

## **Vita – Claudia Schmitz**

Claudia Schmitz, born in 1970, has been Managing Director of the German Theatre Association since January 2022. The Federal Confederation of Theatres and Orchestras is one of the world's largest interest and employer associations in the sector. Prior to this, she was Commercial Managing Director of the Düsseldorfer Schauspielhaus from 2016, working in a dual leadership role with the General Director. She was also responsible for the extensive refurbishment of the architecturally listed theatre.

After studying law at the University of Trier, Claudia Schmitz, a native of Viersen in the Lower Rhineland, entered the world of theatre in 1996 as a consultant to the General Director at the Deutsches Nationaltheater Mannheim.

From 2000 to 2002, she headed the Artistic Operations Office at the Aalto-Musiktheater of the Theater und Philharmonie Essen. From 2002 to 2006, she was jointly responsible for the founding of the JES - Junges Ensemble Stuttgart as Head of Administration and Organisation. She then headed the Deutsches Theater in Göttingen as Administrative Director and Managing Director from 2006 to 2011 and moved to the Staatstheater Braunschweig as Administrative Director and Deputy General Director in 2011.

Her commitment to the sector is based on the statement with which the Enquete Commission 'Culture in Germany' began its report in 2007:

**„Culture is not an ornament. It is the foundation on which our society rests and on which it is built. It is the task of politics to secure and strengthen it.“**

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