

Biography Isabella Gregor

Director



She was born in Vienna, to musical parents. Her father, Karl Osterreicher, was a renowned conductor and Professor at the University for Music and Performing Arts, Vienna. Her mother, Linda Wetzelsberger, was an opera singer.

She was educated in Vienna and achieved an International Bacalaureat. She studied ballet and piano from the age of seven to eighteen, and later languages and economics before going on to study acting at the Reinhardt-Seminar (with Susi Nicoletti) and singing at the University for Music and Performing Arts, Vienna. Additional training included workshops with American acting teachers Lola Braxton, Sherry Franklin, Suzan Batson, John Costopoulos and George Tabori.

Her work as a director began in the mid 90s. She was trained as a director at the Opera House in Zurich with David Pountney, Peter Mussbach, Christoph von Dohnanyi and her cousin Franz Welser-Moest. She was assistant to the directors for Wozzeck/A.Berg and Simplicius/J.Strauss and then was switching to directing operas, operettas and musicals.

She was also the artistic director for the Summer Festival in Gmunden, Austria from 1999 to 2001 where she directed plays of Arthur Schnitzler, and was the artistic director for the Ferdinand Raimund Summer Festival from 2013 to 2015.

Operas directed:

„The Magic Flute“ by W.A. Mozart, „Cavalleria Rusticana“ by P. Mascagni, „Pagliacci“ by R. Leoncavallo at the Oper Klosterneuburg, and the world premiere of the concert-theatre „Calculus“ composed by Werner Schulze, at the Opera House in Zurich.

She is currently preparing:

„La Traviata“ by Giuseppe Verdi

Operettas and Musicals directed:

„The Rose of Stambul“ and „The Merry Farmer“ by Leo Fall, „Boccaccio“ by Franz von Suppé, „Orpheus in the Underworld“ by Jacques Offenbach „The White Horse Inn“ by Ralph Benatzky, „Fireworks“ by Paul Burkhard and „The Merry Widow“ by Franz Lehár at the Operetta Festival

Herbsttage Blindenmarkt; „A Night in Venice“ by Johann Strauß at the Volkstheatre Rostock, Germany - winner of the audience award for the best production 2019.

„Daphnis and Chloe“ and „Bagatelle“ by Jacques Offenbach at the MUK.theatre Vienna.

At the Lehár Festival Bad Ischl she directed „The Bird-seller“ by Carl Zeller and a very successful „My Fair Lady“ by Frederick Loewe; at Bühne Baden she directed „The Beggar Student“ by Carl Millöcker, „Paganini“ by Franz Lehár and at the Tyrolian Festival Erl "Tonight: Lola Blau" by Georg Kreisler. This production include invitations to the Opera House Graz, Public Theatre Vienna, Music-Summer-Korneuburg, and to the Theatre Trier, Germany. „Dreamboat wanted!“ – a musical show she produced and directed in Vienna.

She is currently preparing:

„The White Horse Inn“ by Ralph Benatzky

Stage Plays directed:

the German theatrical premiere of „An Immaculate Misconception“ by Carl Djerassi at the Jugendstil Theatre in Vienna, the first German theatrical premiere of „Oxygen“ by Roald Hoffmann and Carl Djerassi in Wuerzburg - Germany, at the Mainfranken Theatre, which was nominated for the theatre award of South Germany. She also directed „IT“ by Karl Schönherr at the Landestheatre Innsbruck, „Kopenhagen“ by Michael Frayn in Munich, the world premiere of „Kanari“ by Klaus Pohl in Vienna, which was broadcast on TV Austria, Germany and Switzerland. „Lulu“ by Frank Wedekind in Linz, „Torquato Tasso“ by J.W. von Goethe in St. Gallen – Switzerland, „An Immaculate Misconception“ again for the SRT in Singapore as well as „Oxygen“ in Italy, both in English; „Monsieur Chasse“ a play by George Feydeau in Vienna, followed by „Junk Space“ a play by the Austrian writer Kathrin Röggla, the German theatrical premiere of „Ego“ by Carl Djerassi in her adapted version at the Landestheatre St. Pölten (Lower Austria); „The Squanderer“ by Ferdinand Raimund at the Raimund Festival and the world premiere of „miscalculated!“ by Carl Djerassi and herself in Vienna.

She was invited to perform various guest performances in Halle an der Saale, Leverkusen, Cologne, Munich and in various locations in Berlin such as the Ruins of the Charite and Urania, at the Festival of Bad Hersfeld- Germany, the Hofburg Vienna, Museum of Applied Arts, Museum Albertina, Art-History Museum, Schönberg Center Vienna. She has done „Calculus“ by Carl Djerassi several times as very successful staged-rehearsed readings in Vienna, the Leibniz-Hall of the Academie of Sciences in Berlin and the Semperopera in Dresden and „Four Jews on Parnassus“ by Carl Djerassi in her adapted versions at the Jewish Museum San Francisco, at Stanford University and at the ACF London.

She is currently working on:

Betrayal by Harold Pinter

Her first engagements as an actress were in various theatres in Austria, Germany and Switzerland including: Burgtheatre Vienna, Salzburg Festival, Theatre Graz, Klagenfurt, Volksbuehne Berlin, Schauspiel Frankfurt, Residenztheatre Munich, Staatsschauspiel Stuttgart, Nationaltheatre Weimar, Neumarkt Theatre Zurich etc. And she has worked in television films and soaps.