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Kolja Schallenberg

As an award-winning director, playwright, and producer my career combines deep academic training with extensive hands-on experience. I am passionate about high-quality, over the edge live events. I am the worlds only director who studied and works across the wide range of artistic disciplines of opera, theatre, musical, and contemporary circus. Working even in the fields of immersive theatre, concerts and interdisciplinary events. Born in 1984 I often draw upon my cultural and social experiences in my work having grown up in between Germany and Sweden and lived in London, and am fluent in all three languages. In recent years I have been collaboratively working on unique artistic productions of which some are running successfully since many years and currently touring internationally, entertaining several hundred-thousands spectators during the last 20 years.

Managing Producer/ Artistic Director credits include

since 2018

Forsviks Bruksteater/ Skaraborgs Musical and Film Academy Sweden www.smofa.se

- Circus, musical, theatre, plays, family shows, film, concerts, conceptual-markets and immersive events
- Producing house: 2 mid scale stages in- and outdoor (300+ seats), 1 small scale tage, several immersive stages of different sizes brands including: Circus Scandinavicum, Musik in Forsvik, Bryggfesten, Mini Musicals
- As part of the general team for the professional shows: strategic artistic conception, producing, contracting, marketing (based on customers) Daily and strategic business, part of creative and artistic team, oversee budgets
- As Artistic Director for Europes first Musical, Circus and Film Academy for young stages and professionals of all ages Daily and strategic business, part of teaching team, oversee budgets
- small-, mid- and large- scale productions (**over 40.000 visitors in 2023**)

2016-2019

Transparence Theatre producing company UK & Germany, www.transparencetheatre.com

- Acrobatic, dance, concerts, plays
- Europes first trans-led LGBTQ+ Theatre with a focus on supporting transgender and non-binary performers
- Daily and strategic business, part of creative and artistic team, oversee budgets including performers from all over the world
- large- and mid scale productions

2014-2019

AIDA Entertainment producing company/ World Tour, www.aida.de

- Acrobatic, dance, concerts, multimedia, plays, family shows
- Daily and strategic Management, and maintaining artistic and acrobatic operations for traveling shows
- As part of the general artistic team: lead department with over 100 employees and oversee budgets recommendations/ implement/ adjusting shows with all components and all departments international ensembles
- As part of the resident artistic team: trainings, rehearsals and evaluations of all performers Integrate new performers into existing shows, maintain high-quality standards
- large-scale productions with automation & aerial cues (**several hundred-thousand spectators every year**)

2009-2011

Theatre League Germany producing company/ touring Germany

- Dance, acting
- Daily and strategic business, part of creative and artistic team, oversee budgets
- small- and mid-scale productions

2003-2008

Cabaret Calembour musical cabaret group/ touring Germany

- Musical cabaret
- Daily and strategic business, part of creative and artistic team, oversee budgets
- small-scale productions



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Director and Movement Director/ Choreographer credits include

