

Biographies of the German playwrights

Anja Hilling

was born in the German town of Lingen an der Ems in 1975. She grew up in Munich and started a degree in Theatre Studies and German language and Literature in Munich before ending her university studies at the Freie Universität Berlin (university). She subsequently completed a degree in Creative Writing for the Stage at Berlin University of the Arts.

Her first play *Sterne (Stars)* was invited to the Stückemarkt competition at the Berliner Theatertreffen (theatre festival) in 2003, where it was presented with the Dresdner Bank Award for New Dramatic Art. Her next play, the tragicomedy *Mein junges idiotisches Herz (My Young Idiotic Heart)* was invited to the Mühlheimer Theatertage (theatre festival) in a production by the Munich Kammerspiele in 2005. In the same year, Anja Hilling was voted the Upcoming Author of the Season in the critics' survey of the theatre magazine "Theater heute".

She achieved her breakthrough outside of Germany with her civilisation drama *Schwarzes Tier Traurigkeit (The Black Animal of Sadness)* in 2007. This play was performed on a number of major European stages such as the Théâtre de la Colline in Paris and the Royal Dramatic Theatre (Dramaten) in Stockholm. The youth drama *Sinn (Sense)* (2007) was produced in a collaboration between the Thalia Theater Hamburg and the Comédie de Saint-Étienne.

In 2011, she wrote *Der Garten (The Garden)*, a play in five acts focusing on the area of conflict between art and criticism. The play premiered at the Schauspielhaus Wien in Vienna, which also hosted the premiere of her work *Sinfonie des sonnigen Tages (The Sunny-Day Symphony)* in 2014.

Anja Hilling is currently working on commissioned pieces for the National Theatre of Mannheim, the Theater Basel and the Dramaten theatre in Stockholm.

Dirk Laucke

was born in the German town of Schkeuditz (Saxony) in 1982 and grew up in Halle an der Saale, Germany. He began a degree in Psychology in Leipzig in 2002 but then moved to Berlin. He studied Creative Writing for the Stage at Berlin University of the Arts from 2004 to 2008. He was invited to Salzburg Festival as an upcoming playwright by Tankred Dorst in 2004. In 2005, Laucke joined forces with Reyna Bruns

and Magdalena Grazewicz to write a joint play for the campaign *Hier geblieben! (Stay Here!)*, which advocated a right of abode for under-age refugees living in Germany (premiere: May 2005 at the GRIPS Theater in Berlin). Laucke received the Kleist Talent Award for his play *alter ford escort dunkelblau (old dark blue ford escort)* in 2006. The play was also nominated for the Mülheimer Theatertage (theatre festival) in 2007, while the radio drama production of the same name on the German radio station MDR received the Zonser Radio Drama Award (2009). Laucke himself was named the Upcoming Author of the Year by the specialist magazine "Theater Heute" in 2007. The motion picture *Zeit der Fische (Time of the Fish)* (2007), for which Laucke wrote the script together with director Heiko Aufdermauer, was nominated for the First Steps Award and the Hof International Film Festival. In 2007, Laucke developed the play *Wir sind immer oben (We Are Always on Top)* at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus (theatre) as part of the *Autorenlabor ('Author Laboratory')* event. The premiere production by Henning Bock was invited to the Author Theatre Days of the Thalia Theater Hamburg in 2009. In the plays premiered in 2009, namely *Der kalte Kuss von warmem Bier (The Cold Kiss of Warm Beer)* (Theater Heidelberg), *zu jung zu alt zu deutsch (too young too old too german)* (Theater Osnabrück) and *Für alle reicht es nicht (There's Not Enough to Go Round)* (Staatsschauspiel Dresden), the author explores German-German identity and the approach taken to foreigners. *Für alle reicht es nicht (There's Not Enough to Go Round)* was nominated for the Mülheimer Theatertage (theatre festival) in 2010. Laucke researched the topic of pressure to perform at German schools for the GRIPS Theater Berlin and wrote the play *STRESS! Der Rest ist Leben (STRESS! The Rest Is Life)*, which premiered in January 2010. In May 2010, the commissioned play *Start- und Landebahn (Take-Off and Landing Runway)*, which was written by the author in cooperation with David Richter, premiered at the Theater Osnabrück theatre. Laucke lives and works in Berlin. His novel *Mit sozialistischem Grusz (With Socialistic Greetings)* was published in February 2015.

