

# STAATSOPER STUTT GART

Press Release

Stuttgart, 05-10-21

## The power of the collective

### Paul Dessau's *The Condemnation of Lucullus* celebrates premiere and Stuttgart debut

On 1 November 2021 at 6 pm, Staatsoper Stuttgart presents Paul Dessau's *Condemnation of Lucullus* as Stuttgart debut and as the season's first premiere. The production is staged by the theatrical collective **Hauen und Stechen**. **Gerhard Siegel**, internationally renowned heldentenor and cast with the title role of Lucullus, returns to the Stuttgart stage where he only recently sang Herodes in *Salome*. Legendary *Primadonna assoluta* **Cheryl Studer** has her guest performance as Tertullia. The numerous other roles are embodied by the Staatsoper's ensemble singers whilst **Bernhard Kontarsky** takes on the production's musical direction. Kontarsky has been associated with the Staatsoper Stuttgart since 1969, when he conducted B.A. Zimmermann's *Die Soldaten* und Luigi Nono's *Intolleranza 1960* amongst others.

*The Condemnation of Lucullus* is based on Bertolt Brecht's radio play *The interrogation of Lucullus* from 1939, in which the Roman general Lucullus after his death is forced to stand trial for his deeds on earth. After WW II, **Bertolt Brecht** and **Paul Dessau** developed the play further into an opera libretto. The libretto's sociopolitical utopia and the musical score with its spectacular array of wind and percussion instruments turned the world premiere in East Berlin in 1951, which took place shortly after Germany's separation into two different (political) systems, into a cultural and political scandal. Seventy years later, **Julia Lwowski** and **Franziska Kronfoth** (from Hauen und Stechen) together with conductor Bernhard Kontarsky subject the opera to a reevaluation.

**Hauen und Stechen** was founded by the two directors Franziska Kronfoth and Julia Lwowski in 2012. Within the collective, Martin Mallon is responsible for video, Christina Schmitt for the set and Yassu Yabara for the costumes. Actress Gina-Lisa Maiwald, who takes on the role of A Woman's commentary in *The Condemnation of Lucullus*, also forms a part of Hauen und Stechen. All together, they will develop a piece of music theatre which is both, crossing limits and trespassing on genres borders. So far, the team already staged various productions at Opernfestspiele Bayerische Staatsoper, at Volksbühne am Rosa-Luxemburg-Platz, at Berliner HAU and at Théâtre de l'Athénée in Paris.

With the premiere of *The Condemnation of Lucullus*, the Staatsoper Stuttgart returns to a full seat occupancy in the auditorium. Admission continues to follow the 3G-regulation.

**Paul Dessau**

## ***Condemnation of Lucullus***

**Monday, 1 November 2021, 6 pm**

**Further performances**

**6 / 13 / 15 / 20 November 2021**

Conductor **Bernhard Kontarsky**

Concept **Hauen und Stechen**

Directors **Franziska Kronfoth, Julia Lwowski**

Set **Christina Schmitt**

Costume **Yassu Yabara**

Video **Martin Mallon**

Light **Reinhard Traub**

Chorus **Manuel Pujol**

Children's chorus **Bernhard Moncado**

Dramaturgy **Miron Hakenbeck, Julia Schmitt**

Lucullus **Gerhard Siegel**

King **Friedemann Röhlig**

Queen / First Barker **Alina Adamski**

Lasus **Torsten Hofmann**

The Cherrytree Bearer **Elliott Carlton Hines**

The Fishwife **Maria Theresa Ullrich**

The Courtisan **Deborah Saffery**

The Teacher **Philipp Nicklaus**

The Baker **Heinz Göhrig**

The Farmer **Jasper Leever**

Tertullia **Cheryl Studer**

Second Barker **Laia Vallés**

Third Barker **Clare Tunney**

A Woman's commentary **Gina-Lisa Maiwald**

The Tribunal's Judge **Simon Bailey**

The Judge's Speaker **Thorbjörn Björnsson**

**Kinderchor der Staatsoper Stuttgart**

**Staatsoperchor Stuttgart**

**Staatsorchester Stuttgart**