

Press release

IMZ + EBU HONOUR PETER SELLARS WITH THE EBU-IMZ OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

**THE INTERNATIONAL MUSIC + MEDIA CENTRE AND THE EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION
RECOGNIZE PETER SELLARS FOR HIS MERITORIOUS WORK IN THE FIELD OF THE
PERFORMING ARTS IN AUDIOVISUAL MEDIA**

Vienna, 27 September 2021

Vienna / Prague: This year's EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement Award goes to opera, theatre and festival director Peter Sellars, who, in the words of IMZ President Arild Erikstad, "is one of the most unique and powerful artists of our time."

Peter Sellars accepted the award in person during the 58th Golden Prague International Television Festival on 24 September, 2021 at The New Stage of the National Theatre in Prague, Czechia. The glamorous Award Gala was broadcasted live by Czech Television, including the winner announcements for the renowned Grand Prix, Czech Christal, Czech Television Prize and Special Mention for Extraordinary Artistic Achievement. Among them were many productions by IMZ member organisations. Find all winners [here](#).

"We are all trying to illuminate the television screens in people's homes with unusual beauty, rare insight, secret wisdom, and the instructions to hidden worlds, moral awakening, and shared aspirations, and open roads to imagination, pleasure, and purpose that we associate with poetry, with music, with the human, and the divine. I am grateful to step forward and join a long list of outstanding colleagues who have been tapped to receive this award. The work continues!" - Peter Sellars

"Peter Sellars' humanity, sensibility and spirituality are so strong, that sharing his creations with a wider audience through films and TV comes naturally to him. We're so proud to honour one of the great opera and film directors of our time, and I wish that all of us will continue to produce, distribute, and broadcast Peter's future masterworks, and be inspired by his genius." - Nicolas Auboyneau, Chairman of the EBU Music + Dance Experts

Throughout his career, Sellars has gained international recognition for his groundbreaking and transformative interpretations of classics, his advocacy of 20th century and contemporary music, and collaborations with an extraordinary range of performing artists. His work illuminates the power of art as a means of moral expression and social action. Sellars has collaborated in the creation of many works with composer John Adams and guided the formation process of Kaija Saariaho's productions, which have expanded the repertoire of modern opera. As a firm believer in television as the only medium to share his vision worldwide, Peter Sellars is known for his tireless attempts to attract new audiences to classical music and contemporary work.

"At the IMZ Congress in Toronto 1992, my first IMZ meeting ever, a highlight was without a doubt Peter's lecture about directing opera. So inspiring, so provocative, so new and different from all that I had seen and heard before. (...) I am deeply impressed by how Peter Sellars always manages to find new angles and reach a broad audience without compromising on quality and seriousness." – Arild Erikstad, IMZ President

The EBU-IMZ Outstanding Achievement award is a joint initiative of the IMZ International Music + Media Centre and the EBU European Broadcasting Union alongside the ITF Golden Prague. Established in 2017, the award recognises excellence in music + dance in the audiovisual industry and has been presented to Brian Large, Bruno Monsaingeon, Anca-Monica Pandealea + Gabrielle Babin Gugenheim and Christopher Nupen. Find more info [here](#).

ABOUT THE IMZ INTERNATIONAL MUSIC + MEDIA CENTRE

As a global business network for more than 150 Member Organisations, the IMZ International Music + Media Centre provides relevant information + opportunities for those active at the intersection of performing arts + media: leading film + TV production companies, public + private broadcasters, streaming platforms, distributors + record labels as well as opera houses, concert halls, orchestras and dance companies. The IMZ is committed to the sustainable advancement of the industry and bases its activities around four pillars: Market Access + Network, Professionalisation, Audience Development and Innovation + New Business Models. www.imz.at

ABOUT THE EBU EUROPEAN BROADCASTING UNION

The European Broadcasting Union is the world's foremost alliance of public service media, representing 115 member organisations in 65 countries. Their members operate nearly 2,000 television, radio and online channels and services, and offer a wealth of content across other platforms. Together they reach an audience of more than one billion people around the world, broadcasting in more than 160 languages. Moreover, the EBU operates Eurovision and Euroradio services. www.ebu.ch

ABOUT THE GOLDEN PRAGUE INTERNATIONAL TELEVISION FESTIVAL

Hosted by Czech TV in collaboration with the EBU + the IMZ, the Golden Prague International Television Festival annually brings together media experts from across the world and the general public, promoting the performing arts on television by honouring the best music + dance film productions in three main categories, one special mention award and two special prizes.

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