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nollendorfstrasse 1
10783 berlin

0049 178 653 35 60

mailme@jozopr.com
www.jozopr.com

Theatrography

Samuel Finzi
Actor

While still a student at the State Theater and Film Academy in Sofia, Samuel Finzi performed in his first theater and film roles. This brought him into contact with directors who have made a significant impact on European theater and film. In the theater, he has worked with directors such as Benno Besson, Dimiter Gotscheff, Dušan David Pa□ízek, Frank Castorf, Jürgen Gosch, Luc Bondy and Robert Wilson. In film, his work with Kamen Kalev, Lola Randl, Marie Noëlle, Michael Glawogger, Oliver Hirschbiegel, Oskar Roehler, Peter Popzlatev, Robert Schwentke, Sönke Wortmann and Til Schweiger as well as the title role in the crime series 'Flemming' have extended his popularity to an even wider audience. Very early on, Samuel Finzi developed an extraordinary talent for being able to alternate naturally and quickly between a variety of genres and media.

He has been honored repeatedly for his multifarious, brilliant performances, including with the Gertrud Eysoldt Ring for Outstanding Acting Achievement, the Golden Chest Award as best male actor at the International Television Festival Plowdiw, and the Berlin Theater Prize. In 2015 he was honored for his outstanding acting performance by the renowned theater magazine Theater Heute as 'Theater Actor 2015' and in 2016 with the German Actor award as 'Best Actor in a Comedy'. Alongside his countless engagements at all of the important German language theaters such as the Burgtheater in Vienna, Deutsches Theater Berlin, Schauspielhaus Hamburg, Schauspielhaus Zurich, Thalia Theater Hamburg and the Volksbühne in Berlin, Samuel Finzi acts in many film and television productions. He has captivated audiences in sophisticated series like 'Allmen', 'Bone Palace', 'Haus der Träume' ('House of Dreams'), 'Helgoland 513' and 'Tatort' as well as in popular successes such as 'Das Wunder von Bern' ('The Miracle of Bern'), 'Klassentreffen' ('Class Reunion'), 'Snake Eyes: G.I. Joe Origins' and the 'Kokowääh'- film series, as well as in independent films such as 'The Captain', 'Die Erfindung der Liebe' ('The Discovery of Love'), 'Fritz Lang', 'Herrliche Zeiten' ('Splendid Times'), 'Marie Curie', 'One Life', 'Seneca' and 'Tod den Hippies!! Es lebe der Punk!' ('Death to Hippies!! Long Live Punk!'). Samuel Finzi has an extraordinary ability to transform. Time and again, the actor shapes his figures as smart, associative character studies, which bear witness to a detailed and intelligent acting intuition. Audiences appreciate his intense images of human motivation that almost crave transformation and his effortless precision when performing.

His dramatic inventiveness and complexity, as well as his resourcefulness are recognized by directors as much as they are celebrated by the press. Samuel Finzi's performances are permeated by a special dramatic intelligence that he uses to bring his figures to life. Time and again, with his detailed illustrations of human behavior, he extends the limits of acting. In so doing, he is driven by the search for the expression of a truthfulness of the human moment.

Samuel Finzi works as an actor in Europe and lives in Berlin.

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Theater

* - 2026	Der Auftrag | 'The Assignment' - Heiner Müller as Player Javor Gardev | Staatstheater Cottbus | Germany
* - 2025	Play Auerbach! - Avishai Milstein as Philipp Auerbach Sandra Strunz | Münchner Kammerspiele | Germany
* - 2024	The Merchant of Venice - William Shakespeare as Shylock Javor Gardev | National Theater Sofia | Bulgaria
* - 2008	Diary of a Madman - Nikolai Gogol as Poprishchin Hanna Rudolph | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2026	The Bacchae - Euripides as Tiresias Javor Gardev | Athens Epidauros Festival and National Theater Sofia | Bulgaria and Greece
2024	Playing with Love - Arthur Schnitzler as Hans Weiring Anna Stiepani | Landestheater Linz and Salzkammergut Festwochen Gmunden | Ausrtria
2024 - 2018	A Horse Walks into a Bar - David Grossmann as Avishai Lazar and Dovele Grinstein Dušan David Pa□ízek | Deutsches Theater Berlin, Salzburger Festspiele and Wiener Burgtheater | Ausrtria and Germany
2023 - 2021	Zden□k Adamec - Peter Handke as Zden□k Adamec Dušan David Pa□ízek | Divadlo Na Zábradlí Prag | Czech Republic
2023 - 2016	Power and Resistance - Ilija Trojanow as Konstantin Scheitanow Dušan David Pa□ízeks | Schauspiel Hannover and Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2020 - 2017	The Maids - Jean Genet as Claire Ivan Panteleev | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2020 - 2014	Waiting for Godot - Samuel Beckett as Vladimir Ivan Panteleev | Deutsches Theater Berlin and Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen | Germany
2017 - 2015	Die Nashörner | 'Rhinoceros' - Eugène Ionesco as Jean Frank Hoffmann | Ruhrfestspiele Recklinghausen and Théâtre National du Luxembourg | Germany and Luxembourg

