

# INTERNATIONALES THEATERINSTITUT

Zentrum Deutschland

PRESS RELEASE

13 July 2021, Berlin

## **Monika Grütters presented the Federal Theatre Prize 2021**

Eleven theatres were presented with the Federal Theatre Prize by the Minister of State for Culture, Prof. Monika Grütters, on 08 July 2021. The prize is endowed with €75,000 each. The award ceremony took place at the Akademie der Künste, Berlin, together with the prize-winners, guests from the worlds of culture and politics and representatives of the theatre associations, and was also streamed live via a video platform.

This year, the award was given to theatres that have managed to stay in contact with the urban society despite all adversities. Out of eleven theatres, the prize went to seven independent theatre and production houses.

As in previous years, the International Theatre Institute (ITI) was responsible for the preparation and implementation of the Federal Theatre Prize, which was awarded for the fourth time. The realisation was carried out in close coordination with the responsible department for music and performing arts (K22) of the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

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HochX Theater und Live Art, München  
Jahrmarkttheater, Altenmedingen  
LOT-Theater, Braunschweig,  
Das Papiertheater, Riegsee/Murnau am Staffelsee,  
Salzlandtheater Straßfurt,  
Schlosstheater Moers,  
Theater G7, Mannheim,  
Theater an der Glocksee, Hannover,  
Theater an der Ruhr, Mülheim,  
WUK Theater Quartier, Halle  
and  
Wuppertaler Bühnen und Sinfonieorchester

have convinced the jury with their outstanding artistic programme.

The circle of the jury was formed by

**Elisabeth Bode: Director of Theaterwerkstatt Pilkentafel, Flensburg**

**Marie Bues: Director, Artistic Director Theater Rampe, Stuttgart**

**Sophie Diesselhorst: Theatre critic, nachtkritik.de**

**Roland H. Dippel: Theatre Critic, Die Deutsche Bühne**

**Dorte Lena Eilers: Theatre Critic, chief editor Theater der Zeit**

**Mazlum Nergiz: Author, Dramaturge**

**Dorothee Starke: President INTHEGA**

The detailed [statement of reasons](#) for the election can be read on the ITI website.

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To kick off the award ceremony, a greeting from Kathrin Röggl, Vice-President of the Academy of Arts in Berlin, which reached the audience in a digital version.

"Theatre," Röggl said, "may have dissolved its boundaries. Is digital and post-digital, transcending space. A place of transformation. But it always has a concrete anchor: The space on site." In her speech, Kathrin Röggl described the theatre as a place where dialogues with visitors continue, as a place of encounter and pleasure. She expressed her gratitude for the commitment of the theatres and praised and praised the recognition by the Federal Theatre Prize. She also mentioned the very challenging situation caused by the pandemic for all theatres.

"No screen experience replaces a communal experience," said Prof. Monika Grütters in her speech on the 2021 Federal Theatre Prize. "What remains of theatre when distance prevents dialogue, when speaking to each other is regulated in metres and decibels?

And what remains of a democratic culture of debate when dialogues, when conversations and conflicts are only perceived as life-threatening aerosol emissions? Nothing!" The quote taken from the speech of the Minister of State for Culture points once again to the difficulties and impossibilities for theatre institutions as well as the still existing threat of further closures due to the pandemic. Monika Grütters calls "surviving" and at the same time remaining in dialogue with the public in times of the Corona pandemic a "real feat". A "proof" of the social relevance of a cultural institution like the theatre.

At the same time, many innovative formats have emerged out of necessity. "And not only in the digital space, but also for the conquest of the urban space as a stage."

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Minister of State for Culture, Monika Grütters, offered the [Federal Theatre Prize](#) for the first time in 2015, and since then it has been realised every two years in cooperation with the ITI Centre Germany. Artistic and cultural policy issues that particularly affect the work of municipal, state and guest theatres as well as independent venues in small and medium-sized cities are discussed at a symposium that accompanies the award ceremony.

With the title [#dialograumtheater](#) - "Theatre as social spaces for social dialogue", actors from dance and theatre discussed new orientations for theatres in the wake of the pandemic, representatives from education, church, media, economy and science discussed new orientations for theatres due to the pandemic.

This hybrid event took place in a presentable form in the plenary hall of the Akademie der Künste at Pariser Platz in Berlin. The offer to participate digitally in the event was made possible by the Akademie der Künste and an external streaming service provider. The recordings of the symposium and the award ceremony can be accessed via the [ITI website](#).

[Akademie der Künste Berlin](#) (ADK)

[Deutsches Zentrum des Internationalen Theaterinstituts](#) (ITI)

**Deutsches Zentrum des Internationalen Theaterinstituts (ITI)**

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