



*DEDE
KORKUT*



Dede Korkut – The Story of Tepegöz

*Docufictional Music Theatre for Orchestra, Vocals, Movement
and Video Installation by Marc Sinan*

Dresdner Sinfoniker – Conductor: Fabián Panisello

*Soloists: Jelena Kuljić, Jun Kawasaki, Marc Sinan,
Sascha Friedl, Mehri Asadullayeva, Ulzhan Baibussynova,
Askar Soltangazin, Tair Kuziev*

Production: Markus Rindt & Marc Sinan

Artistic direction: Marc Sinan

Choreography: Aydın Teker

Video and stage: Isabel Robson

Dramaturgy and text: Holger Kuhla

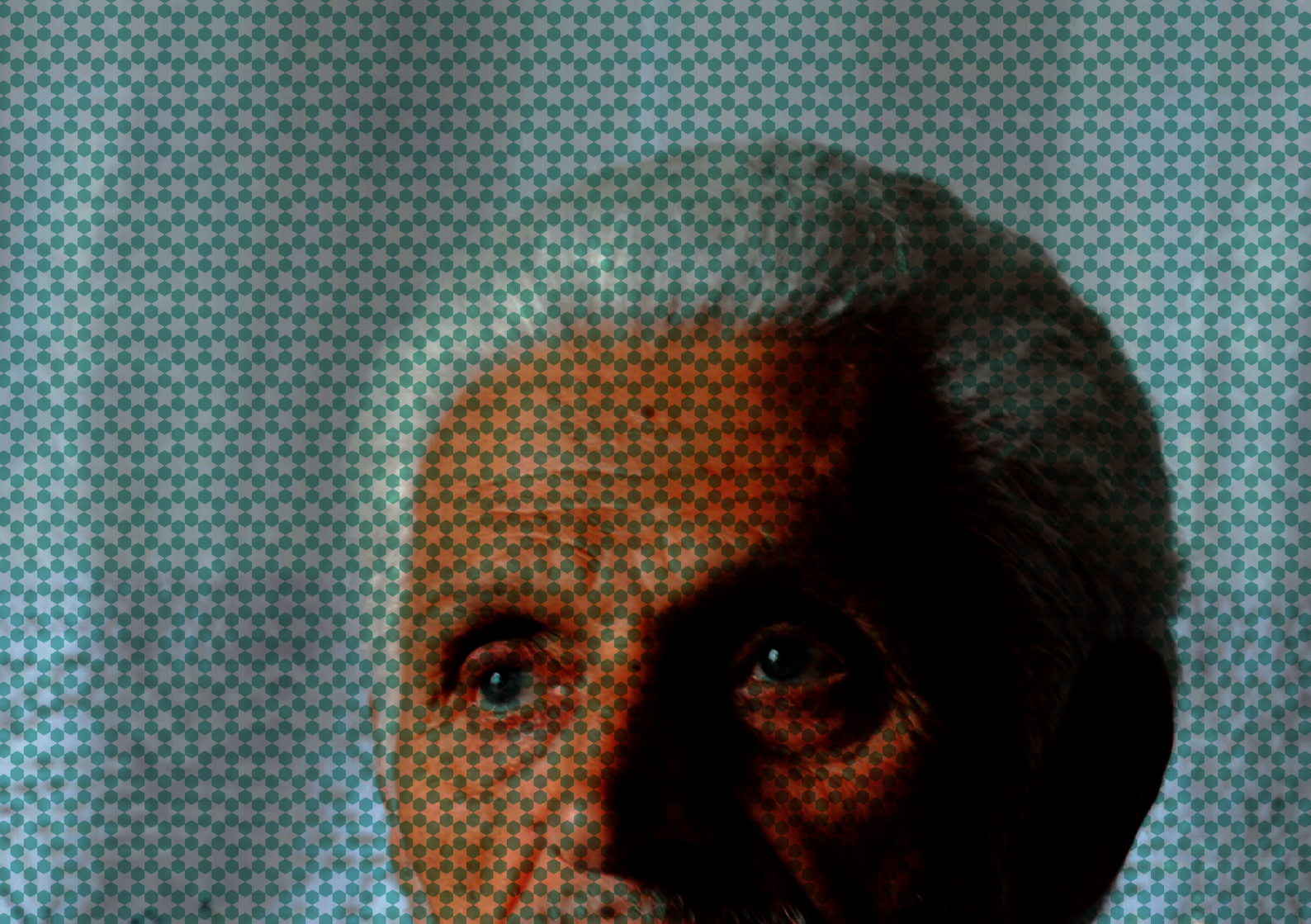
*A Co-Production by the Dresdner Sinfoniker,
the Maxim Gorki Theater and
HELLERAU – European Center for the Arts Dresden*



