

NOPERAS!

THEATERBREMEN



**MUSIKTHEATER
IM REVIER
GELSENKIRCHEN**

feXm
Fonds
Experimentelles
Musiktheater

**NRW KULTUR
SEKRETARIAT**
W U P P E R T A L

**KUNST
STIFTUNG
NRW**

GEFÖRDERT DURCH:
Ministerium für
Kultur und Wissenschaft
des Landes Nordrhein-Westfalen



NOperas!« 2022/2023

Call for Applications to *Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater* (feXm)

What is feXm? The *Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater* (feXm) was founded in 2006 as a joint initiative of the *NRW KULTURsekretariat* and the *Kunststiftung NRW*. It is the only initiative to support new forms of music theater in the German-speaking world. The feXm enables independent theatre makers to realize music theater projects at German municipal theaters. Hereby it aims at promoting innovative concepts of the independent scene as well as at encouraging the municipal theater to deal with current forms of music theater. A jury of experts decides on the project to be realized on the basis of an open call for proposals.

What is "NOperas!"? As part of this funding initiative, several theaters join together under the label *NOperas!* to form a multi-year alliance. Together, they realize a project each season that is performed that same season at all participating theaters. In addition to the resources provided by the theaters in terms of stage personnel, technical equipment, crafts and other infrastructure, feXm and the theaters jointly provide a production budget.

Theaters and budget in season 2022/2023. The theaters involved in "NOperas!" in the 2022/2023 season are *Theater Bremen* and *Musiktheater im Revier* in the German city of Gelsenkirchen. The project has a budget of up to 170,000 euros. The initial producer will be *Theater Bremen*.

What projects can be funded? As a funding initiative, feXm is oriented toward an open understanding of music theater that is not fixed on forms of contemporary opera. Projects are eligible for funding if they are based on current performative concepts and are aimed at reexamining the relationship between musical sound, language, physical action and new media on stage. Performances at the second theater should explicitly be neither guest performances nor mere recasting, but independent, site- and person-specific arrangements. Projects may be conceived with a view to ongoing development or separate parts at the participating theaters.

Who can apply? Applications are open to teams throughout Europe that jointly cover the levels of musical composition, text, stage direction, and stage design. The group must also include a production manager responsible for the basic tasks of organization in consultation with the theaters and the management of finances.

Working Modus. The rehearsal period is based on a guideline of up to ten weeks. This time can be divided into up to five separate work phases of two to three weeks each, according to the needs of the production team and in consultation with the theaters. Within the framework of these separate phases, "NOperas!" allows for methods of developing a theatre piece in close collaboration with musicians, actors and singers rather than using rehearsals solely for study of a finished score. Applicants may use the freedom of separate work phases according to their own needs.

Services provided by feXm and the theaters. Theater Bremen provides its existing infrastructure and, according to agreement, musicians and singers. Musiktheater im Revier will contribute necessary resources to the transfer. Participation of a choir and/or dancers is subject to detailed agreement with both theaters. The production team will use the production budget to finance on its own responsibility and administration all the following:

- Fees, travel and accommodation expenses of the production team (including production manager) and further outside personnel (e.g. additional singers, actors, instrumentalists) involved in the work. For the budget's calculation, a number of three performances at each of the participating theaters is to be taken as a basis. Minimum fees should be based on the current guidelines of Germany's *Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste* (BDFK):
 - Rehearsals: 105 € per day (with membership in Germany's *Künstlersozialkasse* (KSK)) / 130 € per day (without KSK membership);
 - Performances: 250 € per performance (with KSK-membership) / 280 € per performance (without KSK-membership);
- Material for stage design;
- Technical equipment, as far as not readily available in the theaters.

Function and further services of the feXm. Within the framework of NOperas!, feXm not only acts as a funding institution, but also participates along with the theaters in the role of executive producer by providing organizational support, dramaturgical supervision and public relations work, including continuous media support in the process of project development via social and other digital media.

Obligations of the production team

- Concept and planning are to be based on the general capabilities of the participating theaters.
- For organizational reasons, the administration of the granted production budget shall be carried out by a *Gesellschaft beschränkten Rechts* (GbR) to be founded by the production team.
- By accepting the commission of its stage work the production team also commits itself to active and continuous participation in accompanying measures on the level of digital media.

Project duration. All performances will take place during the 2022/2023 season. By arrangement, rehearsals may begin as early as the 2021/2022 season.

Jury. A jury, consisting of three independent jurors plus one representative each of feXm and the two theaters, will decide on the selection. The jury will reach their decision on the basis of a two-step procedure, which includes an in-depth interview with several finalists. Prior to such second step, finalists have the opportunity to get in touch with the theaters and explore in further detail possibilities and preconditions in terms of venue, cast and technical equipment in order to adjust their budget plan accordingly, if needed.

How to apply. Applications should be submitted to noperas@nrw-kultur.de. With the application, preliminary budgeting of the project within the financial limits of the requested funding amount is expected.

Please adhere to the subdivision and naming of files as outlined below. Integrate all of your application materials into the six individual files stated below. Do not attach additional files (audio, video, scores, texts). If you do, they will be left unregarded. If your application should require additional explanations not fitting to these files, please explain them by a personal cover letter.

- **Form** (File name: **1_formular**).
Please fill in and sign the download PDF.
- **Short Description** (File name: **2_kurzbeschr**).
To be no longer than a total of 3,000 characters including blank spaces.
- **Detailed Project Description** (File name: **3_ausf_beschr**)
Text to be no longer than 20,000 characters including blank spaces. There is no limit to the number of pages. Images, score extracts, etc can be integrated, if wished.
→ *Alongside a convincing presentation of the aims of your project, this file should contain the outline of an intended work process related to the planning of rehearsal periods, and a description of t* **Ausschreibung des Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater (feXm)***he envisioned further development of your piece at the second theatre.*
- **Short biographies** of the team and any participating guest artists, if relevant (File name: **4_cv**)

- **Links** to previous work of participating artists and their websites, if available (File name: **5_links**)
→ *This file is to be used solely for providing links to examples of work (video or audio extracts) that might give the jury a feel for the work of the participating artists. Please specify which particular links seem essential for a more accurate insight. If people in your team have already worked together before, links to joint works are of particular interest.*

- **Provisional budget** within the limits of the feXm budget (File name: **6_kfp**)
Details about this are set out above.
→ *The openness of the aspired working process requires production team and theatres to remain flexible in their approach and coordination. Consequently, the projected budget and distribution of costs sent with the application can only be the first step in a two-way orientation to be finalized during the course of the two-step jury process.*

Any queries. All questions will be answered by the dramaturgy of feXm represented by Roland Quitt (quitt@nrw-kultur.de). Please give a telephone number where we can reach you.

Deadlines. The deadline of this call for proposals is 24.5.2021. The jury decision is targeted for September 2021.