

ULRICH RASCHE

DIRECTOR

'THIS SALZBURG PRODUCTION HAS THE BEST CHANCE OF BECOMING THE REFERENCE POINT IN THE PERFORMANCE HISTORY OF MARIA STUARDA'

concerti.de, Maria Stuarda, Salzburger Festspiele

Director Ulrich Rasche is renowned for powerful opera and theatre productions that use perpetual movement and intense lighting to create visceral experiences for the audience. He has made a speciality of Ancient Greek theatre, most recently with *Agamemnon*, a co-production between the Athens Epidaurus Festival and the Munich Residenztheater (2022), and Sophocles' *Oedipus* at the Deutsches Theater in 2021, as well as *Sieben gegen Theben / Antigone* by Aeschylus and Sophocles (2017), and Aeschylus' *Die Perser*, with which he made his debut at the Salzburg Festival in 2018. In 2025 he opens, the Athen Epidaurus Festival with a new production of Sophocles' *Antigone*.

In recent years, Rasche has brought this understanding of Greek theatre, and of the essence of the Chorus as music and rhythm, to opera, making his opera debut at the Grand Théâtre de Genève with *Elektra* in 2022. Classical music has always run through his theatrical work, with projects such as the choral piece *Singing!* (2011) and *Die Entführung aus dem Serail, A Monologue after Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart* at the Sophiensælen. He directed a production of Bach's *Johannes-Passion* for the Staatsoper Stuttgart, in 2023. In 2025 he returns to the Salzburg Festival for a new production of Donizetti's *Maria Stuarda*.

He is a regular visitor to the major theatres of the German speaking world. Recent work includes invitations to Berlin's Theatertreffen in three consecutive years, with *Die Räuber* (Residenztheater 2017), Büchner's *Woyzeck* (Theater Basel, Residenztheater 2018) and *Das große Heft* (Staatsschauspiel Dresden 2019) and he opened the 2019 season at Vienna's Burgtheater with *Die Bakchen*. He returned to Salzburger Festspiele with *Nathan der Weise* in 2023 and directed a new production of *Waiting for Godot* at Schauspielhaus Bochum in 2024.

Born near Wuppertal, Rasche was inspired from a young age by Pina Bausch. He studied art history and comparative literature and was a scholarship holder at Robert Wilson's Watermill Center. He began his career in 2002 with Harold Pinter's *Betrayal* at the Sophiensælen and directed plays such as *The Waves* (2007) and Oscar Wilde's *Salome* (2009) at Staatstheater Stuttgart.

His artistic vision has been recognised with awards including the Berlin Art Prize for Performing Arts in 2013 and stage designer of the year for *Die Räuber* in 2017, voted by the critics of Theater

MAESTRO_{ARTS}

Heute. He received the NESTROY Prize for Best German-Language Performance for Schiller's *Die Räuber* (Residenztheater Munich) in 2017 and in 2018 for *Die Perser*, a co-production of Schauspiel Frankfurt and Salzburger Festspiele. He won Best Set Designer with his design for Strauss' *Elektra* at the OPER! Awards in 2023 and the 2023 Hein-Heckroth-Bühnenbildpreis.