Raushan Orazbaeva with Marc Sinan and Hans-Peter Eckardt

Dede Korkut — The Myth of Tepegöz

In Turkey and Central Asia, the heroic tales of Dede Korkut – the singing and lute-playing sage of the Oghuz – are recounted with the same esteem as that preserved for the Nibelungenlied in Germany. A brutal rape led to the birth of the »Cyclops« Tepegöz. Born into an alien world, he was not only hated but also became the bitter enemy of the Oghuz, whose acceptance he desperately desired. This dramatic conflict forms the backdrop for a project that offers a dynamic amalgam of music, images, text, bodies and song. Marc Sinan's work is based on documentary videos of Central Asian musicians which he and Markus Rindt filmed during their extensive journeys through Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, along with video interviews with young Istanbul-based literati, philosophers and thinkers about their take on the story of Tepegöz. The Oghuzian narrative tradition teams up with the many resources of modern theatre and traditional music meets contemporary compositions, thereby opening up a dialogue between medieval folklore and the present day.



Production

»Dede Korkut« – Marc Sinan's docufictional musical theatre – features a blend of contemporary choreography, audio and video installation, modern compositions and traditional music. Guest musicians from Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan pool their talents to give a concert with the Dresdner Sinfoniker. Aydın Teker's unconventional approach transforms soloists – such as the singer Jelena Kuljić, the double-bass player Jun Kawasaki, the sub-contrabass flute player Sascha Friedl and the guitarist Marc Sinan – into objects of choreographic intervention. Projected images from Central Asia set the room in motion. And in recognition of Adolphe Appias's revolutionary work at the Festspielhaus Hellerau in Dresden in the early days of the 20th century, the musicians play at different levels within the room. The libretto combines a poetic reinterpretation of the traditional tale of »Tepegöz« with voices from the literature scene in Istanbul who over the course of video interviews give their contemporary take on this legend which is of fundamental importance to the self-image of Turkic-speaking nations.



Asik Mlibariz with Marc Sinan

Ideas on Interpretation

In the myth, the »Cyclops« Tepegöz stands for the apparently eternal outsider with whom even an orphan like Dede Korkut is unable to negotiate a form of coexistence. The project combines the ambivalences of the literary original with the folk tunes of Central Asia. This myth, which has been handed down from generation to generation, is reinterpreted as a reflection on the »loneliness« of Tepegöz, replete with anger, sadness, pride and violence. The »case« is seen from the perspective of the one-eyed misfit and therefore not just refers to the mythically outlined fate of a single individual but also has a subtextual significance within the context of European – and global – conflict situations. »Dede Korkut« aims to make ambiguities tangible using the powerful and archaic poetry that can be found in both the actual legend and in the traditional music of Central Asia.



Synopsis

An Oghuzian shepherd rapes a nymph at a sacred place. This crime results in the birth of a one-eyed child and the onset of an irredeemable curse. Arus, an Oghuzian knight, takes the orphaned »Cyclops« into his home and raises him side by side with his own son Bassat. But Tepegöz proves to be untameable and is ultimately chased away into the lonely expanse of the steppe. His mother, the nymph, appears to him in his hour of need. She gives him a present of a ring that renders him invincible. The outcast quickly becomes a deadly threat to the Oghuz people, who call upon the singer Dede Korkut to negotiate a »false« peace with Tepegöz, who nevertheless continues his killing spree, leading Bassat to vow to kill his »milk brother«. Tepegöz takes him captive in the mistaken belief that he's just an unknown warrior. But Bassat succeeds in dazzling the sleeping »Cyclops« using the same ploy as Odysseus. At the end of a fierce duel, Tepegöz finds out that the man who is about to kill him is his very own brother.



