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nollendorfstrasse 1
10783 berlin

0049 178 653 35 60

mailme@jozopr.com
www.jozopr.com

Biography

Bibiana Beglau
Actress

Bibiana Beglau was born in Braunschweig as the daughter of a border official and a nurse. Having grown up there, she left the Waldorf School one year before graduation with the goal of studying the visual arts. From very early on, she wanted to search out possibilities that could change perspectives on things and which could speak through her. The creative expressiveness of a sculptor or a painter such as Francis Bacon fascinated her. But she soon recognized that it was the same feeling whether she worked artistically with different materials or outlined human behavior on stage. She auditioned in Essen and in Hamburg, where she was accepted at the Hochschule for Music and Theater.

Jutta Hoffmann, her teacher at the time, is still her great role model. 'When Ms. Hoffmann recites Kleist, it is relevant', she recounts, 'there are not that many actors who can do it: To handle the words of a writer in such a way that they reestablish a relationship to reality.' The aspirations of her teacher were internalized by Bibiana Beglau and precisely refined in her acting. The way in which she allows her figures to become believably real has made her one of the most unique and outstanding personalities in contemporary film and theater. She sets her histrionic intelligence and striking corporeality in motion to explore her roles to their limits. The Tagesspiegel wrote: 'She could embody a rebel and a veiled fundamentalist, a rude housewife and an elegant whore; she was already a suicidal woman and a licentious fun girl, an insurgent and a lunatic – she is not afraid of extremes.' Again and again, audiences and the press try to locate the actress in her roles. Yet, after over 25 years of stage and film work, Bibiana Beglau still surprises. She does not let herself be compartmentalized. Rather, she wants to access the variety and the intensive exploration of the most diverse characters. In so doing, time and again, she searches out involvement with people who question and change the structures. Since the beginning of her career, she has worked with directors who have made their mark on the theater and film of today. In the theater, Barbara Frey, Christoph Schlingensief, Dimiter Gotscheff, Einar Schleef, Frank Castorf, Martin Kušej, Sebastian Nübling and Thomas Ostermeier have been her role models and directorial mentors, in film, the intensive collaboration with legendary director Volker Schlöndorff as well as the diverse collaborations with the most interesting voices of new German cinema, such as Florian Hoffmeister, Hanna Doose, Irene von Alberti, Isa Prahl, Jan Bonny, Viviane Andereggen and Wolfgang Fischer.

Breaking away, breaking into something new, there has to be something different in this world: This thought is what drives her. Whether as an ideologically motivated terrorist, as a blood-soaked conspirator or as a distraught girl in love, the actress is continuously seeking to create a space in art to make these nuances, these possible in-between areas visible. Bibiana Beglau has been honored many times over for her outstanding performances, including with the Silver Bear of the Berlinale as best actress, the Ulrich Wildgruber Prize and the Adolf Grimme Prize. She was chosen 'Actress of the Year' in 2014 by the renowned trade magazine 'Theater heute' and honored with the German Theater Prize 'Der Faust' in 2015 for her exceptional acting achievements. In the same year, Bibiana Beglau was appointed member of the Academy of the Arts as well as the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts.

Bibiana Beglau is active as an actress throughout the German-speaking world and lives in Berlin and Vienna.

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people relations

2_13))))

Press Reviews | Selection

'She is a star soloist on the most important theater stages of the German-speaking world.'
3Sat, Germany

'The bitter intensity and confident portrayal of the most contradictory emotions are what distinguish Bibiana Beglau.'
Film Zeit, Germany

'Impressive.'
Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Switzerland

'It's as if you had a remote control in your hand and surfed away. Bibiana Beglau offers the complete program: She is seductress, object of desire, tramp and good girl. She is beautiful, ugly, serious and funny.'
Der Spiegel, Germany

'The shining light Bibiana Beglau.'
Neue Zürcher Zeitung, Switzerland

'This actress is a formidable dramatic personality. From the spellbinding power of the shoveling hands, the bulging veins, the archaic, primitive panache. With a resilient, steely, yet manic precision, she reminds one of an Ekkehard Schall – but with a single turn of the head or a deeper, quavering gulp of air, the girl lights up.'
Neues Deutschland, Germany

'We can't take our eyes off Beglau.'
The New Yorker, USA

'Ms. Beglau is so intuitive and charismatic an actress that you're drawn to her character's side by the steely grace of her certainty.'
The New York Times, USA

'The diva of her generation.'
Süddeutsche Zeitung, Germany

'Performances at every level, from Beglau as Kremer's devoted sister to Goetz Burger as the bishop's weaselly assistant, are spot on.'
Variety, USA

