



## NOperas! 2023/2024

Call for Projects by Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater

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### 1 NOperas!

#### 1.1 What is feXm?

Fonds Experimentelles Musiktheater (feXm) was founded in 2006 as a joint initiative of NRW KULTURsekretariat and Kunststiftung NRW. It is the only initiative to promote new forms of music theater in the German-speaking part of Europe. feXm enables artists from the independent theatre scene to create music theater projects at German municipal theaters. In this way, it aims at promoting innovative concepts of the independent scene as well as at encouraging the municipal theater's engagement with current forms of music theater.

#### 1.2 What is »NOperas!«?

feXm's funding initiative »NOperas!« was started 2019. Each season several theaters join forces under the shared label "NOperas!" to realize a music theatre project that is first produced at one of them, then further developed at the others, with different versions being staged at these theaters. Each theater provides its own ensemble of singers, orchestra members, technical equipment and existing infrastructure for the production. All other costs (fees, travel, accommodation, additional guests, supplementary technology) are covered by a production budget financed jointly by feXm and the theaters, which is managed by the elected production team itself (-> see 2.2).

#### 1.3 What projects are likely to be funded?

As a funding initiative, feXm is oriented towards an advanced understanding of music theatre that is not fixated on forms of contemporary opera. Eligible for funding are projects based on current performative concepts that are aimed at reexamining the relationship between musical sound, language, theatrical action, and new media. The performances at the subsequent theaters are expressly not to be guest performances in the sense of mere recasting, but self-contained productions specific to the location and theater. Projects can be designed with a view to continuous development or as a multi-part series.

#### 1.4 Project development and work method

Within the framework of flexible rehearsal times customized as needed for the respective project, "NOperas! opens up ways of developing a performance that are directly linked to the rehearsal process. A rehearsal period of up to ten weeks in total is provided for. In consultation with the theaters, applicants are free to divide this period into up to five separate phases according to their own preferences.

### 1.5 Who can apply?

Applications are invited from teams across Europe that share responsibility for the interaction of the theatrical levels (composition, text, direction, stage). The group must include a production manager who is responsible for the basic tasks of organization in consultation with the theaters and the management of finances. Applications are open to teams throughout Europe. Teams are expected to cover from within their group all the artistic elements involved in their work such as composition, text, stage direction, set design and so forth. Their group must include a production manager responsible for the management of finances and for the basic tasks of organization in consultation with the theaters.

## 2 Call for Applications Season 2023/2024

### 2.1 The Theatres

The following theatres will participate in "NOperas!" in the season of 2023/2024:

- o Musiktheater im Revier Gelsenkirchen,
- o Theater Bremen, and
- o Staatstheater Darmstadt.

The selected project will be produced first at Musiktheater im Revier, the further sequence is subject to later agreement.

### 2.2 Services provided by feXm and the theaters

The participating theaters provide

- o Ensemble of singers and instrumentalists,
- o crafts, workshop times, equipment, rehearsal rooms,
- o support in the areas of study, musical direction, dramaturgy, marketing.

In addition, feXm, together with the theaters, provides a production budget to be managed by the production team itself. Up to 200,000 euros are available for this in the 2023/2024 season. – Please note: Funding can only be made available to an organization of German legal form (such as a German production company that will be entrusted with handling of the project or to a group that constitutes a registered association or company under German law). There is no fixed guideline for the number of singers and instrumentalists from the theaters' ensembles and orchestras. Whether the theaters can provide additional stage actors (chorus, dancers, extras and, where available, actors) will be determined by further agreement.

The production team is responsible for financing the following from the production budget:

- o Fees, travel and accommodation expenses of the production team (including production management) and other guests involved in the work.

*For the calculation, a number of three performances at each of the participating theaters is to be taken as a basis. The current recommendations of the Bundesverband Freie Darstellende Künste (BDFK) provide guidelines for the lower fee limit:*

- *Rehearsals: 105 euros per day (with KSK membership) / 130 euros per day (without KSK membership).*
- *Performances: 250,00 Euro per performance (with KSK-membership) / 280,00 Euro per performance (without KSK-membership)*
- o material for set design,
- o technical equipment, if not regularly available at the theaters.

### **2.3 Function and further services of feXm**

Within the framework of the funded project, feXm acts not only as a funding institution, but also as a co-producer of the participating theaters. It provides organizational support, its own dramaturgical supervision and its own public relations work. This includes continuous media support during project development via social media and other digital media.

### **2.4 Obligations of production team**

- The openness of the intended work process requires flexibility in the coordination between production team and the theaters. Planning and more detailed elaboration of the concept must be based on the realities and possibilities of the theaters. Accordingly, the budget plan requested with the application can only be an initial guide to mutual orientation for both sides. In the course of the two-stage jury procedure (→ see 3.2), it remains to be adjusted or revised after more detailed discussions.
- The supervision by the dramaturge of feXm forms an important mediating link in the contact between production team and theaters. Throughout the production process, the feXm dramaturge must be involved at all times in consultations with the theaters and kept informed of the current status of the project.
- The production team commits itself to active and continuous participation in accompanying measures carried out by feXm on the level of digital media.

### **2.5 Time Range**

All performances will take place in the 2023/2024 season. By arrangement, rehearsals can begin already during the 2022/2023 season.

### **2.6 Jury procedure**

A jury consisting of one representative of each of the participating theaters and of feXm as well as three independent experts will decide on the funded project on the basis of the applications received. The decision will be taken in the course of a two-stage procedure, which includes an in-depth interview with a group of up to five finalists. In the run-up to the interview, the finalists have the opportunity to get in touch with the theaters to find out more about the existing possibilities and opportunities.

### **2.7 Deadlines**

The deadline for this call is 7/15/2022. The jury decision is targeted for September 2022.

## **3 Application**

### **3.1 How Do I Apply?**

Applications should be submitted to [noperas@nrw-kultur.de](mailto:noperas@nrw-kultur.de). With the application, a preliminary budget plan within the scope of the requested amount of funding is expected. Please adhere to the subdivision and naming of files outlined below when applying. Integrate all of your application materials into the six individual files listed. Do not attach additional files (audio, video, scores, play texts) to your application. If your application requires additional explanations, explain them in the form of a personal cover letter.

### 3.2 Application components

- **Form** (File name: **1\_formular**).  
Please fill in and scan 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 so wished.  
→ Alongside a convincing presentation of the aims of your project, this file should also contain the outline of a thought-out working modus that correlates to the rehearsal periods available (see above) to develop the play. It is envisaged that the project will be further developed for the following performances in Bremen and Wuppertal beyond simply re-casting - a further period of up to 14 days of rehearsals is available at each theatre for this purpose. Please highlight where local factors will feature with regard to this ongoing development of your project.
- **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**)  
→ See remarks under 2.4

### 3.3 Queries

For questions, please turn to dramaturge Roland Quitt ([quitt@nrw-kultur.de](mailto:quitt@nrw-kultur.de)). Make sure to provide a telephone number where you can be reached.