

# MARKUS KUPFERBLUM

Theater and Opera Director, Playwright, Performer, Mask Expert, Drama and Directing Teacher

Author of *The Birth of Curiosity – Commedia Dell'Arte as a Revolutionary Instrument*, *Facultas Verlag*, (German) and *The Beauty of Helena - A Guide to the Art of Acting*, *Verlag Der Apfel*, (English)

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## ARTISTIC WORK as an Opera and Theater Director

Markus Kupferblum directed more than 100 plays and operas in Vienna, Paris, London, St. Petersburg, New York, Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Beirut, Lima, and many other cities; he worked e.g. with Renald Deppe, Günther Groissböck, Alexandra Reinprecht, Adrian Eröd, Katharina Stemberger, Jos Houben, Martin Grubinger, Patrick Corillon, Lahav Shani.

He stages lyric operas, experimental theater, and sight specific productions. He is an expert in mask theater, commedia dell'arte, and comedy.

### His LATEST PRODUCTIONS are i.a.:

- *Filomena Maturano* by Eduardo de Fillipo, Porcia Comedy Festival, Austria, 2024
- *End of the World* Music Theater by Jura Soyfer, Porcia Comedy Festival, Austria, 2023
- *Loopino*, an entire music theatre cycle for children in 5 parts at the *Philharmonie Luxembourg*, 2019/2020
- *La Vie Parisienne* by Jacques Offenbach at the *Lehár Festival Bad Ischl*, Austria, 2019
- *Summer Friends* by Elisabeth Naske the world premiere of an opera about refugees, *Niederösterreichisches Tonkünstlerorchester*, Vienna, Austria, 2019
- *Bottoms Dream*, with Alex Kremer and Gershon Waiserfeier, *Shakespeare Festival*, Tel Aviv, Israel, 2017
- *Venus on Broadway*, Music by Kurt Weill, Vienna, Austria, 2015
- *The Emperor of Atlantis* by Viktor Ullman, *Klangforum Wien*, New York City and Vienna, Austria, 2013
- *Answer to a never written letter*, by M. Kupferblum about his father, *AKKO Festival*, Israel and Vienna, Austria, 2010

### His work received numerous AWARDS, e.g.:

- 2019 *Best Operetta Award* ("Operettenfrosch"), Bavarian National Radio Station, for *Cloclo* (F. Lehár)
- 2013 *Best Play*, Ministry of Culture Vienna, for *The Emperor of Atlantis* (V. Ullmann)
- 2007 *Nestroy Award*, City of Vienna, for *The Abandoned Dido* (equivalent to the *Tony Award*)
- 1993 *1. Prix d'humour*, Festival of Avignon, for *Les Moustaches de la Reine*
- 1992 *Coup de Coeur*, Festival of Avignon, for *Peer Gynt* (H. Ibsen)

## UNIVERSITY TEACHING

Markus Kupferblum is a tenured Senior Lecturer for Opera Directing at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Austria.

He was visiting professor at

- *Rutgers University*, NJ, in 2018,
- *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI, in 2007 and 2010,
- and at *South Eastern Louisiana University*, LA in 1995.

He teaches workshops and lectures on commedia dell'arte, comedy, directing and acting as well as European cultural history at numerous universities and art schools, e.g. at

- *Max Reinhardt Lecture*, Schloss Leopoldskron, Salzburg, Austria
- *Mahindra Institute for Humanities*, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- *Hunter College* (CUNY), New York City, NY
- *New England Conservatory*, Boston, MA
- *Barnard College* (Columbia University), New York City, NY
- Opera Department of *Yale University*, New Haven, CT
- *Hochschule für Musik und Darstellende Kunst*, Frankfurt, Germany
- *August Everding Academy*, Munich, Germany
- *Bezalel School* in Jerusalem, Israel

## EDUCATION

1995	Intensive Film Studies, SCE, <i>New York University</i> , NYC
1986	Acting, <i>University of Music and Performing Arts</i> , Vienna
1985	Completed the first section in Law and Sociology, <i>University of Vienna</i> , Austria (the equivalent of a BA degree)
1982 and 1983	Studies of Sound Engineering for musicians at the <i>University of Music and Performing Arts</i> , Vienna
1972 to 1982	Studies of Violin with Prof. Berey (Conservatory of Vienna)

In his artistic education, he completed masterclasses on acting, directing, clown, pantomime, commedia dell'arte and Balinese mask theater (topeng) with *Philippe Gaulier*, *Monika Pagneux*, *Carlo Boso*, *Wayan Tangguh* and *Willi Gansch*.

He worked as an assistant to *Antoine Vitez*, *Verena Weiss*, and *Achim Freyer*.

## PUBLICATIONS

Besides his prolific work as a dramatist (plays and libretti), he publishes i.a. in journals, newspapers, anthologies and exhibition catalogs, e.g.

- *Harlequin and Columbine* in “Ready for the stage”, Jean Arp Museum, Germany, 2016 (German)
- *The Impact of Music Theater, Gift*, Austria, 2013 (German)
- *Questions on Music Theater, Atelier Edition*, Austria, 2012 (German)
- *300 years Carlo Goldoni*, Radio Feature for the NDR, German Radio, 2007 (German)
- *Las perspectivas dramáticas de la ópera contemporánea, Doce Notas*, Spain, 2004 (Spanish)
- *Writing Rituals, Edition Splitter*, Austria, 2004 (German)
- *Ria naked*, about *Adriane auf Naxos*, Triton Edition, Austria, 2002 (German)

## COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Founder of the *European Theater Day of Tolerance*

Member of the *International P.E.N. Club*

Jury Member of the *I.E.T.M. Meeting* of the UNESCO in Munich 2018

Member of the *Committee of the New Circus Art*, Ministry of Culture of Austria

Founder of *Totales Theater Vienna* and *Total Théâtre Paris*

*Artistic Director of Theater am Mittersteig*

Member of the *Board of Viennese Opera Companies*

Markus Kupferblum is an Austrian Citizen and holds a **Green Card** of the USA.

He is fluent in German (native), English, French, Spanish and Italian