

Biography Daniel Witzke

German Stage Director Daniel Witzke works extensively in both opera and musical theatre in Europe and the United States. He was originally trained as a professional singer and actor in Vienna, Berlin and Hamburg pursuing a career onstage.

As Staff Director at the Wiener Staatsoper he was responsible for directing, reviving and assisting on more than twenty productions including *Nabucco*, *Tristan und Isolde*, *Tosca*, *Turandot*, *Aida* and *Die Fledermaus*. International career highlights include Hamburgische Staatsoper (*La Forza del Destino*), Spoleto Festival USA (*Don Giovanni*), and the Bregenzer Festspiele (*Tosca*).

Daniel Witzke was appointed Artistic Director for the original German production of Elton John's Broadway-Hit Musical *Aida* in 2003. Beyond his activities in opera and musical theatre Daniel Witzke is one of the most respected and accomplished producers for new American musicals in the German-speaking world. With his former production company Big Fish Theatre Productions he has directed a number of highly acclaimed German premiere productions such as Jason Robert Brown's *The Last 5 Years*, *Songs For A New World* and Maury Yeston's *December Songs* among others.

Daniel Witzke has worked as an audition and acting coach for over 15 years and has translated a number of original Off-Broadway Musicals into German. He has directed, conceived and written charity galas, fundraiser, cruise ship shows and major special events for stage and television in the US, Europe and North Africa.

Daniel Witzke is strongly dedicated to the development and nurturing of new works in both opera and musical theatre and is collaborating with some of the most exciting young writers in the country. He was appointed Resident Director for Seattle Opera in May 2012 and is currently residing in New York City.

Daniel Witzke is a member of AGMA (American Guild of Musical Artists). In the upcoming season he will direct new productions for Opera San Jose, West Bay Opera and Nickel City Opera.