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## **“Experimental Peking Opera – The Ring of the Nibelung”**

### **A German-Chinese co-production celebrates its world premiere at Berlin’s radialsystem on December 20, 2019**

Media Release | Berlin, November 20, 2019

**December 20, 2019 sees the premiere of a special cultural bridge between China and Germany: the world premiere of the German-Chinese co-production “Experimental Peking Opera – The Ring of the Nibelung” at radialsystem V in Berlin. The German stage director Anna Peschke and her Chinese colleague Wang Huquan have developed a fascinating dialogue of cultures involving a completely new theatrical language.**

This example of intercultural collaboration between German artists and members of the famous China National Peking Opera Company (CNPOC) is based on an interdisciplinary concept. The team of directors, Anna Peschke and Wang Huquan, have developed a new libretto. The New Music composer Aziza Sadikova and the Peking Opera composer Qiu Xiaobo have created music for a 12-piece ensemble which combines traditional European and Chinese instruments. On stage, the stylized codes of the Peking Opera and contemporary musical theatre enter into an open dialogue.

Tradition meets contemporariness: the myth provides a template to discuss timeless and topical issues. Telling the tale of Richard Wagner’s “The Ring of the Nibelung” in a German-Chinese co-production through the dramatic means of Peking Opera is particularly fascinating to director Anna Peschke: *“Peking Opera has outstanding aesthetic elements. In addition to the familiar fare of European opera – singing, recitatives and drama – it includes dance, acrobatics, martial arts and pantomime. The advantage – and the aesthetic challenge – for European viewers is that because the artistic means are unfamiliar, they cannot immediately fall into habitual patterns of interpretation. This opens new perspectives onto familiar tales, and new interpretations become possible.”*

In musical terms, the piece also offers new perspectives. The composer Aziza Sadikova has chosen a highly experimental approach, using special *“instrumental techniques and unusually resonant combinations of European and Chinese instruments, including some extraordinary ones, for example a box of glass shards, psaltery, glass harmonica and stones.”* The performer of the role of Wotan, Lui Dake, is intrigued by this project: *“To us as Peking Opera performers, it is a fascinating challenge to translate the language of Wagner, which is so deeply rooted in European culture, into the language of Master Mei Lan Fang, who was essential for the development of the artistic idiom of Peking Opera.”*

The performances take place as part of the celebrations of the 25-year anniversary of the city partnership between Berlin and Beijing. Michael Müller, the Mayor of Berlin, emphasizes the importance of this project in the exchange between China and Germany: *“The production ‘Experimental Peking Opera – The Ring of the Nibelung’ is a special gift commemorating 25 years of partnership between Beijing and Berlin. The opera builds a cultural bridge between our two capital cities. Mutual understanding is the foundation for encounter and development in all social areas. Therefore, this dialogue is ground-breaking for the future of our partnership.”*

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The world premiere of “Experimental Peking Opera – The Ring of the Nibelung” takes place on December 20, 2019 at 8 pm. The piece is approximately 2.5 hours in duration. Repeat performances take place on December 21 and 22, 2019 at 8 pm at the radialsystem in Berlin. Tickets are available immediately for 18/28/36 Euros (reduced price: 14 Euros) via [www.radialsystem.de](http://www.radialsystem.de) and all known ticket sales points.

The production will be shown on **April 12, 2020** at 8 pm at the main auditorium of **Hamburg’s Elbphilharmonie** as part of the Easter Festival “Silk Road”.

We would be grateful if you could report on these performances in your medium. We would be happy to accept your requests for **accreditation** until **December 6, 2019**; please email [presse@yecl.de](mailto:presse@yecl.de) or call +49 30 88 47 13 913.

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Please also save the date of the **press conference**:

**Thursday, December 19, 2019, 10.30 am**  
**at radialsystem**, Holzmarktstraße 33, 10243 Berlin

Together with moderator Dr. Gabriele Minz, the stage director Anna Peschke and the Vice President of CNPOC, Zhang Yafeng, will illuminate the background of the production. Artists of the German-Chinese ensemble will be available for individual interviews and photographs.

Please register for the press conference by emailing [presse@yecl.de](mailto:presse@yecl.de) or calling +49 30 88 47 13 913.

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The project is a co-production of the China National Peking Opera Company and the Deutscher Freundeskreis europäischer Jugendorchester (DFK e.V.), implemented by the Dr. Gabriele Minz GmbH as part of the 25-year anniversary of the city partnership between Berlin and Beijing, supported by funding from the Lotto Foundation Berlin and the German Foreign Ministry.

For further information, please consult: <https://minzgmbh.de/projekte/ring-pekings-oper/>

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**We would be happy to provide further information and photographs or arrange interviews for you.**

**Press Contact:** Katharina Baumann, [katharina.baumann@minzgmbh.de](mailto:katharina.baumann@minzgmbh.de), Tel. +49 30 88 47 13 913.