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G. v. Leitis receives Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art

1 message

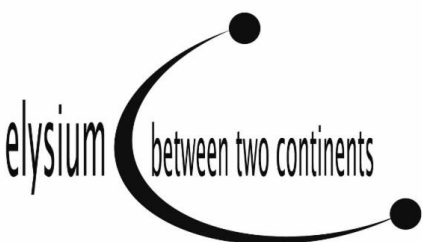
Elysium Between Two Continents (M. Lahr und G. v. Leitis) <elysiumbtc@aol.com>

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High Honor for Gregorij von Leitis



Dr. Georg Heindl (left), Consul General of the Republic of Austria in New York, and Christine Moser (right), Director of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, at the presentation of the Austrian Cross of Honor for Science and Art to Gregorij von Leitis. (photo: Letizia Mariotti)

Austrian Federal President **Dr. Heinz Fischer** has conferred the Cross of Honor for Science and Art to **Gregorij von Leitis**. On June 9, **Dr. Georg Heindl**, Austrian Consul General in New York presented this high honor to the theatre director, artistic director and cultural manager. In his laudatory remarks Dr. Heindl emphasized that Gregorij von Leitis has always considered the theatre to be a moral institution in the spirit of Friedrich Schiller who first coined this expression. As an example, Georg Heindl mentioned the many endeavors of Gregorij von Leitis and Elysium to integrate minorities by means of art; in the 1980s Elysium organized one of the first AIDS benefits for the newly founded and fledgling Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC), and Elysium also instituted a regular Theatre for the Homeless.

Georg Heindl especially stressed the tireless efforts of Gregorij von Leitis to rediscover and present the works of composers and writers who were persecuted, banned and silenced by the Nazi-Regime. Many of those murdered and exiled artists were Austrian.

Gregorij von Leitis thanked the Austrian government institutions and in particular the Austrian Cultural Forum New York for more than three decades of intensive and productive partnership and cooperation. At the same time he expressed his gratitude to the many friends and supporters saying that without their dedication and loyal help he could not have accomplished all this work. A number of those friends who have accompanied and supported *Elysium - between two continents* and *The Lahr von Leitis Academy & Archive*, were invited by Dr. Georg Heindl and his wife **Neline Koornneef Heindl** to attend this ceremony and the dinner following immediately afterwards.



Lya Friedrich Pfeifer (center), President of the Max Kade Foundation and a Member of the Board of Advisors of Elysium, with her husband Joseph Pfeifer (right) and Corey Friedlander.



from left: Jolana Blau, Vice President of the Board of Directors of Elysium, Joachim Dennhardt, Dr. Brigitta Blaha, Ambassador of Austria to Pakistan, and Dr. Waltraud Dennhardt-Herzog, Deputy Consul General of Austria in New York.



Gregorij von Leitis (right) shares his happiness and gratitude for this recognition of his work with Michael

from right: Elysium's Advisory Board Member Louise Kerz Hirschfeld, who has known and supported Gregorij von Leitis for more than 30 years, her husband Lewis B. Cullman, and Rabbi Dr. Ismar Schorsch, Chancellor Emeritus of the Jewish Theological Seminary New York.

Lahr, Program Director of Elysium. (photo: Letizia Mariotti)

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The second issue of "**The Bridge Journal**" - Newsletter of Elysium - between two continents / The Lahr von Leitis Academy & Archive is now online.

Commemorating the 50th anniversary of **Erwin Piscator's** death, this issue is dedicated to the continuing legacy of this great theatre revolutionary.

You find the link to the web publication [here](#) or a download as a pdf [here](#)



Elysium - between two continents

Fostering artistic and academic dialogue,
creative and intellectual exchange, and mutual friendship
between the United States of America and Europe.

Fighting against discrimination, racism and anti-Semitism by means of art.

The Lahr von Leitis Academy & Archive

Art and Education without Borders.

Education and knowledge as efficient tools to fight against
ignorance, discrimination and hatred.

Familiarizing the young generation with the treasures of exiled art,
to help them create a meaningful future that incorporates
the lessons learned from history.



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