

Martin Lingnau

Born in 1971, Martin Lingnau is one of the most successful musical theatre composers in Germany, with an audience of over 4 million having attended his productions.

Residing in Hamburg, he is a direct descendent of the poet Hoffman von Fallersleben. Since 1986 he has worked as musical director for various theatres, TV productions, the dubbing of music films and has written pop songs and music for stage and screen.

He completed his practical and theoretical courses for pop music at the Hochschule für Musik und Theater (Academy of Music and Drama) in Hamburg, participated in various master classes conducted by Alan Menken, James Lapine, Michael Kunze, Stephen Schwartz and others and has won numerous composition competitions and prizes. As a pianist, he has accompanied a wide selection of artists, ranging from Lucia Aliberti to Udo Lindenberg.

In 1994 Lingnau began his work at the Schmidt Theater and Schmidts Tivoli in Hamburg. The majority of his musical- and revues opened on these stages. In addition, he has composed numerous pieces of theatre music nationally, among these the music for Dieter Wedels "Ein besserer Herr" at the Hamburger Kammerspiele (Chamber theatre) and the German premiere of the stage adaptation of the film "Elling"

In 1995 he composed the unofficial anthem of the City of Hamburg "Die Stadt mit der Nase in Wind" (lyrics: Edith Jeske), which has been recorded by many prominent Hamburg artists (Udo Lindenberg, Rolf Zuckowski, Bill Ramsey).

In 2001 Lingnau took over as the musical/artistic director and composer for the SeeLive Tivoli Entertainment Company, which is responsible for the concepts and performances of entertainment events. He has written and composed a number of events and multimedia shows for the AIDA Cruise fleet and won 2nd prize at the World Event Awards for his composition for the ship christening "AIDAaura by night" in 2003.

In 2003 he composed the music for "Hamburg On Ice"

In 2004 the musical "Das Orangenmädchen" (The Orange Girl) written by Jostein Gaarder with music by Lingnau celebrated its world premiere in Trier. It has, since then, been performed all over German speaking Europe.

Lingnau's "Swinging St.Pauli" won the INTHEGA-Award in 2005 for the Best Musical tour in the German language and was adapted to become „Swinging Berlin“ performed under the direction of Helmut Baumann.

In 2005 he composed the music for all 66 episodes of the ARD TV-series "Sophie - Braut wider Willen" starring Yvonne Catterfeld for UFA.

In October, the musical "Die 13 1/2 Leben des Käptn Blaubär" based on the world bestseller by Walter Moers, celebrated its world premiere at the Musicalpalast Cologne. This musical won the Live Entertainment Award in the category Best Long-Run Production of 2007. In 2008 it successfully completed a big stadium tour throughout Germany under the direction of Andreas Gergen and Christian Struppeck.

In the fall of 2007 Lingnau's musical "Heisse Ecke" had its 1000th performance in Hamburg. The production celebrated its 5th anniversary 2008.

Also in the fall of 2007 he composed the music for the Pro7 TV-series "Volles Haus".

The award for Best Entertainment on a cruise ship worldwide was presented to Lingnau for his entertainment productions on the AIDAdiva 2008.

Lingnau's musical "Schuh des Manitu" based on the film by Bully Herbig, produced by Stage Entertainment for the Theater des Westens in Berlin, opened to the praise of press and audience in December 2008 and

ran for 1 1/2 years. Only 6 weeks after the opening the musical received the Kulturnews Award 2008 for the Best Long-Run Live Performance in Germany.

At the end of January 2009 Lingnau completed his composition work for the Pro7 film "Küss Dich reich" starring Felicitas Woll.

The documentary "Serengeti", produced by Buena Vista, opened at movie theatres in Germany in February 2011 and was immediately rated "outstanding" by the FBW. Martin Lingnau's score got 9 out of 10 stars in the "hoerspiegel" review and is available worldwide on iTunes.

In February 2011 he composed the music for the opening ceremony of the SKI WM 2011 in Garmisch. His music was performed by the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the ceremony was broadcasted live worldwide.

On the 30th of March 2011 the one millionth visitor attended his musical "Heisse Ecke".

In July, 2011, the theatre show "Das volle Programm", a musical comedy show about the history of television, opened at the Schmidt Theatre in Hamburg. He co-wrote the show with German TV star Oliver Kalkofe.

In August 2011 the two CDs Maite Kelly "Das volle Programm" and Frank Ramond "ganz klar" were released. Martin composed the music and produced both albums.

"Dreamflight", a new musical for Stage Entertainment, had its world premiere in Amsterdam on the 16th of October 2011 and opened to rave reviews. The soundtrack CD, also produced by Martin, entered the Dutch charts at #3.

In November 2011 the first musical theatre adaption of "Räuber Hotzenplotz" opened at the Schmidt theatre Hamburg to rave reviews. The well known German novelist, Ottfried Preußler himself asked Martin to write the music. The lyrics were provided by Heiko Wohlgemuth.

Also in November 2011, "Peter Pan", his first stage collaboration with Frank Ramond, opened at the "Deutsches Schauspielhaus" Hamburg.

In February 2012 he co-wrote and musically directed the annual German live TV spectacle "Nockherberg" for the third time. Over 5 Million people saw this musical comedy event show.

In June 2012 he completed his work for the movie „Mother Cheetah“ which was shown first on American TV, then all over the world.

In September 2012 the musical "Heisse Ecke" had its ninth anniversary. Martin Lingnau has two titles on the album "Denk was Du willst", by the artist Mary Roos, which was released on April 12th, 2013.

On September 6th the musical "Die Königs vom Kiez" received its highly acclaimed world premiere at Hamburg's Schmidt Theater. The show was written by Lingnau together with Heiko Wohlgemuth and Mirko Bott.

On September 16th the musical "Heisse Ecke" celebrated its 10th anniversary.

Martin has four titles on Annett Louisan's Album "Zuviel Information", which was released on February 14th, 2014, and went straight to number 3 on the German Media Control charts.

On November 1st, 2014, the musical "Der kleine Störtebeker" had its world premiere. This was, again, written together with the bookwriter and lyricist, Heiko Wohlgemuth.

November 24th, 2014 saw the musical "Das Wunder von Bern", based on the film by Sönke Wortmann, with music by Martin Lingnau, open Hamburg's new Theater an der Elbe, in a production by Stage Entertainment.

With that, Martin had four long run musicals playing in Hamburg: “Heisse Ecke”, “Die Königs vom Kiez”, “Der kleine Störtebeker” and “Das Wunder von Bern”.