

## ERSAN MONDTAG

DIRECTOR, DESIGNER, VISUAL ARTIST

### **‘Completely crude, truly ingenious, and absolutely cutting edge’**

*rbb24 reviews Antikrist at Deutsche Oper Berlin*

Director Ersan Mondtag has one of the most distinctive theatrical visions of recent generations, which he brings to life through stunning set and costume designs. In recent years he has successfully transferred these artistic sensibilities to opera, breaking new ground in the possibilities of the form and winning critical acclaim.

By the age of 30 Mondtag was winning awards in all three creative areas: in 2016 he won Theater Heute’s Young Director of the Year; and in 2017 they named him Costume Designer of the Year and Deutsche Bühne selected him as Set Designer of the Year. He was most recently awarded the prestigious Berliner Zeitung Culture Award.

He has been invited to the prestigious Berlin Theatertreffen festival four times: In 2025, Mondtag's production of Sam Max’s *Double Serpent* was selected to be performed at the festival, and2 received its world premiere at Staatstheater Wiesbaden in September 2024. Previous invitations include *Das Internat* in 2019, winning the festival’s 3sat-Award; *Die Vernichtung* in 2017, with regular collaborator Olga Bach; and *Tyrannis* in 2016.

Mondtag made his opera debut in 2020 with Schreker’s *Der Schmied von Gent* for Opera Vlaanderen in Antwerp and Ghent, a co-production with Nationaltheater Mannheim. The following season he returned to Opera Vlaanderen to direct *Der Silbersee*, co-produced with Opéra national de Lorraine. His production of Langgaard’s *Antikrist* opened at Deutsche Oper Berlin and was recently released on DVD. Other highlights include his productions of *Gianni Schicchi & L’heure espagnole* at Teatro dell’Opera di Roma, *Toto oder Vielen Dank für das Leben* at Burgtheater, *La forza del destino* (Opéra de Lyon) and *Salome* (Opera Vlaanderen).

Current plans include debuts and returns to Maxim Gorki Theater, Residenztheater, Berliner Ensemble, Burgtheater and Wiener Staatsoper, among others.

Mondtag recently designed the German Pavilion for La Biennale d’Arte di Venezia: an ‘unclassifiable piece that can be read as a wretched, furious monument (the New Yorker); and the ‘most out-there national pavilion at the 60th Venice Biennale’ (ART News). This work was recently developed into a new exhibition called *ASBEST* at König Gallery.