'Such a beautiful German face' - I said, as I looked at her once through the camera for a close-up. But what did I mean by that? Symmetry, gravity, the rather Greek long neck, the fresh laughter, the intimate smile - is that German? Or, rather, the upstanding, unbending honesty? It doesn't matter, the camera loves this face: it glows.'
Volker Schlöndorff, Germany

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people relations

3_13))))

Film (Cinema | Television)

2027	Murot und die Mittsommernacht - Tatort | 'Murot and the Midsummer Night' - Tatort Sebastian Marka | Germany
	Take Me Too Lena May Graf | Germany
2026	Block 10 Marcus O. Rosenmüller | Germany
	Wäldern - Die Wiedergängerin | 'Forests - The Revenant' Till Franzen | Germany
2025	Birding Yannick Horn | Germany
	No Hit Wonder Florian Dietrich | Germany
	Querschuss | 'Cross Shot' Nicole Weegmann | Germany
2024	Aus dem Takt - Jenseits der Spree | 'Out of Sync - Beyond the Spree' Christoph Ischinger | Germany
	Die geschützen Männer | `The Protected Men' Irene von Alberti | Germany
	Gesiterfahrt | 'Wrong Way' - Tatort Christine Hartmann | Germany
2023	Freiheit ist das Einzigste, was zählt | `Freedom Is the Only Thing That Matters' Jan Bonny | Germany
	Totgeschwiegen | 'Hushed Up' - The Barcelona Crime Thriller Andreas Herzog | Germany
	Vienna Blood - III. Season Robert Dornhelm and Umut Dag | United Kingdom and Austria
	Wann kommst Du meine Wunden küssen | `Kiss My Wounds' Hanna Doose | Germany
2022	King of Stonks Facundo Scalerandi, Isabell Šuba and Jan Bonny | Germany
2021	Stürm - Bis ich tot bin oder frei! | `Storm - Until I Am Dead Or Free!' Oliver Rihs | Germany
2020	Ich habe im Traum geweinet - Tatort | `I Cried in a Dream' - Tatort Jan Bonny | Germany

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people relations

4_13))))

2019	Crescendo Dror Zahavi | Germany
	Die Drei !!! | 'The Three !!!' Viviane Andereggen | Germany
	Jupp, wat hamwer jemaht? | 'Jupp, what did We do?' Jan Bonny | Germany
	Zorn - Tatort | 'Wrath' - Tatort Andreas Herzog | Germany
2018	1000 Arten, Regen zu beschreiben | 'Different Kinds Of Rain' Isa Prahl | Germany
	Die Guten und die Bösen - Unter Verdacht | 'The Good and The Bad - Under Suspicion' Johannes Grieser | Germany
	Luna Khaled Kaissar | Germany
	Sieben Stunden | 'Seven Hours' Christian Görlitz | Germany
	Teufelsmoor | 'Dark Moor' Brigitte Bertele | Germany
2017	Kein Entrinnen - Der Alte | 'No Escape - The Old One' Johannes Grieser | Germany
	Über Barbarossaplatz | 'Across Barbarossa Platz' Jan Bonny | Germany
2016	Die Habenichtse | 'The Have-Nots' Florian Hoffmeister | Germany
	Letzte Spur Berlin - Gefrierpunkt | 'Last Trace Berlin - Freezing Point' Maris Pfeiffer | Germany
	München Laim - Uriel | 'Munich Laim - Uriel' Michael Schneider | Germany
	Neid ist auch keine Lösung | 'Jealousy Is No Solution Either' Tobi Baumann | Germany

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people relations

5_13))))

2015

Axel der Held | 'Axel the Hero'
Hendrik Hölzemann | Germany

Der Andere - Schuld nach Ferdinand von Schirach | 'The Other - Guilt by Ferdinand von Schirach'
Maris Pfeiffer | Germany

Die Liebe unserer Eltern | 'The Love of our Parents'
Thomas Szabo | Germany

Schmutziges Blut | 'Dirty Blood'
Friedemann Fromm | Germany

2014

Der sanfte Tod | 'The Gentle Death' - Tatort
Alexander Adolph | Germany

Die Abrechnung | 'The Revenge'
Dror Zahavi | Germany

Willkommen im Klub | 'Welcome to the Club'
Andreas Schimmelbusch | Germany

2013

Helmut Schmidt - Lebensfragen | 'Helmut Schmidt - Life Issues'
Ben von Grafenstein | Germany

