

ADRIANA ALTARAS - BIOGRAPHY

Adriana Altaras was born in Zagreb (Croatia) and grew up in Italy and Germany. After graduating from High School she studied at Berlin's Academy of Performing Arts (Hochschule der Kuenste Berlin/UdK) and completed her studies at the New York University. Ms. Altaras co-founded Berlin's famous off-stage Theater zum Westlichen Stadthirschen, and worked there as actress, director, and script writer for several years. Her performances include DER FROSCH (Achternbusch), NIGHTS OF CABIRIA (after Fellini's Le Notti di Cabiria), CLARA S. (Jelinek), A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM (Shakespeare), and the first German performance of Leona Carrington's PENELOPE. Furthermore, Adriana Altaras performed at the Maxim-Gorki-Theater and the Freie Volksbühne in Berlin, and at municipal theaters in Basel, Constance, and Stuttgart. For her first self-written piece, JONTEFF, Ms. Altaras performed on stages in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Brazil. Ms. Altaras began her directing career with a production of FRAU PARKER KANN NICHT SCHLAFEN, followed by Donizetti's L'ELISIR D'AMORE and two baroque operas, LA SORELLA AMANTE (Hasse), and TOM JONES (Philidor) at the Neukoellner Oper Berlin. She was resident director at Berlin's Maxim-Gorki-Theater between 2002 and 2004, where she staged her own plays JUD SAUER and SORROW TO GO as well as two pieces by other authors, VAETERCHEN FROST and DAMEN DER GESELLSCHAFT. SORROW TO GO, which world premiered in 2004, was inspired by the then heated debate surrounding the construction of the Holocaust Memorial in Berlin, and treats how the German people approaches its past. From 2006 to 2008, Ms. Altaras was director in residence at Potsdam's Hans Otto Theater, where she staged HOUSE AND GARDEN (Ayckbourne), JULIA TIMOSCHENKO (Altaras), DER FALL JAHNKE (Altaras) and Johann Strauss' DIE FLEDERMAUS. Her pioneering work with hyperactive children in HY'POP, migrants in UNIKATE, and Alzheimer patients in HAPPY HOUR received much attention, as did her staging of the VAGINA MONOLOGUES with various guest appearances. Apart from these very particular theater projects, Adriana Altaras has been increasingly active as an operetta and opera director. Her productions of THE BARBER OF SEVILLE (ROSSINI), ZAR AND CARPENTER, (LORZING) COMEDIAN HARMONISTS, THE MERRY WIDOW (LEHAR), PRINCE METHUSALEM (STRAUSS) and, most recently, CENERENTOLA (ROSSINI), FIDDLER ON THE ROOF and TOSKA were shown in Augsburg, Aachen, Dresden, Meiningen, Osnabrück, Linz and Kassel. Her numerous contributions to screen and tv productions include appearances in DORADO ONE WAY, DER PHILOSOPH, SIEBEN FRAUEN, DAS KONDOM DES GRAUENS und LOVE IS AROUND as well as LIEBLING KREUZBERG, SIEBENSTEIN, TOP COPS, WOLFFS REVIER, TATORT, SCHIMANSKI, GESETZ DER SERIE, APOCALYPSO, HAPPY BIRTHDAY, PARADISO, KALT IST DER ABENDHAUCH, ROT UND BLAU, DER PUPPENGRÄBER and GESCHLECHT WEIBLICH, ALLES AUF ZUCKER, MEIN FÜHRER, SCHLIEMANN UND SOPHIA, PRINZ EDOUARD, MAX MINSKY UND ICH, DER VOLLIDIOT, THE COUNTESS (Julie Delpy) and KDD - Kriminaldauerdienst, DER GEWALTFRIEDEN, EIN SOMMER IN MARRAKESCH, BLOCH, NACHTSCHICHT, DANNI LOWINSKI, MORDKOMMISSION ISTANBUL ,KOMMISSAR MARTHALER, JOSEPHINE KLICK and NACHTFRAUEN. Moreover, Ms. Altaras taught Musical at Berlin's Academy of Performing Arts (Hochschule der Kuenste Berlin), she worked as an interviewer for the Shoa Foundation, and was the Artistic Director at the Jewish Culture Days (Juedische Kulturtage) 2002 BERLIN OPEN. Ms. Altaras was honored with the German Movie Award in 1988, the Northrhine Westfalia Drama Prize in 1993, and received the Silver Bear Award at the Berlin Film Festival in 2000 as member of the cast of Rudolf Thome's PARADISO. Her first book was published in March 2011: TITOS BRILLE, die Geschichte meiner strapaziösen Familie (TITO'S GLASSES, the story of my strenuous family), followed 2014 by DOITSCHA. The documentary movie made after her first book and bearing the same title, TITOS BRILLE, was released in December 2014. Since October 2014, Adriana Altaras writes regularly about politics, society, literature and her personal life for the new writers' platform ZEIT ONLINE "Freitext - Feld für literarisches Denken", to be found at www.zeit.de/freitext.