

Artists Festival of Lights 2013

Jürgen Meier - Artistic Director

Jürgen Meier studied at the University of Münster's Academy of Fine Arts and at St. Martin's School of Art in London. In 1987, he was promoted to the status of master class student at Münster's Academy of Fine Arts. He later took on teaching positions at a variety of higher education institutions, including the Leipzig Academy of Visual Arts. In 1993 he founded the artistic association known as Kunstverein Elster-Park (today Kunstverein Leipzig). Meier's previous projects include light artworks in Germany and abroad as well as the planning of lighting concepts, work for which he has received numerous awards. He has been the Artistic Director of the Leipzig Festival of Lights since 2007.

Ralph Oehme - Stage Director

Ralph Oehme studied theatre studies and acting method in Leipzig and has been active as a freelance author and director of theatre since 1987. His works are produced in many German theatres. With his productions Ralph Oehme has made himself famous in Germany and Italy. In addition he is a guest lecturer for theatre at different schools of higher education. In 1990 he was awarded the renowned Blind War Veterans' Radio Theatre Prize for "Stille Helden siegen selten" (Calm Heroes are Rarely Victorious) as well as other literature awards and scholarships from the City of Leipzig and the State of Saxony.

Mike Dietrich - The Musician

Mike Dietrich has worked for almost 25 years under the stage name "DJ Opossum" as a DJ, musician, producer and composer for Hip Hop and Soul music artists from Leipzig, throughout Germany and from around the world. His beginnings stretch back to the 1980s as one of the godfathers of the Leipzig break-dance scene and a Hip Hop activist, a subculture deemed illegal and under constant surveillance by the ruling powers of the day. Mike used his first "western money" to buy professional turntables. Soon he was composing and producing his own songs, a catalogue that has expanded since 1993 to include some 200 compositions. Mike has additionally toured with Herbie Hancock, Saul Williams and Xavier Naidoo.

Claudius Niessen - CEO Deutsches Literaturinstitut

Claudius Niessen initially worked as a journalist. Later, he studied at the German Creative Writing Program (Deutsches Literaturinstitut). In 2008, he became the managing director of this institution. Under the "ClaraPark" label, he develops new formats of literature transmission, literature installations and performances. Recently, he published the "Vinta" art book and "Heimatkunde Leipzig", a volume of the eponymous literary series.

Ty Sy áci - The Band

The band, Ty Sy áci, from the sister city of Leipzig, Brno, emerged in 2000 from the initiative of Petr Vaša, a prominent singer, poet, performer and experimenter. Other members are Petr Zavadil (guitar) and Tomáš Fröhlich (bass). Their style cannot be pigeonholed. The influences range from rock and jazz to Moravian folk and world music. Already in 2009, Ty Sy áci impressed the visitors of the Leipzig Festival of Lights with their stage presence.

Jörgens - Dance School

For more than 50 years, Jörgens Dance School Leipzig imparts to a wide audience practical experience in dancing. For the staging of this year's Festival of Lights, the participants of various dance classes worked out the presentation of group and individual scenes after several weeks and in demanding rehearsals.

