

# FESTSPIELE ZÜRICH:

3 June – 26 June 2016

**Dada**

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## **A look ahead at the Festspiele Zürich 2016 – Dada and Sophie Hunger**

**The Festspiele Zürich 2016 is dedicated to the Dada movement which set out on its unstoppable course in Zurich in 1916 and spread across the world like an epidemic. Over 150 events, exhibitions, theatre, opera and dance performances, discussions and much more, will give audiences the chance to trace the origins of the famous Dada myth. Forming the heart of the programme is a grand Picabia retrospective at the Kunsthaus. The Zurich Festspiele prize, valued at 50'000 francs, is to be awarded to singer and songwriter Sophie Hunger who has conquered the world from Zurich.**

### **Pursuing the Dada myth**

On 5 February 1916, Hugo Ball and Emmy Hennings opened the Cabaret Voltaire in Zurich – and then went on to close it again in June of the same year. The Dada movement gained momentum and “infected” the world from its base in Zurich. Now, 100 years later, around 30 Zurich cultural institutions will be investigating the Dada myth during the Festspiele Zurich, held from 3 – 26 June 2016. Each institution will throw light on an aspect of their special interest and within their particular expertise, providing the Festspiele Zurich with a view through the kaleidoscope of the Dada arts – examining not only the historical movement but particularly also Dada as an intellectual attitude that crosses cultures and times.

### **Zürcher Festspiele prize awarded to Sophie Hunger**

For the tenth time running, the Artistic Committee of the Festspiele Zurich 2016 is able to award the Zurich Festspiele prize of 50'000 francs provided by the Bär-Kaelin Fund. This year's award goes to Swiss singer, songwriter, film music composer and lyricist, Sophie Hunger. “Sophie Hunger is an exceptional and sensitive artist. A unique mix of lightness of spirit, concentrated energy, humour and melancholy shapes both her music and her stage performance,” says Barbara Frey, member of the Committee and Director of the Schauspielhaus Zürich. The Bär-Kaelin Fund was delighted with the choice of Sophie Hunger: “As tenth winner of this prize, the young artist has rejuvenated the Festspiel prize at precisely the right time: while previously granting awards to great creative artists from the aspect of their life's work, the Committee has now changed its perspective and is inviting the prize winner to pursue a most promising artistic future.” The prize celebrates the outstanding achievements that Sophie Hunger has contributed to Zurich's musical life and much more besides. It was from here that she found the courage to take her first steps out into the music world. Particularly significant to her at this time was the music club Helsinki, one of the first clubs in Zurich to offer a stage to live bands every evening. In her own words: “Without the contacts that I had with the people there, I would never have had the gall to make my first CD.”

In the meantime she has moved to Berlin. And when she stands before the audience, we see a singer who, says arts journalist Tobi Müller, "can do all those things that make pop music exciting". The ability to write great songs and insightful lyrics is not even the most important aspect: "Hunger's art manages to bring a sense of uniqueness to the stage. Of whatever age, the audience has the feeling that she is singing just for this moment, for this hall, for this city. And Hunger plays around with the vocals, not simply reproducing the recorded version that many people already know. She is able to blur the lines between risk, ecstasy and control until they are no longer distinguishable. Add to this her recurring components of zest and humour, and her art becomes all the more baffling. This is just one of the reasons why audiences return again and again and ask themselves: How does she do it?"

The audience will have the chance of such an experience at the prize award ceremony on Saturday 25 June 2016 at Schauspielhaus Zurich when Sophie Hunger will be presenting a musical and multi-media review of her musical career. And she has chosen Tobi Müller, one of her former journalistic observers to act as presenter.

### **Artistic programme at Zurich's Kunsthaus, Schauspielhaus, Opera House and Tonhalle Concert Hall**

Forming the heart of the Festspiele is the grand Picabia retrospective on show in the Kunsthaus, the opening of which represents the official opening of the Festspiele. The Schauspielhaus will present "der die Mann" by stage anarchist Herbert Fritsch based on scripts by Konrad Bayer, a Dadaist in the 1950s and 1960s and no doubt the most glittering member of the "Wiener" group. Events at the Tonhalle will include a Dada night with chamber music by Satie, Schulhoff and Schwitters while at the Opera House, young members of the Zurich Ballet ensemble create their own Dada-inspired choreographies.

