

FINE ARTS/
STAGE AND
COSTUME DESIGN

weißensee

kunsthochschule berlin

Study Program Stage and Costume Design

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The Stage and Costume Design program at the weißensee academy of art berlin is a Fine Arts course. Building upon an interdisciplinary foundation course, this course teaches, examines and experiments with the possibilities of stage and costume design in both the historical context and in contemporary theater. Students learn to develop strategies and perspectives of visualization for the performing arts that go beyond the purely theatrical. The coursework focuses on developing artistic concepts. The School is particularly able to do this because it offers:– unbiased debate between concept development and theory, between stage and costume;– an interdisciplinary spectrum ranging from fine art to design. The aim of the study course is to produce stage and costume designers who work as independent artists and equal partners in the process of production between the poles of stage, dramaturgy and direction and the focus areas new media and costume design. Graduates will possess the ability to appropriately represent ideas and concepts, to communicate them, and to use technology to realize their ideas and bring them into play. The course focuses on developing artistic concepts. Applicants for the course Fine Arts / Stage and Costume Design must demonstrate a particular artistic aptitude and a distinct interest in working in the theatre. Experience gained in previous professional training or internships at theatres is advantageous. A general qualification for university entrance is preferred. Artistic aptitude will be tested in an examination.

Foundation Course (first year of studies)

Students in all departments take the foundation courses in the foundation of art and design. General aesthetic, visual and practical foundational knowledge and practice are thought,

including foundations in the fields of digital media and anatomy/morphology. Students are introduced to sensual-direct as well as analytical-systematic ways of working. The broad curriculum enables them to discover, develop, and deepen their individual abilities and talents. Teaching takes place in interdisciplinary small working groups. Interdisciplinary interactions, teamwork, and communicative activity going beyond the limits of one's own discipline and genre. With the special structure and its range of what is on offer, the foundational program is a specialty of weißensee academy of art. The program emphasizes in particular the following: teaching the foundation art and design, expanding individual creative abilities, open up new work modes, acquisition of expertise and skills in various crafts and more.

Commencement of study

Admission of beginners is for the winter semester only, i. e. from October of the current year.

Duration of study

The duration of the program is ten semesters, including the period devoted to the diploma project. After successful graduation is awarded the academic title „Diplom für Freie Kunst“/“Diploma degree of Fine Arts“ and though being a first degree the diploma is equivalent to a Master Degree. After that, students may also do a two-semester post-graduate Meisterschüler program.

Syllabus

Work of a stage or costume designer is characterised by the necessity of disputation and cooperation with all theatre areas, i. e. with the artistic, performing and theoretical aspects (text/music – direction – drama – dramaturgy) as well as the technical, handicraft and organising aspects (workshops – stage equipment, light, sound, etc. – planning). The first two semesters are dedicated to fundamental artistic and scientific studies. Teaching in the shape of exercises, seminars and lectures is largely done in common courses for all specialisms. Funda-

mental studies: Study of nature and rendering in colour, in drawing and in plastic; Designing and rendering on a surface and with new media; Anatomy and morphology; Projection/perspective; Scientific subjects of study: History of art, Cultural history and Theatre history. Further training sessions, compulsory subjects:

Studio Workshops

The instructional program of weißensee academy of art berlin is outstanding supported by its studios workshops. The artisans convey skills and basic knowledge about the most disparate materials. All students can use the workshops, whatever course they are enrolled. Besides acquiring traditional manual skills, they can learn the newest computer-aided techniques. For example weißensee has a Ceramic- and Model Making Workshop, also a Wood-, Welding- and Bookbinding Workshop, a Printing Studio, a Silkscreen- and Gravure Workshop, Weaving/ Dying/ Knitting rooms, Photography- and a Computer Studio, an Interactive Technology Lab and more.

Specific practical work

During the main course it is necessary to do one semester of specific practical work in the specialism (practical semester), before beginning the final semester. This semester serves for establishing a link with vocational practice and for acquainting the student with the complex interaction between director, actor and technical equipment. The practical semester may also be served abroad.

Stay abroad

The weißensee academy of art berlin cultivates direct contacts with a great number of colleges in other countries and promotes student exchange. Interested students in the main course may contact the international office of weißensee for information about exchange emplacements available within the SOKRATES/ ERASMUS Programme or other possibilities for a stay abroad, and hand in their corresponding applications.

Conclusion of study

The study is concluded with a practical and a theoretical diploma examination. Admission to the diploma procedure is only for students who have completed at least two semesters of main study at the weißensee academy of art berlin and have concluded this study successfully. After having passed the diploma examination, the graduate will receive the „Diploma for Graduates in Fine Arts/Stage and Costume Design of weißensee academy of art berlin“ and the diploma supplement.

Master class: Meisterschülerstudium

Graduates of the weißensee academy of art berlin who achieved very good or excellent Master results may apply for a one-year honour-master-student course.

Admission prerequisites

- A special artistic talent is required
- Minimum age 18 years
- General matriculation standard / general certificate of secondary education
- Preliminary practical or vocational training

Artistic admission test / aptitude test

The artistic talent will be ascertained by a test procedure in the middle of February.

The application period for all undergraduate courses of study is from 1 November to 10 December of each year. The Registration is made through the website: www.kh-berlin.de.

For summer term a registration is not possible. In January applicants will receive an invitation and practical hints for the aptitude test.

This admission test or exam will consist of:

- The test starts with the submission of your portfolio and if required your special homework. Minimum of 15 to maximally 20 personally produced artistic works (mainly drawings and other specimens). Admission to the test will be decided upon after examination of these works (preselection).

