

Marc Sinan
DEDE KORKUT

Broadly recognized as one of the most important legends in Turkic literary history, “Dede Korkut – The Story of Tepegöz” is about to be performed for the very first time in the Turkish language and as a concertante multimedia production on the European stage by the Dresdner Sinfoniker. Critics from Germany's leading newspapers have already given the show rave reviews – “a monstrously impressive theatrical composition” (FAS), “a magnificent production” (taz), “even the previous production, Hasretim, was highly impressive” (SZ).

From Istanbul to Almaty, every child knows the mythological original story even to this very day. The legend has been passed on via the oral tradition and with the help of folk songs since the Turkish Middle Ages. The plot is reminiscent of the struggle between Odysseus and the Cyclops. However, in the “Book of Dede Korkut” the adversaries are foster brothers. Bassat, who was raised by a lion, grew up with the one-eyed Tepegöz. The Cyclops was born as the result of a rape, and his bloodlust was the ultimate revenge of his mother. But Bassat eventually succeeds in chopping off Tepegöz's head and is therefore regarded in many places as the legendary progenitor of all Turkic peoples down to the present day. Similar to the Odyssey or Nibelungenlied, the “Book of Dede Korkut” also tells the story of marginalization and inclusion, of identity and internal and external ascriptions, and is an epic tale of community-building and community-destroying forces. In light of the ongoing armed conflicts throughout the world, the myth's core themes are more topical than ever.

On stage, the action revolves around the Orient and the Occident, Central Asian folk songs and contemporary compositions, the past and the present, sounds and images – all of which interlock and complement one another to create an exciting “musical universal tale” (Berliner Zeitung) that leaves a lasting impression. What makes this production truly innovative is not just the fact that this legend is related for the first time in the German language, but also its change in perspective: the composer and solo guitarist Marc Sinan tells this story from the viewpoint of the marginalized monster in the form of a multimedia-based and acoustically overpowering reflection on the figure of the stranger in the modern world.

Sesede Terziyan, Performer
Jelena Kuljić, Vocals
Ulzhan Baibussynova, Zhirau

Sascha Friedl, Flute/Sub-Contrabass Flute
Maria Schneider, Percussion
Benjamin Schwarz, Cello
Marc Sinan, Guitar/Electric Guitar
Rolf Zielke, Piano

A Co-Production between the Dresdner Sinfoniker, YMUSIC, Anadolu Kültür Istanbul, the Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin, HELLERAU – European Center for the Arts Dresden and TAK Theater Liechtenstein



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