

Claus Guth, director

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Claus Guth was born in Frankfurt am Main and studied philosophy, German studies, and theatre studies at the Ludwig Maximilian University, as well as theatre and opera directing at the University of Music in Munich. Since 1990, Guth has worked as a freelance director, focusing primarily on music theatre.

His Mozart productions at the Salzburg Festival—particularly the Da Ponte cycle—attracted international attention. Claus Guth has worked at major international opera houses, including La Scala in Milan, the Royal Opera House Covent Garden, the Vienna State Opera, Zurich Opera House, the Berlin State Opera Unter den Linden, the Bavarian State Opera, the Bayreuth Festival, the Metropolitan Opera, the Park Avenue Armory, the Opéra National de Paris, Dutch National Opera in Amsterdam, Teatro Real in Madrid, the Glyndebourne Festival, Teatro San Carlo, the Bolshoi Theatre, and the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence.

For his productions of *Pelléas et Mélisande* and *Daphne* at Oper Frankfurt, he was awarded the prestigious FAUST Prize. In addition, his staging of *Jenůfa* at the Royal Opera House received the 2022 Olivier Award for Best Production, and *Bluthaus* at the Bavarian State Opera received Austria's 2022 Music Theatre Prize for Best International Production. In 2023 he was honored with the Oper! Award for Best Direction. In November 2025 he received the International Opera Award as Director of the Year. In 2026 he won the Austrian Music Theatre Prize as "best director" for the production *Bluebeard's Castle* and *La Voix Humaine* at Tiroler Festspiele Erl.

Guth's expertise in staging the operas of Richard Wagner deserves special mention. His remarkable productions include *Lohengrin* at La Scala in Milan, *Tannhäuser* at the Vienna State Opera, *Tristan und Isolde* at Zurich Opera House, and the *Ring des Nibelungen* at the Hamburg State Opera.

He has directed a number of world premieres, such as *Berenice* by Michael Jarrell at the Opéra National de Paris, *Violetter Schnee* by Beat Furrer (Berlin State Opera Unter den Linden), *Lullaby Experience* by Pascal Dusapin (Frankfurt LAB), *Heart Chamber* by Chaya Czernowin (Deutsche Oper Berlin), Czernowin's *Pnima, Ins Innere* (Munich Biennale), Peter Ruzicka's *Celan* (Semperoper Dresden), *Bluthaus* by Georg Friedrich Haas (Bavarian State Opera), *Il Viaggio, Dante* by Pascal Dusapin (Festival d'Aix-en-Provence) and *Of One Blood* (world premiere by composer Brett Dean) at Bayerische Staatsoper.

Beyond this, Claus Guth has repeatedly developed original concepts and projects outside the traditional opera repertoire, including his collaborations with composer Helmut Oehring (*Unsichtbar Land, Aschemond*), *Samson*, a Rameau pasticcio created with conductor Raphaël Pichon, the Schubert project *Doppelgänger* at the Park Avenue Armory in New York with Jonas Kaufmann, and, not least, the musical *Cabaret* at the Residenztheater in Munich.