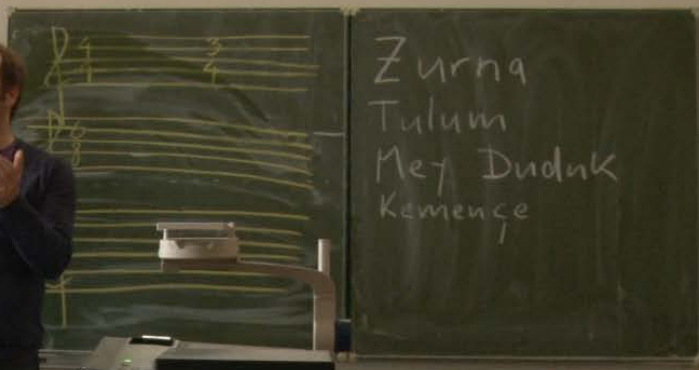
»Dede Korkut« educational projects

What exactly is a national myth? To what extent does it unite or separate us? Even beyond the stage, »Dede Korkut« will continue the debate by addressing the various age and demographic groups that make up our society. A type of festival – featuring numerous discussion platforms dedicated to this unique legend in Turkish literary history – will be held to coincide with the production.

Events such as symposiums and lectures on the »Book of Dede Korkut« are scheduled to mark the occasion. One of the two surviving manuscripts of Dede Korkut is held in Dresden, while the other one is stored in the Vatican Library. Despite the fact that the legend has been passed on by oral tradition, it still lives on today. The show's choreographer, Aydın Teker, will join the musicians from Central Asia to explain why this epic tale continues to be of such importance to the people of Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Turkey and Azerbaijan. Selected private recitals will give guests a unique opportunity to experience the musicians' prowess and national traditions up close and live in an intimate setting. This format also offers an ideal opportunity to have a one-on-one conversation with the musicians about the rituals of Central Asia and its current state.

The educational projects for young people will also address a broad spectrum of schoolchildren, allowing them to network with one another. The workshops will be held in the Berlin districts of Neukölln, Schöneberg and Weissensee, and in one school in Dresden.

From October 2013 till February 2014, workshops held over the course of several days will allow students to discuss the significance of the »Book of Dede Korkut«. A team of experienced tutors will be on hand to stimulate the discussion and ensure an independent and artistic debate on this heroic tale. Artists from Germany and Central Asia will visit the schools and answer any questions the children may have. The educational project will culminate in a joint visit to the dress rehearsal, along with the presentation of the pupils' work at the Gorki Theater in Berlin.



The **Dresdner Sinfoniker** are widely regarded as one of the leading symphony orchestras for contemporary music. Composed of musicians from practically every important orchestra in Europe, the ensemble works exclusively on a project-oriented basis. Its unconventional productions expose correlations between different ground-breaking trends in modern music. The Dresdner Sinfoniker first aroused international attention with the song cycle »Mein Herz brennt« (My Heart Burns) from Torsten Rasch which was set to text and music from RAMMSTEIN. This CD, which was released by Deutsche Grammophon, was awarded the ECHO Klassik prize. In 2004, they teamed up with the Pet Shop Boys to record a new EMI soundtrack for Sergei Eisenstein's silent movie »Battleship Potemkin« and in 2006 they produced the legendary »Hochhaussinfonie« (High-Rise Symphony) in Dresden as the climax of the city's 800-year anniversary celebrations. In 2008, the Sinfoniker staged the »Erste Ferndirigat der Welt« (World's First Remote Conducting) during which the conductor Michael Helmuth availed of a live satellite link to lead the concert's overture in Dresden while still situated on the banks of the Thames in London. Most recently, the multimedia production »Hasretim – Journey to Anatolia« (available as a CD/DVD from ECM) by the Turkish-German composer Marc Sinan and the Dresdner Sinfoniker was awarded the 2011 »Welthorizont« special prize by UNESCO. The orchestra has undertaken concert tours to places such as Great Britain, France, Spain, Greece, Israel and the West Bank.