- A 2 to 3-day exam for proving the required aptitude.
- An interview concerning, as a rule, the evaluation of the artistic achievements shown as well as the technical skills and motivation of the participants.

Handicapped or chronically ill applicants may apply for compensation of their drawback in the test. The test participants will be informed in writing about the results. A successfully passed test is valid for two years.

Portfolio

An admission to the aptitude test will be decided after the review of the portfolio. All applicants will be invited and required to submit the portfolio personally. The content of the portfolio naturally varies depending on the desired department, but here are some general tips.

There are not too many specifications from the faculties regarding the portfolio, other than the fact that it should be include ca. 15 to 20 preferably original works (drawings, paintings, photographs, collages, videos, three-dimensional works or works on canvas must be documented as photographs). All media are permitted. The portfolio should be easy to manage and not exceed DIN A0.

The concept of the portfolio is entirely up to the applicant and should be demonstrate not only basic artistic skills and creativity but also works that are relevant to the desired program. It should be very selective about the works. As the portfolio is the first part of the entrance exam, applicants should think carefully about their artistic identity, talents, and goals. They try to avoid works that appear as if they were instructed to create it – it is very important that the creative, artistic personality can be seen in the portfolio. It is also important that the portfolio illustrates that applicants have continuously and intensively worked on their creative development. The professors place great value on high quality drawings. For inspiration, applicants can view a range of different student projects on the website or alternatively visit the open days in July.

Preliminary practical training

A preliminary practical training is not considered as basic requirement for matriculation but is highly recommended. Weißensee is not in a position to mediate training placements. The preliminary training is necessary for acquiring knowledge and experience concerning basic working techniques, materials and working processes. Especially suitable to this effect are handicraft or service workshops for clothing, small ready-made clothing or knitware factories or theatre workshops.

Application/admission

An application can be filed only after having passed the artistic admission test, whereupon the suitable applicants will receive the corresponding application form from the weißensee academy of art berlin. This form has to be sent within the established period, together with the appertaining documents, to the matriculation office of the weißensee academy of art berlin. The application deadline is preclusive. Allotment of the study places by central assignment (ZVS), numerus clausus, waiting semesters or drawing of lots is not done. After conclusion of the admission procedure in Mai of the same year, the applicants receive a written admission award and the registration forms.

Information on admission and matriculation for international applicants

In application proceedings, there are no differences between Germans, EU-Citizens or other international applicants, provided international applicants can submit a proof of German language proficiency with the application form: minimum of the qualification level A2/B1 in all departments.

The language of instruction is German in all our courses. As the aptitude/admission test will be also carried out in German it is absolutely necessary to be provided with a sufficient knowledge of German language. Needless to say that most professors speak English very well, so in case of need, you may be able to explain the

ideas, aims and motivation also in English. After a positive decision, it must be presented a language certificate for the admission, by the beginning of the studies at the latest. For example Testdaf 4, DSH 2 or the certificate of the UDK or the Goethe institution (qualification level C1). In exceptional cases, a proof of the exam registration or a certificate of the C1-course is also sufficient for the time being. The relevant language certificate must be submitted before the studies begin.

Recognition of certificates

First if applicants pass the aptitude test successfully, they have to apply for admission with the necessary certificates and documents, and these must be submitted in form of an officially authenticated translation in German or English. Foreign higher education entrance qualifications (allgemeine Hochschulreife) must be recognised as equivalent to the German general or subject-specific higher education entrance qualification. An exemption from this is possible if you have a „special artistic aptitude“ and its is declared in the notification for the result of the aptitude test. Applicants from the People’s Republic of China, Vietnam and Mongolia must include the original certificate confirming that the papers have been pre-checked by the Academic Evaluation Centre (APS).

Change of college

Changing to the weißensee academy of art berlin is possible only after completion of the fundamental study or of the 2nd semester in the same course of study. It is recommendable first to get into touch with the professors of the desired specialism and to arrange a personal interview. Acceptance and acknowledgement of accomplished studies are assessed and approved by the examination and admission committees. The application periods for College Transfer Admission are from 01 December to 02 January 02 for the summer term and May 01–31 for winter term. Please see information and guidelines for online application on the website: www.kh-berlin.de under >Application>Applying For Studies>Transfer Students

Registration/fees

For registration it is necessary to present the health insurance vouchers and to pay the contributions of approx. 300 € (registration fee, social contribution, Students’ Association (ASTA) and ticket for local transport). Tuition fees are not charged.

Accommodation

The weißensee academy of art berlin does not have any student hostels or flats. The address of the central accommodation agency is: studierendenWERK BERLIN. Web: www.stw.berlin. Moreover there exists in Berlin an ample offer of private flat-sharing and subtenancy opportunities which can be found in newspaper ads, on notice boards, by personal contacts or in internet, for example: wg-gesucht.de, easywg.de, wg-welt.de

Information material

Further information about the weißensee academy of art berlin can be found in the Internet (www.kh-berlin.de).

Information days

Once a year – in July – the weißensee academy of art berlin hosts its traditional „RUNDGANG-Open Days“ providing prospective students and applicants best opportunities for information and offer you an ideal introduction to this school. And all interested people are also invited to an informative event in November, here will take place a presentation of all departments.

Student advisory service

Susan Lipp
general course guidance
Student Service, room A 1.09

mail: studienberatung@kh-berlin.de
open hours: tuesday 11-13, thursday 14-17
telephone advisory service: +49 30 47705 342
tuesday 14-16, wednesday 10-12

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