



## REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2023 – 2024

Having overcome the pandemic years, we looked with hope and optimism to the coming time. But the scene had changed. A lot of people did not go to living theatre, still being afraid of any kind of infection or having changed their ways of interest and information to the means of media, to TV in general or streaming productions. It took several months until theatre buildings ceased to be half-empty. On the other side, during springtime and summer, numerous open-air-performances (partly semi-professional) are taking place, financial covered by cities and countries (Vienna, Lower Austria ...) and in general without entrance fee (except of course “Star-Events” with thousands of visitors and other performances not organized by cities or countries). The intention of the paying side seems: bring the different forms of art to all levels of audience. It also results in the meaning, that cultural performances are or should be free. A crucial situation for professional organizers, who must pay for space and room, for light and sound, for scenery and costumes and the persons who handle all until the artists are on scene, who also need to earn their living. The future will tell us if a new and broader audience is keen on the arts and especially on good performances.

But during this period of looking to future developments another situation has raised, and this is of course the financial basic side: The enormous cost of Electricity and Gas which must be reserved from private and institutional side before starting to organize living or planning productions or performances. Nothing new, I know, but I had to write it down to show the background of activities. In the year of 2023 the Austrian iTi still “performed”, in the first six month of 2024 the Austrian iTi gave money not to artists but for Electricity and Gas, hoping that the next halve year allows to prefer artists.

I want to thank our iTi-Member-Organizations and individual members for their support to enable the existence of iTi-Austria. The Government of Austria has helped during The Covid-Period as it did for all NGO-Organizations. The support for the artistic side of our Institution is since 2011 still an open question.

Our activities were reduced, but still sometimes surprising when, for example, a journalist from the USA asked for information about the iTi in general and wanted us to send him the iTi Newsletters. He gets them. Informing and helping with contacts is ongoing usual. Another field are the questions of touring groups from different countries and continents who seek for performing possibilities, which always includes diverse questions to find the appropriate dimensions. A larger project seems to be “The

African Dream” which reached us by the Committee for ASEAN Youth Cooperation. Austria should start the European tour of “The African Dream”.

In our last report I mentioned some exhibitions, one of them; THEATER-BILDER, with several artists participating. During the last two year three single-exhibitions followed in the premises of our iTi-member, the Society for Music Theatre, again picturing theatre by the art of painting.

From our productions a few examples to give an impression of diversity.

THOMS BERNHARD – Theater ist ein Hybrid und nicht Prosa  
Analysis of the brilliance of the Austrian authors writing  
Univ. Prof. Dr. Hilde Haider-Pregler  
23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013

EIN SOMMERNACHTSTRAUM  
By William Shakespeare and Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy  
Peter Raffalt – Speaker  
Suyan Kim and Paul Rivinius - Piano  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2023

HANDKE – Peter Handke: Ein Meister der Sprache  
Helga Illich and Helmut Wiesner – actors  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2023

BALLADEN-ABEND  
Works from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Heinrich Heine, Conrad Ferdinand Meyer,  
Eduard Mörike, Friedrich Schiller and Carl Loewe  
Compositions of Franz Schubert, Clara Schumann, Robert Schumann and Hugo Wolf  
18<sup>th</sup> November 2023

ÖDÖN VON HORVÁTH  
With Gabriela Hütter, Helga Illich, Helmut Wiesner – Reading  
23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023

Austria is a small country but with hundreds of years existing theatrical tradition:  
In all parts of Austria are theatres playing whole seasons as well as free groups and  
numerous festivals are devoted to theatre and music theatre both in the greater cities  
and in the countryside. All forms of the performing arts are to be found.

Helga Dostal  
Vienna, June 2024