

# AN ENCHANTING VOICE AND FIGURE

Maria Weiss is a successful singer and actress, both at home and abroad.



Maria Weiss in her best roles: at the theatre (Frank Castorf direction at Wiener Festwochen), in the film (leading part in the British short-film „Unseen“), and in the Baroque Opera (at Schloss Damtschach).

## SPRING . BOARD

The mezzo-soprano Maria Weiss, who lives in Vienna, performs regularly in her birthplace Carinthia. More recently, she appeared at the “Trigonale” and also sang the part of “Aurora” in the highly acclaimed baroque opera “L’Oracolo del Fato” by Francesco Gasparini, which premiered in Damtschach.

As an artist, Maria Weiss engages her entire body, not just her voice. She cuts a fine figure dancing the flamenco and last spring went to New York to hone her acting skills at the Lee Strasberg Film & Theatre Institute.

Maria Weiss admits to being fascinated by fractured characters, and thus she embodied a murderess in the short film “Unseen” by Phil Moran and a prostitute in the feature film “Spanien” by Anja Salomonowitz, due to come out in cinemas in the autumn.

Her operatic roles are no less challenging: she sang “Megacle” in Vivaldi’s “L’Olimpiade” and “Lisigna” in Gluck’s “Le Cinesi”. G. F. Handel is her signature composer, and she was successful in the roles of “Bradamante” in “Alcina” and “Gismonda” in “Ottone, Re di Germania”.

Presently, Maria Weiss is working on the part of “Baiana”, a character in

M. C. Guanieri’s “Pedro Malazarte”, directed by Philippe Arlaud. In preparation for her roles, Weiss binds her own vocal score book including the original composer’s notes as well as her own and material of other different editions. This year, the Feldkirch Festival focuses on music from Brazil and Cuba.

In July, Maria Weiss sings “Palante” in Sebastian Durón’s opera „La Guerra de los Gigantes“ (1702), which is part of the rare Spanish Baroque operatic repertoire.

As in “L’Oracolo del Fato” by Gasparini, the story revolves around the dramatic struggles of gods and giants, such as Jupiter and Hercules. Durón’s colourful instrumentation and compelling rhythmic makes us expect a pleasurable experience for both performers and audience.

Maria Weiss will again perform on stage as “Palante” from 6th to 14th of August in the idyllic setting of Castle Greinburg at the Danube Festival, under musical direction of Rogério Gonçalves.

What a mix of international flavours! But this poses little problem for Maria Weiss, given that she speaks five languages and was a student at the Sorbonne in Paris, as well as in Florence and Graz and

later Barcelona, while receiving master classes from great artists such as Angelika Kirchschlager.

Her daily regime between performances is jam-packed with rehearsals and independent research, learning and practice. Weiss reveals that at nights, after her rigorous daily schedule, she also spends time devising her first CD, which she entitled “Favola in Musica, OLD New Music”. “Old” and “new” musical pieces are to be captured on one CD, involving artists such as Franco Pavan. And, indeed, it comes as no surprise that Weiss illustrates the cover herself!

 **Barbara Einhauer**

[www.donau-festwochen.at](http://www.donau-festwochen.at)

**Maria Weiss** is a Carinthia-born mezzo-soprano who received her first musical education at the age of five. She has been performing on stage from age 13 and studied Cultural History at the Université Paris-Sorbonne followed by Vocal Studies at the Conservatorio Statale di Musica in Florence and later with Joanna Borowska at the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz. Weiss received a number of master classes, awards and scholarships by prestigious institutions, such as the Teatro Real Madrid, Saint Louis University and the Universidad Santiago de Compostela.

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