

## Rita-Lucia Schneider-Ploy - Singer

### Me on me:

“True art doesn't care about art“ (Auguste Rodin) is my artistic motto. To remain true to oneself and truly in the music. A path whose demands will probably never end....

The versatile mezzo-soprano **Rita-Lucia Schneider** started her international career at the **Vienna Volksoper** as Anita in Philippe Arlaud's production of *West Side Story*. Since then, she has played a large number of roles, in recent years including numerous dramatic mezzo roles such as *Carmen*, *Eboli*, *Azucena*, *Venus*, *Ortrud*, *Kundry*, and *Waltraute* in her repertoire.

She had great success in the **Detmold Landestheater** as *Azucena*, a role she also sang at the **Tyrol Erl Festival** under Gustav Kuhn, and as *Carmen* in the successful production of Kay Metzger. She also made her debut at the **Ulm Theater** as *Mère Marie* (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), *Zia Principessa* (*Suor Angelica*), *Fricka* (*Loriot's The Ring in One Evening*), in the mezzo part in a scenic version of the Verdi *Requiem*, and as *Auntie* in *Peter Grimes*. In 2016 she returned to Ulm as *Charlotte* in *Werther* and as *Ortrud* in *Lohengrin*; a role in which she has also appeared with great success at the **Osnabrück Theater**, and embodied in the summer of 2017 at the **Tyrol Erl Festival**.

Other important recent guest appearances have included *Mère Marie* in the Ulm production of *Dialogues des Carmélites* at the **Heilbronn Theater**, *Marcellina* (*The Marriage of Figaro*) at the **Social Theater of Trento** and at the **Tyrol Erl Festival** (at the opening of the new Festspielhaus), *Venus* in *Tannhäuser*, as well as *Waltraute* in *Götterdämmerung* and *The Valkyries* at the **Tyrol Erl Festival**, *Carmen* at the **Slovenian National Theater in Maribor** under the direction of Karen Kamensek, *Santuzza* and *Eboli* with the **Slovak Sinfonietta in Žilina**, and *Donna Elvira*, which she performed for the first time in 2009 on tour in Japan, and also at the **Tyrol Erl Festival**.

In previous seasons, she has been featured as the title character in Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, which she first performed at the **Gdansk State Opera** in 2005. Soon *Octavian* became one of her leading roles and she has interpreted it in numerous theaters in Austria, Germany, France, Switzerland, and most recently in Spain. Another part that has led her to numerous successes is *Nicklausse/Muse* in *The Tales of Hoffmann*, with which she made her debut at the **Szczecin City Opera** in 2004. In character work she has had success as *Marquise de Berkenfield* in *La fille du régiment* (**Klosterneuburg Opera**), as *Jade Boucher* in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking* (**Theater an der Wien**) and as *Czipra* in *The Gypsy Baron*, a role with which she has appeared at theaters and festivals in Austria, Belgium, Holland, and

Liechtenstein. Further engagements have taken her to the **Baden Theater**, the **St. Margarethen Opera Festival**, the **Stift Melk Opera Festival**, the **Langenlois Castle Festival**, the **Schönbrunn Palace Theater** and the **Eduard-von-Winterstein Theater in Annaberg**, where she was an ensemble member in 2003/04.

As a concert singer, Rita-Lucia Schneider has acquired a wide repertoire over the years - of songs (Mahler's Rückert-Lieder, Wagner's Wesendonck-Lieder), oratorios (Händel's Messiah, Dvořák's Requiem and Stabat Mater, Bach's St. John and Matthew Passions, as well as Mozart and Verdi's Requiems) and masses, as well as Scheherazade by Ravel. She has sung with renowned orchestras such as the **Tonkünstler Orchestra**, the **Symphony Orchestra of the National Theater of Prague**, the **Vienna Symphony Orchestra** and the **National Orchestra of Porto**, and with renowned conductors such as Gustav Kuhn and Franz Welser-Möst.

In recent years, Rita-Lucia Schneider has expanded her artistic activities into the area of directing.

The Gratschmaier/Schneider directing team staged *Così fan tutte* by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart as part of the Summer Academy of the **Vienna Philharmonic**, in collaboration with the **Vienna MUK** in summer 2016. In the autumn of 2017, *The Marriage of Figaro* was on the program.

In the summer of 2017, **KlangBadHall** opened its new festival with the operetta *Orpheus in der Unterwelt* (Offenbach) directed by Gratschmaier/Schneider.

Previous works:

The Rape of Lucretia (Britten)

The History of the Opera (Ybbsiade)