general director of the NGO The Festival Academy Brussels and Stefan Schmidtke, programme director of Kulturhauptstadt Europas Chemnitz 2025 GmbH, are preparing to set up and bring together an international team of curators. The team of curators, who will be taken from all continents, will be responsible for the contents and artistic design of the programme.

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International Theatre Institute –  
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Partnership, equal rights, sustainability, interdisciplinarity and digitality form the basis of the construction and constellation of this team, which will act together both on the national and international levels. The overall management sees itself as a "global, artistic and organisational team".

The Festival Academy Brussels is part of the cultural capacity building mentioned in the Bid Book II of Chemnitz 2025 European Capital of Culture. This kind of capital of culture initiative already tends to have enduring international and regional effects before the year in which the city is Capital of Culture, and well beyond it.

After Hamburg 2017, Düsseldorf 2021 and Offenbach-Frankfurt 2023, the festival is now coming to Chemnitz – and will be returning to Saxony once more exactly 30 years after its 1996 edition in Dresden.

## QUOTES

### CHEMNITZ

Christoph Dittrich, Artistic Director of Die Theater Chemnitz:

"Life in the city of Chemnitz is full of intense expectations – the multifaceted transformation it is currently undergoing is palpable day in, day out. With this international festival, people in the city and Theater Chemnitz are gaining a whole new dimension in terms of the experiences that Capital of Culture 2025 will open up for them. We look forward to a wide-ranging programme of international art that can open up our worldview with creative power while at the same time strengthening a new, self-confident regional identity."

Barbara Klepsch, Saxony Minister of State for Culture and Tourism:

"I am delighted that, for the second time in its history, Saxony will be hosting Germany's most important international festival for theatrical art. This is a recognition of the many years of successful work carried out by one of the largest German municipal theatre operations, Die Theater Chemnitz, and it constitutes a great success for Chemnitz's developing reputation as Capital of Culture. The festival also shows how Chemnitz will remain a Capital of Culture far beyond the year 2025."

Mayor Sven Schulze:

"The people of Chemnitz are hospitable and open-minded. We are proud to be able to welcome artists from all over the world to our city in 2026. The developments that have been sparked by the process of becoming a Capital of Culture appear to be enduring. We can see that this work on cultural development is paying dividends through the recognition that it has generated. We are looking forward to an excellent theatre festival."

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## FRANKFURT-OFFENBACH

Anselm Weber, Artistic Director and Manager, Co-Artistic Director of THEATER DER WELT 2023:

"We congratulate Chemnitz and are delighted that the organisers of THEATER DER WELT 2026 are continuing to keep alive the cooperative spirit that has defined the current edition of the festival in Frankfurt and Offenbach. THEATER DER WELT 2023 is carried by the synergies that have emerged through the collaboration between Schauspiel Frankfurt, the Künstler\*innenhaus Mousonturm production house, the Museum Angewandte Kunst and the Office for Cultural Management of the City of Offenbach am Main. A new, forward-looking model has been found for Chemnitz."

Anna Wagner, Artistic Director of Künstler\*innenhaus Mousonturm:

"With Chiaki Soma, the programme of THEATER DER WELT 2023 has been entrusted to a non-European curator for the first time. We are currently experiencing first hand how enriching and exciting this change of perspective can be. THEATER DER WELT 2026 in Chemnitz follows on from our initiative to internationalise the curation of the festival, and will expand it with even more perspectives. I think that this is a further important step in the development of this famous theatre festival."

Dr. Ralph Philipp Ziegler, Director of the Office for Cultural Management of Offenbach am Main:

"When the whole world comes to visit, you can only win. For our little big city of Offenbach, working in partnership with its larger neighbouring city of Frankfurt, THEATER DER WELT is proving to be an incomparable festival. With the medium-sized structures and nevertheless strong urban feel that characterise Offenbach just as much as Chemnitz, this festival can radiate a great sense of adventure and convey a powerful vibrancy both inwards and outwards. Its clarity and genuine internationality can react to each other wonderfully; we were able to experience all this with THEATER DER WELT 2023."

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