### **Many more highlights – will be communicated at the beginning of March 2016**

Along with the Neumarkt, Rigiblick and Gessnerallee Zürich theatres, the Rietberg Museum too will once again take part in the Festspiele Zürich's programme with contributions based on the festival's theme. Theme-related events will be held by other Zurich institutions such as the Landesmuseum, the Central Library, the Volkshochschule, Zurich University of the Arts, Moods jazz club, the James Joyce Foundation and Miller's Studio. Also worthy of special mention are the festive opening matinée with an introductory talk on the theme held by Moritz Leuenberger, thematic city tours, a slam poetry show as well as "Opera for all", the live broadcast from the Opera House across the Sechseläutenplatz held for the first time with great success in 2014, plus the traditional Midsummer Night's Ball in the main station. Many more Dada-inspired events will be held by other event organisers too.

At the beginning of March, the Festspiele Zurich will present its full programme for 2016 and start the advance sales for the events not yet published.

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The Zurich Festival is organised jointly by Zurich Opera House, Schauspielhaus, Tonhalle Orchestra, Kunsthhaus, and other cultural institutions within the city and canton of Zurich. Dedicated to a common theme, the festival provides the occasion for an annual summer meeting of the arts which reflects the diversity of Zurich's cultural life. [www.festspiele-zuerich.ch](http://www.festspiele-zuerich.ch)

In 2016 the **Zürcher Festspiel prize** will be awarded for the tenth time as part of the Zürcher Festspiele programme. Made possible by the Festspiele Zurich Foundation's Bär-Kaelin Fund, it pays tribute to outstanding achievements to Zurich's cultural life. Judged by the Artistic Commission of the Festspiele Zurich, the award amounts to 50'000 francs.

Former prize-winners: 2007 Heinz Holliger, 2008 Luc Bondy, 2009 Peter Stein, 2010 György Kurtág, 2011 Matti Salminen, 2012 Heinz Spoerli, 2013 Pipilotti Rist, 2014 Fritz Senn, 2015 Anna Viebrock.

Further information can be found at [www.zuercher-festspielpreis.ch](http://www.zuercher-festspielpreis.ch)

### **Sophie Hunger: a biography**

Sophie Hunger (born 1983) grew up in England, Switzerland and Germany where she now lives today. Her debut came in 2008 with the album "Monday's Ghost" which went straight to number 1 in the Swiss Album charts and immediately gave rise to various tours of Europe and the USA. All three albums "Monday's Ghost" (2008), "1983" (2010) and "The Danger of Light" (2012) as well as all her live appearances were given resounding reviews by the European press (z.B. *The Guardian*, *The Sunday Times*). In 2010 Sophie Hunger was the first Swiss artist to appear at the *Glastonbury Festival*. In 2011, she won the *Swiss Award* and the *Prix de la Création Musicale* in France. In 2012, she successfully performed the solo piece "Bob Dylan - Be Part of My Dream" at the *Cité de la Musique Paris* and at the *Montréal Jazz Festival* in Canada. Her live album, "The Rules of Fire" was released in 2013 and includes the fictional documentary of the same name by French director Jeremiah. To date, Sophie Hunger has sold more than 250' 000 albums across the world. At the end of 2014, she signed up with the British record company *Caroline* and announced her fourth studio album "SUPERMOON" in spring 2015. Recorded in Brussels and San Francisco, it was produced in collaboration with other singer/songwriters such as John Vanderslice, (Death Cab for Cutie, Spoon), and mixed by Mark Lawson (Timber Timbre, Arcade Fire). Other projects in 2015 have included the sound track to the French animation film *Ma vie de Courgette* and her part in *Wiebo* (directed by Philippe Decouflé) for the opening season of the *Philharmonie de Paris* in March.