Tod im Paradies - Der Kriminalist | 'Death in Paradise - The Criminalist'
Christian Görlitz | Germany

2012

Die Machtergreifung | 'The Takeover'
Bernd Fischauer | Germany

Es ist niemals vorbei | 'It Is Never Over'
Hartmut Griesmayr | Deutschland

Europas letzter Sommer | 'Europes Last Summer'
Bernd Fischauer | Deutschland

Zappelphilipp | 'Fidgety Philipp'
Connie Walther | Deutschland

2011

Der kurze Ruhm des Alexander K. | 'The short fame of Alexander K.'
Manuel Fluryn Hendry | Germany

Der Weg zur Macht | 'The Way to Power'
Bernd Fischauer | Germany

Die Konterrevolution | 'The Counter-Revolution'
Bernd Fischauer | Deutschland

2010

Der letzte Angestellte | 'The Last Employee'
Alexander Adolph | Germany

Leben gegen Leben | 'Life Against Life' – Tatort
Nils Willbrandt | Germany

Verräter | 'Traitor' - Stubbe
Peter Kahane | Germany

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people relations

6_13))))

2009	Gier | 'Greed' Dieter Wedel | Germany
	Königskinder | 'Royal Children' - Tatort Thorsten Näter | Germany
	Wahlverwandschaften | 'Elective Affinities' - Tatort Thorsten Näter | Germany
2008	Was Du nicht siehst | 'What You Don't See' Wolfgang Fischer | Germany
2007	Il Pugno di Gesù | 'Boxing Jesus' Stefan Jäger | Switzerland
2006	König Ottokars Glück und Ende | 'King Ottokar's Happiness and End' Martin Kušej and Peter Schönhofer | Austria
	Das Leuchten | 'The Glowing' Krystof Zlatnik | Germany
2005	Der große Schlaf | 'The Big Sleep' Mona Lenz | Germany
	Ricordare Anna | 'Remembering Anna' Walter Deuber | Switzerland
	Unter dem Eis | 'Under the Ice' Aelrun Goette | Germany
2004	3° Grad kälter | '3 Degrees Colder' Florian Hoffmeister | Germany
	Der Ring der Toten | 'The Death Ring' - Soko Kitzbühel Andreas Prochaska | Austria
	Sechs zum Essen | 'Six for Dinner' - Tatort Fillipos Tsitos | Germany
2003	Belmondo Annette Carle | Switzerland
	Gefährliches Schweigen | 'Dangerous Silence'- Tatort Martin Eigler | Germany
	Kammerflimmern | 'Heart Fibrillation' Hendrik Hoelzemann | Germany
	Mietsache | 'Rented Item'- Tatort Daniel Helfer | Germany
	Der Neunte Tag | 'The Ninth Day' Volker Schlöndorff | Germany
	Versprochen | 'Promised' - Tatort Martin Eigler | Germany

((((jozo))))
people relations

7_13))))

2002	Nachtangst | 'Night Fear' Michael Rowitz | Germany
	Ten Minutes Older Volker Schlöndorff | Germany
2001	Birthday Stefan Jäger | Germany
	Liebesschuld | 'Guilty Love' Ulrich Stark | Germany
	Verrat | 'Betrayal' - Tatort Hans Noever | Germany
2000	Der Briefbomber | 'The Letter Bomber' Torsten C. Fischer | Austria
	Doppelpass | 'Double Pass' Jörn Schoppe | Germany
1999	Die Stille nach dem Schuss | 'The Legend of Rita' Volker Schlöndorff | Germany
	No Sex Josh Broecker | Germany
	Frank Hans Weingartner | Germany
1997	Gegen den Strom | 'Against the Current' Thorsten Näter | Germany
	Mörderischer wohnen - Der Tod des letzten Mieters | 'Murderous Living – The Death of the Last Tenant' Helmut Lohner and Marijan David Vajda | Germany
1996	Absprung | 'Take-Off' Hanno Brühl | Germany
	2 ½ Minuten | '2 ½ Minutes' Rolf Schübel | Germany
1995	Der Mörder und sein Kind | 'The Murderer and His Child' Matti Geschonneck | Germany
	Neulich am Deich | 'Recently at the Levee' Janek Rieke | Germany

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people relations

8_13))))

