

FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU

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RHEINMAIN CULTURE

Hello there!

**A time travel with Linn Maxwell through the International Theater
BY JAMAL TUSCHICK**

She has performed on the great stages of the world. Linn Maxwell, mezzo soprano, born in Indiana, was hailed by the New York Times. In the Anglo Saxon world her technique is considered flawless. Now the artist appeared at the International Theater Frankfurt. Hard work to play before a small audience.

Linn Maxwell took her grateful audience on a magical rollercoaster, which at the same time proved to be a travel to the past. It all began with a child star. Again and again Linn Maxwell returned to Julie Andrews who began her career at the age of 12 and became a Broadway star as Eliza Doolittle in *My Fair Lady*. Mitzi McManus accompanied her on the grand piano while Linn Maxwell choreographed "No One is Alone," as well as Richard Rogers' "My Favorite Things," recognized a hundredfold and lately embraced by John Coltrane. Raindrops on roses as well as schnitzel with noodles are among the favorites.

The promise of optimism--as civilization and nature find each other--reappear as she performs, and reminds one of the mood that James Joyce created in his early works. The Irishman embraced the lighter muse as there was song everywhere during his time. The memory of these bygone times permeated the air with an attracting scent while Linn Maxwell brought back with careful phrasing the expression of hope in a long past era.

By mimicking and gesturing well known musical figures she surprised the audience again and again. *Les Misérables* "I dreamed a dream," the adaptation of Victor Hugo, and the *Threepenny Opera* became comfortable neighbors. In German she sang ["Mack the Knife"], "The Ballad of Sexual Addiction" and then "Pirate Jenny". "And when their heads fall, I say 'hello there.'" Here she bowed to Lotte Lenya. Linn Maxwell emphasized that Lotte Lenya was motivated by desperation and mission to bring recognition to her deceased husband, Kurt Weill, when she performed off-Broadway. This information was conveyed with steely focus. We saw this again and again in the smiling perfection with which Linn Maxwell performed.