

Christian Schmidt



Christian Schmidt (*1966) is a German stage and costume designer. He studied stage design at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and at the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna. He has been collaborating closely with director Claus Guth.

Alongside Claus Guth, he produced “Iphigénie en Tauride” (Iphigenia in Tauris) at the Salzburg Festival as well as Wagner’s “Der fliegende Holländer” (The Flying Dutchman) for the Bayreuth Opera Festival and for the ‘Staatstheater am Gärtnerplatz’ in Munich. Other projects were “Der Wildschütz” (The Poacher) by Albert Lortzings, “Der Revisor” (The Government Inspector) by Werner Egks, and Richard Wagner’s early work “Das Liebesverbot” (The Ban on Love).

He also designed sets for La Scala in Milan for the productions of “Die Frau ohne Schatten” (The Woman Without A Shadow) and “Lohengrin”, at the Opéra Nationale in Paris for “Rigoletto”, the Vienna Festival Week in 2005, the Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona for “Parsifal”, the Zurich Opera House (such as “Tristan & Isolde” (Tristan and Iseult), “Ariane et Barbe-Bleue” (Ariadne and Bluebeard) and “Ariadne auf Naxos” (Ariadne on Naxos), the State Opera at the Schiller Theater Berlin for “The Turn of the Screw”, the Frankfurt Opera House (such as “Der Rosenkavalier” (The Knight of the Rose) and “Daphne”), and the Theater an der Wien (among others, the “Messiah”, “Lazarus” and a Monteverdi cycle).

At the Munich Biennale and at the Semper Opera in Dresden, he created the entire original stage and costume design for world premieres of operas by the composers Giorgio Battistelli, Chaya Czernowin, Johannes Maria Staud, and Peter Ruzicka.

For director Hans Neuenfels, he designed the set for Mozart’s “Die Entführung aus dem Serail” (The Abduction from the Seraglio), which won the “Production of the Year” award in 1998. Theater critics voted Christian Schmidt *Theater heute* magazine’s “Stage Designer of the Year 2003”. In 2005, he received the “Costume Designer of the Year” award. In 2006, he won the Rolf Mares Award for his stage design for Simon Boccanegra at the Hamburg State Opera.

In 2017, Christian Schmidt and Tatyana van Walsum co-created the stage design for Aida at the Salzburg Festival. He worked with Hans Neuenfels at the Zurich Opera House, with Christof Loy at the Municipal Theater Vienna, and with Andreas Homoki at the Komische Oper Berlin. He created the stage design and costumes for “Rodelinda” at the Teatro Real in Madrid and “La clemenza di Tito” (The Clemency of Titus) at the Glyndebourne Festival. He collaborated with director Evgeny Titov on a production of “Hexenjagd” (The Crucible) at the Municipal Theater Düsseldorf.

Most recently, he resumed his collaboration with director Guth on “Khovanshchina” at the State Opera House ‘Unter den Linden’ in Berlin, and worked with director Amélie Niermeyer at the Munich Festival at the National Theater Munich on a production of “Othello”.