

Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Act 2 staging by Wieland Wagner, Bayreuth 1956.
(image reversed)

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ESTEBAN INSAUSTI
TRADITIONAL VERSUS ICONOCLASTIC
STAGINGS OF
DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG

2.00pm A Wagner Society in NSW Inc event

Sunday 12 October, 2025
Goethe Institut

90 Ocean Street (corner of Jersey Road), Woollahra





Wagner Society in NSW Inc.
established 1980
celebrating 45 years
1980-2025



PROGRAMME

12.30 pm - DVD

DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG

Act 2 from Glyndebourne, 2011, directed by David McVicar.



2.00pm ESTEBAN INSAUSTI

TRADITIONAL VERSUS ICONOCLASTIC STAGINGS OF *DIE MEISTERSINGER VON NÜRNBERG*

3.00pm (approx) **REFRESHMENTS**

YOUR DONATIONS HAVE HELPED THESE STARS



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Warwick Fyfe



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These are some of the 100 ARTISTS the WSNSW has assisted OVER 40 YEARS.
We target \$20,000 annually towards supporting emerging Wagnerian performers from NSW.
Help continue to support our talented artists.

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Bayreuth 1951. A new over-conservative production by Rudolf Hartmann, designed by Hans Reissinger, countered the "liberties" taken by Wieland on *Parsifal* and the *Ring*. This production of *Meistersinger* was in stark contrast to the Neue Bayreuth style. The comfort before the storm of 1956.



WHAT'S COMING UP NEXT?

SIEGFRIED SYMPOSIUM on **Saturday 15 November** at **The Goethe Institut** starting at **10.30 am**. Speakers include **Dr Peter Bassett, soprano Livia Brash, Professor Carole Cusack, Dr David Larkin** and **Maestro Daniel Linton-France**.

WSNSW'S CHRISTMAS CONCERT with **BRAD COOPER** accompanied by **THOMAS VICTOR JOHNSON** on **Sunday 30 November** at **St Columba** starting at **2.00 pm**.

AND IN 2026

Look out for the events programme in the **December Quarterly**. There will be a combination of some of our favourite speakers and some new ones, live and via zoom. New speakers include **Associate Professor Ross Anderson** on his new book on Adolphe Appia, **Dr Chris Sorrell** sharing his collection of early Wagner recordings on cylinders and **Dr Thomas Launius** on Neuschwanstein. Recurring events include our **Richard Wagner Birthday** and **End of Year concerts** as well as the final **symposium** in our four year series (**Götterdämmerung**) paralleling Simone Young's and the SSO's concert *Ring*. A very exciting year of events ahead.



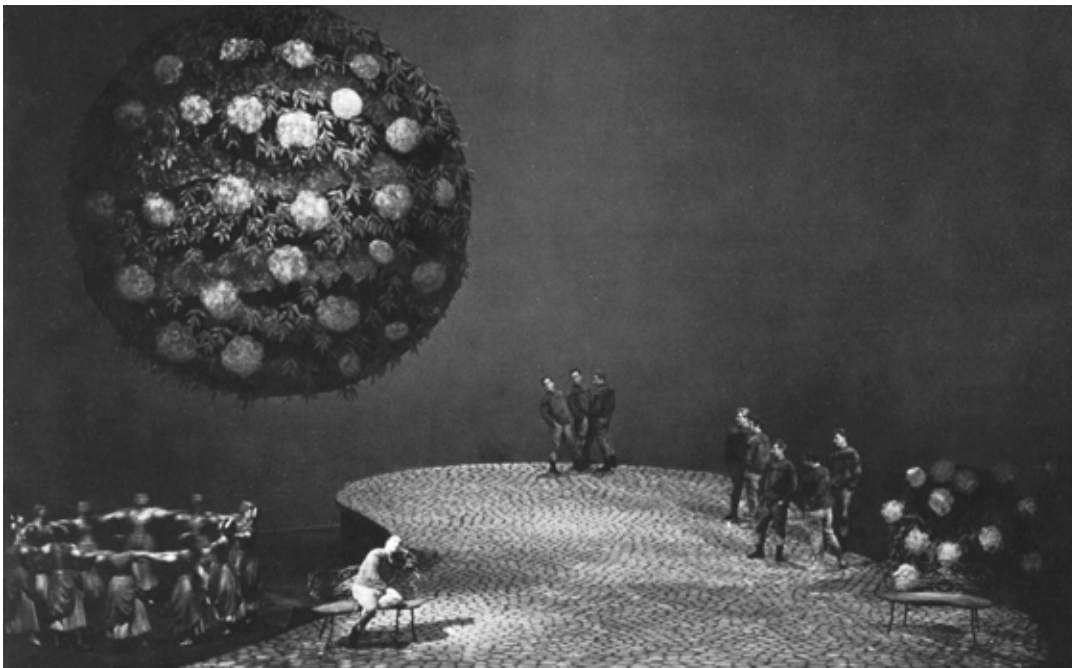
Post *Ring* wurst in Vienna, 2025.

ESTEBAN INSAUSTI

Esteban is a practising architect with 40 years of experience. A graduate of the University of Sydney, he has worked on a range of typologies including theatres, public buildings & large commercial mixed use developments in Australia and overseas. He teaches a design studio at UTS.

After a solid decade of designing public buildings at the Government Architects Office he went commercial. During a period of tax exile in Malaysia he planned & designed some impossible mixed use developments in South-East Asia & Africa (Namibia). The Malaysian experience expanded his culinary taste (& girth) but also made him confront issues of colonialism (architectural and political) together with inequality. The South-East Asia financial crisis forced his return to Sydney where followed a time of architecture with a capital 'A' as well as interesting commercial work for Westfield, Lend Lease & Frasers Property Australia. On the cultural architecture side Esteban has designed the new High Commission in New Delhi, the Red Box in Leichhardt, the Children's Theatre at Darling Harbour & the Telstra Auditorium at the corner of George and King Streets that nobody but the privileged few have seen & experienced (more inequality and access issues). The Telstra Auditorium is a gorgeous project.

He has a Master of Arts in Theatre Studies from the UNSW, compensation for foolishly passing up the opportunity to study at NIDA when accepted for the Set Design Course in 1983. He was subsequently rejected by NIDA in 2016 after a magnificent return audition for the Director's Course, leaving the theatre field with a decades long one-all draw. Whilst not a musician, music is central to his cultural activities. Esteban takes great pride in supporting & promoting the performance of music and opera, a pursuit that has its origins during his time on the ABC Youth Concerts Committee back in the 1970s. Esteban is the tenth & current President of the Wagner Society in NSW.



Wieland Wagner's staging of Act 2 in 1956. Decluttered setting but still showing the festive quality of the work - note the women dancing under the landscaped ball.



The Goethe oak in Buchenwald Concentration Camp outside Weimar. German culture upheld even in the midst of utter horror. The lonely tree foreshadows Wieland's stark Act 2.



Albert Speer's Cathedral of Light for the Nuremberg NAZI rally of 1934. Scenography from or for the Wiesenplan (scene 5 Act 3)?



Bayreuth 2025, the scenography retains familiar tropes (except for the upside down cow) but in a very fun festive mood.