

OVERALL CONCEPT “INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION”

Even today, it is understood that our university offers room for intercultural communication and mutual exchange. One reason for this is the fact that the composition between students and teachers is international in nature: The individual relationships to our neighboring states in Europe as well as to non-European countries are varied and are lived here in a wide range of artistic and individual biographies and identities.

The education focuses on *European* music and theatre culture. This includes the following tenets: On the one hand, students from abroad come to study at HDMK precisely to learn these European musical and theatre practices; on the other hand, we recognize that this only represents part of the entire field of cultural practices in our society. From this arise more complex questions which reach beyond the everyday general musical and theatre practice.

Therefore, the HDMK commits itself to the task of

- reflecting on the importance of educational opportunities in early childhood and the outcomes produced by these in order to enable social participation over as many social strata as possible
- paying special attention to cultural hybrid biographies in education
- repeatedly reconsidering its attitude toward non-European cultural traditions
- networking worldwide
- addressing the issue of why traditional European values and ideas are so very much in demand abroad.

In order to maintain the great importance of European music and theatre culture, it is necessary to share this tradition and to increase **mutual** communication. This includes reflection and the transfer of this cultural tradition including its developments, spiritual concepts, traditions and worldviews. This also comprises entering into a more pronounced exchange in society and involving as large a number of social groups as possible.

Everyday university life is characterized by the exchange and respectful coexistence and interaction of humans from different backgrounds and with differing cultural traditions. It comes to life in artistic projects and in the joint discussion and exploration of artistic objects. Furthermore, each artist should be enabled to empathize with cultures of different epochs and places and to develop a reflective attitude towards them.

The basic building block of (intercultural) communication is speech and language. Students must, therefore, be supported in acquiring a high level of linguistic competence.

The repertoire of European music and theatre culture, which forms the core of teaching and learning at HDMK, has always included intercultural influences and is subject to (artistically productive) appropriations. This is particularly evident in the new and latest artist productions which incorporate different cultural traditions.

It is the university's endeavor, in addition to the conveyance of revered traditions, to create spaces for transcultural artistic projects as well as artistic fields of experimentation, to promote diversity-conscious action in all areas of the university and to initiate a reflective discussion in teaching in the sense of a contemporary discourse production.

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