

South African Opera and Globalization (1994-2022)

The online symposium and workshop is dedicated to the developments of the opera market in South Africa since democratisation, with a special focus on globalisation. It follows up on the symposium *South African Opera Productions after the Apartheid* at the University of Bayreuth in 2018.

In recent decades, not only have opera singers and directors made careers as individuals outside South Africa, but entire opera productions and concert formats have also toured successfully in the Global West. From a structural point of view the following questions are open to discussion: What new trends are emerging in consequence of the pandemic? Have digital formats changed the market in South Africa and outside South Africa? Are opera singers and opera companies now even more reliant than before on performing outside South Africa as cultural funding has dried up, or is this trend diminishing? And what role do universities play today as performance venues for opera in South Africa?

Notwithstanding the above the international opera industry has been going through numerous transformation processes (institutionally and aesthetically) for some years now due to the #BlackLivesMatter movement. Are these processes comparable to South Africa or do we find other thematic focuses and motivations for transformation in South Africa? Is Blackness also being renegotiated in South Africa through the #BlackLivesMatter movement? Have issues of democracy become even more prominent in opera productions in recent years? How is South African identity recently being negotiated in South African operas?

The online symposium aims to address these and other questions as a space for exchange and it invites scholars to reflect together on current processes. There will be the opportunity for presentations, in-put-presentations panel-discussion.

Special invitations will be extended to papers dedicated to the following aspects:

- South Africans institutional history of opera production
- South Africans independent opera scene and its opera production in the last decade
- Universities as opera performance venues
- working situation of South African opera singers
- consequences for the South African opera market through the pandemic
- consequences to the aesthetics of South African compositions and stagings through the pandemic
- new opera compositions in South Africa since 2012
- South Africa and #BlackLivesMatter - movement

As a Kick-off to the symposium and workshop you are invited to a hybrid event with South African choreographer Jessica Nupen. She will present her Dance|Rap|Opera *The Nose* (2021). Based on a short story by Nikolai Gogol, the current political and societal situation in South Africa is addressed. The questions under discussion are: Which position can opera take up in South African society? What influence can artistic production exert globally on postcolonial discourses? Additionally, the fascinating process of transformation of media in the production, which was developed during the pandemic and evolved from a live production to a film and then a hybrid installation, will be analysed based on substantial archival film footage. We will discuss how this process of transformation influences the aesthetic and the genre. To receive the Zoom-link, please sign up for the event by contacting

noemie.felber@musik.unibe.ch.

Please send abstracts (max. 2000 characters) for a 10-minute in-put presentation or 20-minute lecture or panel discussion within the thematic framework of the workshop, as well as a short vita (max. 500 characters) including contact details by 20th April 2022 by email to Prof. Dr. Lena van der Hoven (lena.vanderhoven@unibe.ch). Contributions from the humanities and social sciences (music, media, theatre and cultural studies) are equally welcome. Young academics are strongly encouraged to apply. The selected speakers will be notified by 25th April 2022 and the conference programme will be published online at <http://www.badw.de/veranstaltungen.html> and https://www.musik.unibe.ch/index_ger.html. An honorarium will be paid to the selected speakers. The symposium will take place online on May 13, 2022 and is hosted by the Bavarian Academy of Social Sciences and Humanities (Germany).