Dresdner Sinfoniker conducted by Andrea Molino: »Hasretim« on October 9, 2016 in Hellerau

Marc Sinan is a guitarist and composer. He has made guest appearances at many renowned festivals such as the Schleswig-Holstein Musik Festival, the Istanbul Festival, the Istanbul Jazz Festival, the Enjoy Jazz Festival, the Tonlagen Festival, the MaerzMusik Festival at the Berliner Festspiele and at the Handel Festspiele. In addition to solo concerts and chamber music projects with partners such as the Julia Hülsmann Trio, Jörg Widmann, the Turkish percussionist Burhan Öcal and the Iranian kamancheh player Kayhan Kalhor, Marc Sinan has also appeared as a soloist with orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and the Georgian Chamber Orchestra. With his own ensemble, the Marc Sinan Company, he has since gone on to produce much-acclaimed projects with a contemporary, intercultural and multimedia theme. His project »Hasretim – Journey to Anatolia«, which had its premiere in October 2010, was awarded the »Welthorizont« prize by the German UNESCO Commission. In 2012, Marc Sinan was awarded an artist-in-residence scholarship by the German Foreign Office for the recently opened Tarabya Cultural Academy in Istanbul. For 2015/16, he is already working on the »Komitas« project, which revolves around the life of the Armenian composer and musicologist Komitas Vardapet, and on the »Aghet« project which deals with the ethnic cleansing of the Armenians in Turkey in 1915.



Asik Mübariz and friend with Marc Sinan

Turkish choreographer and dance teacher **Aydın Teker** graduated from the Ankara State Conservatory in 1973 and danced with the Ankara State Opera and Ballet Company before gaining a scholarship to study in London and New York. After receiving her B.F.A. and M.F.A. from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, she returned to Turkey in 1982. Her choreographies and site-specific works have been shown in many countries. Among these, »Density« got a special award at the 22th Zurich Theaterspektakel, and her latest creations, »aKabi« and »harS«, have been acclaimed in many renowned festivals. Aydın Teker is currently the head of Performing Arts Department and Contemporary Dance Department of Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University, Istanbul. In the meantime, she is considered to be one of Turkey's most important modern dance protagonists. A pioneer of contemporary dance in Turkey, Aydın Teker likes putting bodies into destabilising situations, testing their capacity for dynamic adaptation to the extreme.



from left to right: Marc Sinan, Sascha Friedl, Jelena Kuljić, Jun Kawasaki

Supported by:



Kultur



gefördert durch die
Landeshauptstadt
Dresden



KULTURSTIFTUNG DRESDEN
der Dresdner Bank



Partner:

GORKI



HELLERAU
EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM
DER KÜNSTE DRESDEN
EUROPEAN CENTER FOR
THE ARTS DRESDEN

Ein Programm
von Deutschlandradio

Deutschlandradio Kultur



YMUSIC

Contact

Dresdner Sinfoniker
Markus Rindt
Baarensteiner Str. 30
D-01277 Dresden
Fon +49 (0)1 72/345 56 87

markus.rindt@dresdner-sinfoniker.de
www.dresdner-sinfoniker.de

YMUSIC c/o Nur Baute
Wiebke Fuhrmann-Klemmer
Oberseestr. 70
D-13053 Berlin
Fon +49 (0)30/98 60 83 89 19

wf@ymusic.de
www.marcsinan.com

Photos: Helmut Mauró, Markus Rindt,
Bettina Stöss, Johanna Diehl, Filip Zorzor

