

Opera Intendant Bernd Loebe to run Oper Frankfurt until 2023

At a meeting last Monday, April 28th 2014, the supervisory board of the Städtische Bühnen Frankfurt GmbH recommended unanimously extending Bernd Loebe's contract as Opera Director and General Manager of Oper Frankfurt to August 31st 2023. Professor Dr. Felix Semmelroth, Chairman of the Board, was instructed, in agreement with the participating heads of department, to conclude an appropriate contract with the Opera Intendant and Managing Director. In view of the high international reputation and continuing success of Oper Frankfurt with audiences and the press and many years of top quality performances Bernd Loebe should continue to steer the fortunes of Oper Frankfurt as Intendant and General Manager of the Städtische Bühnen Frankfurt GmbH in the future. The Board is committed to the artistic profile of Oper Frankfurt and intends, with this decision, to consciously oppose and prevent offers from other houses to Frankfurt's Intendant.

Bernd Loebe was born in 1952 in Frankfurt am Main, where he studied law and continued piano lessons after leaving school. He was a regular contributor to the music sections of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, *Neue Musikzeitung* and *Opernwelt* magazine from 1975 to 1980. He also worked freelance at the Hessische Rundfunk (radio) under Leo Karl Gerhartz. In 1979 he joined the music department of the Hessische Rundfunk where he ended up running all programmes about, and creating several successful and popular series connected with, opera – including an early morning programme called *Musik vor dem Alltag*. He also reported on various festivals, including Bayreuth and Salzburg, for the company. In November 1990 Bernd Loebe joined the Théâtre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels as Artistic Director. Since then he has been a regular member of juries at international singing competitions, including those in Gütersloh, Barcelona and Busseto. During the 1999 Bayreuth Festival he worked with the director Keith Warner and conductor Antonio Pappano on a production of Wagner's *Lohengrin*. He worked advising Paolo Carignani, former General Music Director in Frankfurt, from September 2000 before taking over as Intendant of Oper Frankfurt on September 1st 2002. After Bernd Loebe's first season Oper Frankfurt was voted „Opera House of the Year 2003“ by critics of *Opernwelt* magazine and in subsequent years the house continued to be judged by this specialist magazine as one of the very best. The Deutsche Bühnenverein awarded three DER FAUST prizes in the category „Opera Direction“ for productions in Frankfurt: *Così fan tutte* by Christof Loy (2008), *Daphne* by Claus Guth (2010) and *Pelléas et Mélisande* by Claus Guth (2013). Oper Frankfurt was also voted „Best Opera Company“ of 2013 at the International Opera Awards. On November 11th 2005 the City of Frankfurt extended Bernd Loebe's contract to 2013. On April 21st 2009 it was extended again to 2015 with an option for a further three years. This option was taken up in September 2012, confirming that he would remain Intendant until 2018. Bernd Loebe has been Vice President of the Deutsche Akademie der Darstellenden Künste (German Academy of the Performing Arts) since March 2009. He was elected Chairman of the Deutsche Opernkonzferenz in June 2010. In April 2013 it was decided that he remain in this post for a further three years.



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Foto: Maik Scharfscheer