

(Hannover, Germany)

Stage designer. Lives and works in Barcelona since 1987.

Formally trained as a concert violinist (Musikhochschule Hannover) and naval constructor (Schiffswerft Dawartz, Tönning). Two years membership in the Junge Deutsche Philharmonie.

In 1987 he settles down in Barcelona and starts to work with the Fura dels Baus for which he realised the giant Hercules for the inauguration of the *XX Olympic Summer Games* in 1992. In the following years he designs many of the iconic pieces for the Fura outdoor macro shows, like the Pepsi Girl, the Icarus, the Uroboro the two giant transformers among others.

From 1993 he works together with Marcel·lí Antunez. He creates and designs the major pieces for the performances *Epizoo*, *Afasia*, *Pol* and *Requiem*.

In 2006, with the *Ring des Nibelungen*, he starts a collaboration with Carlos Padrisa of La Fura dels Baus in classic opera productions. Together with Franc Aleu and Chu Uroz they develop a scenic language that causes strong impact wherever they work together.

As a set-designer he won the Franco Abbiatti award for the design of the *Ring des Nibelungen* recognizing the “futuristic, visionary and hyper technological vision that also respects a classical reading of Wagner”. With his scenic work, he has captivated audiences for theater, dance and opera. He premiered in many opera houses such as El Gran Teatre del Liceu in Barcelona, Salburger Festspiele, La Scala in Milano, Santuri Hall in Tokio, the Florence Maggio Musicale, Taschenoper Wien, Oper Köln, Mariinski in St. Petersburg, Staatsoper München, Arena di Verona, and the Grand Opera Houston, among others. 2013 the Stockhausen Opera *Michaels Reise um die Erde* was chosen by the New York Times to be one of the ten best music production of the year in New York.

This allowed him to work with some of the most prestigious conductors like Eliahu Inbal, Zubin Mehta, Valery Gergiev, Lorin Maazel, Kent Nagano, Peter Rundel and Howard Arman among others.

Roland Olbeter works since almost 20 years developing electro-acoustic instruments to perform music. Within this work he realised the opera *Orlando Furioso* for 5 robotic instruments and soprano with music by German composer Michael Gross. Many of these instruments also participate in classic opera. His instruments Pollywogs (2012) were especially designed to perform algorithmic music. In 2016 he premiered the camera opera *Gulliver's Dream*, an automatic “Machine Opera” for puppets and robots with music by Australian composer Helena Kats Chernin. This opera has travelled through Europe and Taiwan in 2018, where it finished the season with 20 performances in Taipei and Taichung.

Roland Olbeters technological partner is German high tech company FESTO.