

## **Statement of the German Association of Libraries and Museums for the Performing Arts**

The Düsseldorf Theatre Museum is one of the few independent theater museums financed by a municipality, and its activities reflect a specific German theater history. The many years of dedicated work in national and international bodies has given the Düsseldorf Theatre Museum a reputation which emphasizes the cultural significance of Düsseldorf and this should be preserved.

If the nationally and internationally recognized quality of the collections of the Düsseldorf Theatre Museum and its research and educational work (roughly 400 events per year) are not to suffer significant losses, then at least the current status of the Düsseldorf Theatre Museum needs to be preserved and there should be neither personnel nor financial reductions!

The restoration needs of the building, where the Düsseldorf Theatre Museum has long been housed and whose location is accepted by the public, can not be borne by the institution. Innovative solutions which are not solely dictated by economic needs must be found. If a new location is necessary, it must be appropriate for the needs of the collection, the users and the mediatory work.

Theater history is an important part of cultural memory and its preservation is an indispensable responsibility of public ownership.

Dr. Claudia Blank, chairwoman, director of the German Theater Museum Munich