Premiere
ZAIDE
German Singspiel in 2 acts, unfinished (1779/80)
Text by Johann Andreas Schachtner
World Premiere 1866, Opera House, Frankfurt.
Augmented by excerpts from Mozart's music for the play: *Thamos, King of Egypt* (1773)
Sung in German with German surtitles

Conductor: George Petrou
Director: David Hermann
Set Designer Jo Schramm
Costume Designer: Sibylle Wallum
Lighting Designer: Joachim Klein
Dramaturge: Mareike Wink

Zaide: Karolina Bengtsson
Gomatz: Michael Porter
Soliman: Peter Marsh
Allazim: Aleksander Myrling
Osmin: Pete Thanapat

Frankfurter Opern- und Museumsorchester

With generous support from the Frankfurt Patronatsverein – Sektion Oper

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791) was going through a period of radical upheaval when he started writing his Singspiel *Zaide* in 1779. It's far more than just a trial run for *Entführung aus dem Serail* as it marked a turning point, with Mozart putting the frustrating set-up in Salzburg behind him and becoming artistically independent. In this „serious German Singspiel" Mozart combined things „Turkish", very en vogue at the time, with a psychologically sensitive exploration of the human soul in the spirit of Enlightenment. As the world inherited an unfinished work, without an overture, ending abruptly after a failed attempt to escape by the protagonists, it offers plenty of scope for interpretation. **David Hermann**'s production highlights its darker facets by combining it with excerpts from Mozart's incidental music for the play *Thamos, King of Egypt*, evoking associations to constraints in place around the world today.

The plot: The slave girl Zaide and Gomatz fall in love while being held prisoner by cruel Sultan Soliman. They attempt to escape with Allazim, but are caught and brought before the furious despot. Threatened with the death sentence, Allazim begs that the lovers be pardoned. There Mozart's manuscript ends: Will Soliman exact revenge or be magnanimous and forgive?

This season's first New Production in the Bockenheimer Depot is led by **George Petrou**. This Greek conductor made his debut at Oper Frankfurt in November 2024 with George Frideric Handel's *Partenope*. He is artistic director of the International Handel Festival in Göttingen and the Armonia Atenea Orchester in Athens. His success has been acknowledged by many awards (including an Echo Klassik for Opera Recording of the Year for Handel's *Tamerlano*), nominations (including for a 2018 Grammy for Handel's *Ottone*) and prize-winning recordings for leading labels (Deutsche Gramophon, DECCA, MDG etc). He recently conducted a New Production of Rossini's *Tancredi* at Cologne Opera and *Deidamia* at the Handel Festival in Halle. **David Hermann** is back in Frankfurt to direct, following on from his very impressive staging of Alberic Magnard's *Guercœur*, for which set designer **Jo Schramm** was voted "Best Set Designer" at the 2026 Oper! Awards. The season's 2nd New Production is cast entirely by **Members of Oper Frankfurt's Ensemble**. The Swedish soprano **Karolina Bengtsson** is *Zaide*. Her roles for the company have included Fiordiligi (*Così fan tutte*), Anna (*Blühen*), Sophie (*Werther*), Pamina / Papagena (*Die Zauberflöte*) and Silvia (*Ascanio in Alba*). **Michael Porter** sings the role of Gomatz and **Peter Marsh** is Sultan Soliman. Two bass-baritones, Norwegian born **Aleksander Myrling** (Allazim), who made his house debut as Angelotti (*Tosca*), and **Pete Thanapat** (Osmin), joined the Ensemble last season, and round up the cast for Mozart's Singspiel *Zaide*.

Premiere: Wednesday September 30th 2026, at 18hrs in the Bockenheimer Depot

Weitere Vorstellungen: October 3rd, 7th, 9th 11th (15.30hrs), 14th, 16th, 18th (18hrs) 2026
Falls nicht anders angegeben, beginnen diese Vorstellungen um 19 Uhr.

Tickets cost: € 45 to € 80 (with a 12.5% pre-booking fee when not purchased direct from the theatre)

Tickets can be obtained from the usual outlets, by telephone +49 (0)69 – 212 49 49 4 or online www.oper-frankfurt.de.

We do hope you might be able to publish this event. For further information, ordering photographs and reserving press tickets please contact Holger Engelhardt (Leitung Pressereferat) on +49 (0)69 – 212 46 727. His fax number is +49 (0)69 – 212 37 164 or you can email him on holger.engelhardt@buehnen-frankfurt.de.