- Coming up 2027 **BELIEVE – The Tribute To The Life And Music Of Cher** Concert-Show/ Reset Production/ International Tour in cooperation with national TV
- Coming up 2026 **Murder at Röda Kvarn** Circus-Comedy/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden
- 2025-2207 **All I want for Christmas** Concert-Show/ Reset Production/ International Arena Tour **“A musical firework which amazes audiences!”** HV
- 2025-2026 **Skål & Skandaler** Crime-Event-Dinner/SMOFA/Rödesund/Sweden **“An interactive experience - the audience is part of the action”** SLA
- 2025 **Pirates of the lake** Stunt-Musical/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden **“Wonderful overall experience”** Broadway World
- 2024 **ABBA Tribute!** Concert Show/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden
- 2024 **SOT - Gjut Rock** Circus-Rock-Musical/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden **“Better than the 80ies”** Broadway World
- 2023 **Kling - Ett liv för glass** Circus-Musical/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden - **“Great succes!”** SLA
- 2022 **Halloween på Karlsborgs fästning** Immersive Theatre and Musical Spectacle/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden **“Frightening”** SLA
- 2022 **ME becomes WE** Circus project presentation/ University of Arts/Stockholm/ Sweden
- 2022 **Tre kvinnor** Musical-Show/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater **“Success - you want to see it again - and again and again “** SLA
- 2021 **The Music of James Bond and more** Stunt-Concert-Show/ Reset Production/ Arena Tour/ Germany **“Stunning!”**
- 2021 & 2024 **Halloween på bruket** Immersive Theatre and Musical Spectacle/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden **“Fun and exciting”** SLA
- 2021 **Take a chance on ABBA!** Tribute Concert Show/ SMOFA/ Forsviks Bruksteater/ Sweden **“Unique”** SLA
- 2020 **Dr Faustess - A new Musical** (Workshop) Cockpit Theatre London/ UK **“Directed in a very inventive & clever way”** british theatre
- plays since 2020 **World of Musicals** Concert-Show/ Reset Production/ International Arena Tour **“High class entertainment”** SB
- plays since 2019 **A Musical Christmas** Concert-Show/ Reset Production/ National Tour/ Germany **“An unforgettable show”** GA
- 2019 **Broadway Backwards Hamburg** Charity-Concert-Show/ Schmidt Theater/ Germany **“Incredible”** NDR TV
- 2019 & 2021 **Fjolspelaren - A new Swedish Musical** SMOFA/ Fortress Theatre Karlsborg/ Sweden **„A caring and sensitive directing”** SLA
- 2019 **Transparencia - Transgender on Stage** Theater Lüneburg/ Germany **“Thrilling and moving”** TAZ **“Unique world wide”** ARD TV
- plays since 2018 **Massachusetts - Bee Gees Musical** Reset Poduction/ Arena Tour **“A ten-star-show including original Bee Gees members”** NDR TV
- 2017/ 2018 **The Commons** (2 Workshops) Play/ The Poor School & JW3 London/ UK
- 2017 **Songwriters Showcase** Concert-Show/ The Other Palace West End London/UK **“A great concert!”** whatsonstage
- 2017 **Mary Stuart (Queen of Scots) - The Musical** Mountview Academy & Karamel Klub London/UK **“Magic occurs”** british theatre
- 2017 **Hollywood Classics** Variety-Show/ Hippodrome West End London/ UK **“A night of Hollywood Glamour at the Hippodrome!”** LLN
- 2016-2020 **Anytime - Night Club** five Circus-Shows with five different topics/ AIDA Entertainment/ World Cruise Tour
- plays since 2016 **Hyperion** Technical-Circus-Multimedia-Show/ AIDA Entertainment/ World Cruise Tour
- 2016-2020 **Songbook: Bryan Adams** Concert-Show/ AIDA Entertainment/ World Tour **“A whole new entertainment concept. Amazing!”** Rabatt
- 2015-2018 **Samsara - The Circle Of Life** Circus-Show/AIDA Entertainment/ World Tour **“This colorful new musical thrills!”** WI
- 2010 **My Brilliant Divorce** Dance-Play/ Theatre League **“A whole new mixture of drama, comedy and show”** WA
- 2009 **The Pelican’s Signature** Play/ Theatre League/ Fleetstreet Hamburg **“Absolutely exciting how real theatre can be”** hamburgtheater
- 2009 **Bacchae** Play/ Theatre League/ Sprechwerk Hamburg, invited to the IV. international Directorsfestival, **nominated for best directing**
- 2009-2012 **Le Misanthrope** Play with puppets/ Theatre Manufaktur/ German Tour **“A drop-dead gorgeous evening event”** MoPo
- 2009 **24hrs - LifeDreams** Play/ National Theatre Bochum/ Germany **“Standing ovations for a successful theatre experiment”** RN
- 2008 **Breakfast at Goethe’s** Staged reading/ National Theatre Nürnberg/ Germany
- 2007 **Shark Kiss** Play/ Theatre Dortmund/ Germany **“Recommendation of the month”** RN
- 2006 **The show must go on** Play with music/ Theatre Dortmund/ Germany **“impressive brilliant”** WR

The named productions are a selection of my portfolio. **For pictures and videos please visit my website: www.koljaschallenberg.com**

Awards

- 2025 nominated for **Best new musical, Favorite local theatre & Best director of a musical** for “Pirates of the lake” BroadwayWorld Sweden
- 2024 nominated for **Best new musical, Best music & Best director of a musical** for “SOT - GjutRock” BroadwayWorld Sweden
- 2023 Runner up **Skaraborgs Landsbyggare LEADER** Sweden
- 2023 Winner **Årets Forsvikare (Citizen of the year)** IFF Sweden
- 2023 Winner **Per Lindekrantz cultural award** LRF Sweden
- 2022 Winner **Best touristic experience** Guldgala Awards Sweden
- 2020 Winner **Scholarship** Arts Council Germany
- 2015 **Guest of Honor** 20th Writing Award, Germany
- 2009 nominated for **Best director of a play** for “Bacchae” IV. International Directorsfestival, Italy
- 2009 Winner **Special appearance** for directing “24hrs - LifeDreams” K15-Festival, Germany
- 2002 Winner **Special award for an outstanding play** for “Narrator” Writing Award Dortmund, Germany