Theater

* - 2026	Sankt Falstaff - Ewald Palmetshofer as Hothead Henry Percy and The Brain Karin Henkel | Burgtheater Wien | Austria
* - 2022	The Distant Land - Arthur Schnitzler as Mrs. Meinhold and Mr. von Aigner Barbara Frey | Burgtheater Wien and Ruhrtriennale | Austria and Germany
2025 - 2024	Nosferatu - after Bram Stoker and Gerhild Steinbuch as Nosferatu Adena Jacobs | Burgtheater Wien | Austria
2024	Wiener Prozesse - Box der Wahrheit | 'Vienna Trials - Box of Truth' - as Interrogator Milo Rau | Wiener Festwochen | Austria
2024 - 2021	Maria Stuart - Friedrich Schiller as Elisabeth Martin Kušej | Burgtheater Wien and Salzburger Festspiele | Austria
2024 - 2014	Faust - Johann Wolfgang von Goethe as Mephistopheles Martin Kušej | Burgtheater Vienna and Residenztheater Munich | Austria and Germany
2024 - 2014	Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? - Edward Albee as Martha Martin Kušej | Burgtheater Vienna and Residenztheater Munich | Austria and Germany
2022 - 2019	The Battle of Hermann - Heinrich von Kleist as Thusnelda Martin Kušej | Burgtheater Wien | Austria
2019 - 2018	Don Juan - Molière as Elvira Frank Castorf | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2019 - 2018	Playing :: Karlstadt - Martin Kušej and Albert Ostermaier as Karl Valentin Alexandra Althoff, Berhard Mikeska and Lothar Kittstein (Raum + Zeit) | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2019 - 2017	Howl - Allen Ginsberg as Performer Angela Obst | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2019 - 2017	Phädras Nacht | 'Phaedra's Night' - Martin Kušej and Albert Ostermaier as Phaedra Martin Kušej | Residenztheater Munich | Germany

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people relations

9_13))))

2019 - 2012	Die bitteren Tränen der Petra von Kant | 'The Bitter Tears of Petra von Kant' - Rainer Werner Fassbinder as Petra von Kant Martin Kušej | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2019 - 2011	Immer noch Sturm | 'Storm Still' - Peter Handke as Ursula Dimiter Gotscheff | Burgtheater Wien and Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany and Austria
2017 - 2016	Die Abenteuer des guten Soldaten Švejk im Weltkrieg | 'The Fateful Adventures of the Good Soldier Švejk during the World War' - Jaroslav Hašek as Possibility Frank Castorf | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2017 - 2013	Cement - Heiner Müller after Fjodor Gladkow as Dascha Tschumalowa Dimiter Gotscheff | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2016 - 2013	Journey to the End of Night - Louis-Ferdinand Céline as Ferdinand Bardamu Frank Castorf | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2015	Baal - Bertolt Brecht as Isabelle, the Wife from Hell Frank Castorf | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2013	The Comet - Jean Paul as 1 Katrin Plötner | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2013 - 2011	Antigone - Sophocles as Guard, Tiresias and the Courier Dimiter Gotscheff | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
2012 - 2011	Kasimir and Karoline - Ödön von Horváth as Erna, Rosa and Schürzinger Frank Castorf | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2012 - 2001	4.48 Psychosis - Sarah Kane Falk Richter | Schaubühne, Berlin and Schauspielhaus Zurich | Germany and Switzerland
2011	Eyjafjallajökull-Tam-Tam - Helmut Krausser Robert Lehniger | Residenztheater Munich | Germany
2011 - 2010	Twelfth Night - William Shakespeare as Olivia Jan Bosse | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
2011 - 2009	Oedipus, Tyrant - Friedrich Hölderlin by Heiner Müller as Creon, Tiresias and the Servant Dimiter Gotscheff | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany

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people relations

10_13))))