Kevin Rittberger

Born in Stuttgart, Germany in 1977; lives in Berlin as a playwright and director. Studied Modern German Literature and Media and Communication Studies at the Freie Universität Berlin (university). He has worked at theatres such as the Deutsches Theater in Berlin, the Schauspielhaus Wien in Vienna, the Residence

Theatre in Munich, the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus, the Deutsches Schauspielhaus in Hamburg and the Schauspiel Frankfurt.

In 2010, Rittberger received the Director's Award from the German Academy of Performing Arts (*Akademie der Darstellenden Künste*) for his adaptation of Dietmar Dath's novel *Die Abschaffung der Arten* (*The Abolition of the Species*) and his production of *Nachrichten aus der ideologischen Antike* (*News from Ideological Antiquity*) by Alexander Kluge. His drama *Kassandra oder Die Welt als Ende der Vorstellung* (*Cassandra, or the World as the End of the Performance*) was nominated for the Mülheimer Theatertage (theatre festival) in 2011. In 2012, he was presented with the Jürgen Bansemer and Ute Nyssen Playwrights' Award. Ritterberger most recently staged his play *Candide. Acting in Concert* at the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus and *Plebs Coriolan* at the Schauspielhaus Wien in Vienna. In summer 2014, his play *Mulian Rescues Mother Earth* premiered at the Taipei Arts Festival. His new play *Radio Cooperativa* then premiered at the German National Theatre (DNT) in Weimar.

<http://www.kevinrittberger.de/>

Kathrin Röggl

Born in Salzburg, Austria, in 1971; lives in Berlin as an author of prose and of plays and audio pieces. Began studying German Language and Literature and Journalism in Salzburg in 1989. Moved to Berlin in 1992. Kathrin Röggl takes a documentary approach when producing her often media-analytical texts. Some of the best-known works of the author, who also produces pieces for the radio on a regular basis, include *wir schlafen nicht* (*we never sleep*) (2004) and *draußen tobt die dunkelziffer* (*the dark figure rages outside*) (2005). For the latter play, she received an invitation to the Mülheimer Theatertage (theatre festival) for the first time in 2006. A second invitation to Germany's most important playwrights' contest followed in 2010 with *Die Beteiligten* (*The Participants*), her media drama on the abduction of the Austrian Natascha Kampusch. This play also achieved her an invitation to Germany's most important theatre festival, the Berliner Theatertreffen, in 2011. The playwright received the Nestroy Theatre Award in the category of Best Play for her play *worst case*, which premiered at Freiburg Theatre in 2008. In 2012, her musical *Kinderkriegen* (*Childbearing*) premiered at the Residence Theatre in Munich. In the same year, she was the writer-in-residence of the German city of Mainz and

produced the film "Die bewegliche Zukunft" (*The Mobile Future*). On the basis of her readings on the occasion of the third Saarbrücker Poetics Lectureship for Dramatic Art (Saarbrücker Poetikdozentur für Dramatik) at Saarland University, Kathrin Röggla's volume of lectures *Die falsche Frage. Theater, Politik und die Kunst, das Fürchten nicht zu verlernen* (*The Wrong Question. Theatre, Politics and the Art of Not Forgetting How to Fear*) was published by the publishing House Theater der Zeit at the beginning of 2015.

Kathrin Röggla has been a member of the Literature Section of the Academy of Arts in Berlin since 2012 and was elected Vice President in May 2015.

<http://www.kathrin-roeggla.de/>