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Writing credits include

currently working on **Fjärilkillen** (cirkus-musikal)
2023-2025 **Local journalist** för NWT Media (Skaraborgs Läns Allehanda)
2020 **Jul-Gårds-Tomten** Film-Musical/ Bergfilm/ Sweden
2019 **Trans* Dialogues - Trans*people give account (Workshop)** Transparence Theatre Hamburg/ Germany
2017-2020 **Britains (Classical) Heroes** (Adaptation for Staged Reading) AIDA Entertainment/ World Tour
2017-2020 **Discovering The Earth** (Adaptation for Staged Reading) AIDA Entertainment/ World Tour
plays since 2020 **Crystal Ball** (Acrobatic-Dance-Musical) AIDA Entertainment/ World Tour
2014 **80ies Extreme** (Concert-Show) AIDA Entertainment/ World Tour
2012 **tba** (Article) in "Und nun zu etwas völlig anderem" published at nwkm Hamburg/ Germany
2009 **Costumer Loyalty in Theatre** (Article) published at University of Music and Theatre Hamburg/ Germany
2008 **Sale** (Play) National Theatre Nürnberg/ Germany
2008 **Breakfast at Goethe's** (Play) National Theatre Nürnberg/ Germany
2007 **Brecht-Lure** (Play) National Theatre Nürnberg/ Germany
2006 **The Show Must Go On** (Musical) Schauspielhaus Dortmund/ Germany

Teaching credits include

2008-date **Coach for acting, circus and opera** freelancer/ Germany, UK, Sweden for example Studieförbundet & Västra Götalandregionen
2023-2024 **Substitute Teacher for English, German, Swedish** Carl-Johan-Skola Karlsborg/ Sweden
2012-2015 **Drama Teacher** School of Entertainment Hamburg/ Germany
2009 **Guest Lecturer** University of Music and Theatre Hamburg/ Germany
2007-2008 **Writing Workshops** National Theatre Nürnberg/ Germany
2006 **Guest Lecturer** University Dortmund/ Germany
2004-2005 **Vocal Coach** Schauspielhaus Dortmund/ Germany

Training credits include

2025 **Opera Directing**, Stockholm university of the arts (SKH), Stockholm/ Sweden
2022 **Circus Directing**, Stockholm university of the arts (SKH) (Headteacher: Daniel Gulko), Stockholm/ Sweden
2016-2017 **MA Theatre Directing**, Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts (Professor: MBE Peter James), London/ UK
2016 **Directing**, Shakespeare's Globe, London/ UK
2012-2013 **Adult Education**, TUK/ DISC, Kaiserslautern/ Germany
2007-2009 **BA Cultural and Media Management** (Producing, Theatre Management), University of Music and Theatre, Hamburg/ Germany
2001-2003 **Foundation in Opera Singing**, School of Music, Dortmund/ Germany (Headteacher: Thomas Körner)

Member of the following associations

Cirkuscentrum Sweden
Musical Theatre Society Sweden
National Theatre Society (Svensk Scenkonst) Sweden
LIVE/ VG LIVE Sweden
Cultural Managers Network Germany
The Musical Theatre Society Germany
Young Directors Network London UK
The Artists Social Fund Germany

Spoken Languages

German (native) **Swedish** (C2) **English** (C2)

Special skills

Reading sheet music

Understanding classical languages (specially experienced with Schiller, Goethe, Shakespeare, Strindberg, Chekov, Mozart, Wagner, Britten amongst others)



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Performing credits include

2003-2011 **Singer** freelancer in Germany
2009 **Ensemble** in „Do you love Brahms“ by Françoise Sagan/ Director Bettina Fless/ Euro Studio Landgraf/ German Tour
2007-2008 **Night Watch/ Ensemble** in „Torquato Tasso“ by J.W. von Goethe/ Director Klaus Kusenberg/ National Theatre Nürnberg
2005-2006 **Leonore** in „The Maid of Orleans“ by Friedrich Schiller/ Director Michael Gruner/ Schauspielhaus Dortmund
2005 **Singer** (and Musical Director) in „Love Letters“ by A.R. Gourney/ Director Holger Runge/ Theater PF/ Germany
2004 **Huntsman** in „Snow White“ by Brothers Grimm/ Directors F. Behm & J. op den Winkel/ Theater Hohensyburg/ Germany
2003-2005 **Otto** in „Jubilee“ by George Tabori/ Director Holger Runge/ Theater PF/ German Tour

Resident Artistic Director credits include

2010-2013 **Sea Live Entertainment** producing company/ World Tour
Acrobatic, Dance, Concerts, Acting, Family shows
Daily Management and maintaining artistic and acrobatic operations for traveling shows
Integrate new performers into existing shows, maintain high-quality standards
recommendations/ implement/ adjusting shows with all components and all departments
international ensembles
large-scale productions with automation & aerial cues

Assistant Director credits include

2025 **The curse of love (Kärlekens förbannelse)** Wermland Opera, Sweden
2007-2008 **Incendies, The Visit, End Game & God Of Carnage** all National Theatre Nürnberg/ Germany
2007 **The Crucible** National Thalia Theatre Hamburg/ Germany
2004-2007 **The Cherry Orchard, As you like it, Buddenbrooks & Hedda Gabler** all Schauspielhaus Dortmund/ Germany

Other credits include

2011-2012 **Company Manager** air sea holiday/ World Tour
2009 **Interim Casting Associate** Stage Entertainment/ Germany
(working for **We Will Rock You, Tarzan, The Lion King, Wicked, Dirty Dancing & Mamma Mia!**)

References

Ola Wirtberg

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