2011 - 2009	The Truth About The Kennedys - Luk Perceval as Rose Kennedy Luk Perceval | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
2010 - 2000	Berlin Alexanderplatz - Alfred Döblin as Mietze Frank Castorf | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2010 - 2007	Im Ausnahmezustand | 'In a State of Emergency' - Falk Richter as The Woman Falk Richter | Schaubühne Berlin | Germany
2009 - 2008	The Cherry Orchard - Anton Chekhov as Mrs Ranewskaja Falk Richter | Schaubühne Berlin | Germany
2009 - 2008	My Own Private Germany - Robert Borgmann Robert Borgmann | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2009 - 2007	Three Sisters - Anton Chekhov as Mascha Falk Richter | Schaubühne Berlin | Germany
2009 - 2005	König Ottokars Glück und Ende | 'King Ottokar's Happiness and End' - Franz Grillparzer as Queen Kunigunde Martin Kušej | Burgtheater Vienna | Austria
2008 - 2006	Ghosts - Henrik Ibsen as Mrs Alving Sebastian Nübling | Schaubühne Berlin | Germany
2008	Macbeth - William Shakespeare as Lady Macbeth Sebastian Nübling | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland
2007 - 2005	Barebacklying - Simone Aughterlony Simone Aughterlony | Gessnerallee Zurich, Hebbel Theater Berlin and Schauburg Rotterdam | Switzerland, Germany and Netherlands
2007	Der Hässliche | 'The Ugly One' - Marius von Mayenburg as Fanny Benedict Andrews | Schaubühne Berlin | Germany
2006 - 2005	Fatherless - Anton Chekhov as Anna Petrovna Stefan Pucher | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2004 - 2003	57 Minuten 38 Sekunden Ewigkeit | '57 Minutes and 38 Seconds of Eternity' – Bibiana Beglau and Stefan Jäger as The Missing Stefan Jäger | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland
2004	Attabambi-Pornoland - Christoph Schlingensief Christoph Schlingensief | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland

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people relations

11_13)))))

2003 - 1998	Disco Pigs - Enda Walsh as Pig Thomas Ostermeier | Schaubühne Berlin and Schauspielhaus Zurich | Germany and Switzerland
2003	Mourning Becomes Electra - Eugene O'Neill as Lavinia Frank Castorf | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland
2002 - 2001	Hamlet - William Shakespeare as Ophelia Christoph Schlingensief | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland
2002	Synchron - Thomas Hürlimann as Sibylle Christoph Marthaler | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland
2001 - 2000	Polaroids - Mark Ravenhills Falk Richter | | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Switzerland
2001 - 1999	Nothing Hurts - Anouk van Dijk and Falk Richter Anouk van Dijk and Falk Richter | Kampnagel Hamburg | Germany
1998 - 1997	Lulu - Frank Wedekind as Lulu Anna Badora | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1998 - 1997	Salomé - Oscar Wilde as Herodias Einar Schleef | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1997	Miss Sarah Sampson - Gotthold Ephraim Lessing Nikolai Sykosch | Schauspielhaus, Düsseldorf | Germany
1997	As You Like It - William Shakespeare as Roslinde Nikolai Sykosch | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1996	Ivanov - Anton Chekhov as Sascha Anna Badora | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1996	Kult - Falk Richter Falk Richter | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1995	Portrait Image Konzeptpool | 'Portrait Image Concept Pool' - Falk Richter Falk Richter | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
1995	Zapping - Uli Waller Elke Lang | Kammerspiele Hamburg | Germany

Awards

2026	Nestroy-Theaterpreis (Nomination) as Best Actress in 'Sankt Falstaff'
2021	Nestroy-Theaterpreis (Nomination) as Best Actress in 'Maria Stuart'
2018	Special Award for outstanding Performance of the Television Film Festival Baden-Baden for 'Über Barbarossaplatz' | 'Across Barbarossaplatz'
2017	German Audio Book Prize for Best Performance for 'Die Unglückseligen' | 'The Unfortunate'
	Premio Bacco for outstanding acting achievements
2015	Appointed to the Academy of the Arts for her contribution to art of the present day
	Appointed to the Bavarian Academy of Fine Arts for her contribution to art of the present day
	German Theater Prize `Der Faust' for outstanding performance in 'Faust'
2014	Theater Heute Prize Actress of the Year for 'Faust', 'Journey to the End of the Night' and 'Cement'
2013	Adolf-Grimme-Award (Nomination) for dramatic performance in 'Zappelphilipp' | 'Fidgety Philipp'
2012	Kurt-Meisel-Award for outstanding performances in 'Kasimir and Karoline', 'Perrudja' and 'The Bitter Tears Of Petra von Kant'
2008	Audience Award for outstanding performance at Zurich Schauspielhaus in 'Macbeth'
2007	Adolf-Grimme-Award for dramatic performance in 'Unter dem Eis' | 'Under the Ice'
2005	Locarno Silver Leopard for '3° Grad kälter' | '3 Degrees Colder'
2001	Grand Prize International Filmfestival in Seoul for 'Birthday'
	Max Ophüls Festival Audience Award for 'Birthday'

2000	Berlinale Silver Bear for dramatic performance in 'The Legend of Rita'
	European Actress of the Year (Nomination) for dramatic performance in 'The Legend of Rita'
	Riga Filmfest Grand Award for dramatic performance in 'The Legend of Rita'
	Ulrich Wildgruber Award for dramatic performance in 'The Legend of Rita'