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2016 - 2015	Peer Gynt - Henrik Ibsen as Peer Gynt Ivan Panteleev | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2016 - 2010	Krankenzimmer Nr. 6 | 'The Hospital Room Ward No. 6' - Anton Chekhov as Andrej Efimyc Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2016 - 2006	The Persians - Aeschylus as Xerxes and Messenger Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2016 - 2013	Dali vs Picasso - Fernando Arrabal Terán as Picasso Frank Hoffmann | Théâtre National du Luxembourg | Luxembourg
2015 - 2013	Don Juan Comes Back from the War – Ödön von Horváth as Don Juan Luc Bondy | Berliner Ensemble | Germany
2015 - 2008	A Night at the Movies Evening of Song with Samuel Finzi and Band | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2015 - 2005	Ivanov – Anton Chekhov as Ivanov Dimiter Gotscheff | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2014 - 2012	Der Trinker | 'The Drinker' - Hans Fallada as Erin Sommer Sebastian Hartmann | Maxim Gorki Theater Berlin and Schauspielhaus Leipzig | Germany
2013 - 2005	Philoktet - Heiner Müller as Neoptolemos Dimiter Gotscheff | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2012	Infinite Jest - David Foster Wallace in Various Roles Matthias Lielienthal | Hebbel Theater Berlin | Germany
2012	Shakespeare. Spiele für Mörder, Opfer und Sonstige | Shakespeare. Plays for Murderers, Victims and Others' - Frank Günther, Heiner Müller, Manfred Wekwerth and Thomas Brasch in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2011 - 2010	Consider the Lobster - David Foster Wallace Solo Evening Ivan Panteleev | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2011 - 2010	The Man Without a Past | Aki Kaurismäki in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany

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2009 - 2008	King Ubu - Alfred Jarry as Ubu Dimiter Gotscheff | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2009 - 2007	Anatomie Titus Fall of Rome - Ein Shakespeare Kommentar | `Anatomy Titus Fall of Rome – A Shakespeare Commentary' according to William Shakespeare by Heiner Müller Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater, Berlin | Germany
2008 - 2006	Drei Sterne suchen einen Koch | `Three Stars in Search of a Cook' Ivan Panteleev in Various Roles Ivan Panteleev | Deutsches Theater, Berlin | Germany
2008	Das Pulverfass | `The Powder Keg' - Dejan Dukovski in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2007	The Bat - Johann Strauss as Alfred Michael Thalheimer | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2007	Selbstmörder | `Suicides' - Nikolaj Erdmans as Podsekalnikov Dimiter Gotscheff | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2006	The Grande Bouffe - Marco Ferreri as Philippe Dimiter Gotscheff | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
	Volpone - Ben Johnson as Volpone Dimiter Gotscheff | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2006 - 2005	Amphitryon - Heinrich von Kleist as Amphitryon Stefan Bachmann | Deutsches Theater Berlin | Germany
2005 - 2002	The Lieutenant from Inishmore – Martin McDonagh as Padraic Dimiter Gotscheff | Burgtheater Vienna | Austria
2004	McTeague - Frank Norris as Zerkov Frank Castorf | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
	Zocker | `Gambler' - Fyodor Dostoyevsky in Various Roles Johan Simons | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany

2003	Black Battles with Dogs - Bernard-Marie Koltès as Alboury Dimiter Gotscheff | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
	Platonov - Anton Chekhov as Mikhail Vasiljevich Platonov Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Frankfurt | Germany
2002	Amphitryon - Heinrich von Kleist as Sosias Jürgen Gosch | Schauspielhaus Hamburg | Germany
	Auf dem Weg zur Hochzeit | 'To the Wedding' - John Berger in Various Roles Brigitte Landes | Schauspielhaus Hamburg | Germany
	Königsberg - Andrei Nekrasov as Vlad Andrei Nekrasov | Volksbühne Berlin | Germany
2001	Pulverfass | 'Powder Keg' - Dejan Dukovski in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Steirischer Herbst and Schauspielhaus Graz | Austria
2000 - 1999	Phèdre - Jean Racine as Theramenes Werner Schroeter | Schauspielhaus Bochum | Germany
2000 - 1998	Blue in Blue - George Gershwin in Various Roles Stefan Moskov | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
2000 - 1997	House No. 13 - Anton Chekhov in Various Roles Stefan Moskov | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
2000 - 1997	Germania 3. Gespenster am toten Mann | 'Germania 3. Ghosts on Dead Man' - Heiner Müller as Stalin Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Hamburg | Germany
1999 - 1996	Time Rocker - Robert Wilson and Lou Reed in Various Roles Robert Wilson | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
1999	Don Quixote - Miguel de Cervantes in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Jahrhunderhalle Bochum | Germany
	St. Joan of the Stockyards - Bertolt Brecht as Mauler Benno Besson | Schauspielhaus Zurich | Schwitzerland
	King Lear - William Shakespeare as Kent Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Hamburg | Germany

1997 - 1993	The Seagull - Anton Chekhov as Kostja Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Köln | Germany
1996 - 1994	A Month in Dachau - Vladimir Sorokin in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1996	On the Big Street - Anton Chekhov as Borzov Dimiter Gotscheff | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
	The Glass Slipper - Ferenc Molnár in Various Roles Jürgen Flimm | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
	Die Stunde da wir nichts voneinander wussten | 'The Hour Since We Didn't Know Anything About Each Other' - Peter Handke in Various Roles Jürgen Gosch | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
	The Threepenny Opera - Bertolt Brecht as Smith Katharina Thalbach | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
1995	Das weite Land | 'The Vast Domain' - Arthur Schnitzler as Portier Jürgen Flimm | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
	The Cherry Orchard - Anton Chekhov as Carlotta and Firs Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
	Swan Songs - Anton Chekhov in Various Roles Stefan Moskov | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1994	Calligula - Albert Camus as Cherea Werner Schroeter | Schauspielhaus Köln | Germany
	Die Straßenecke | 'The Street Corner' - Hans Henny Jahnn in Various Roles Dimiter Gotscheff | Thalia Theater Hamburg | Germany
	Woyzeck - Georg Büchner as The Apprentice Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1992	Leonce und Lena - Georg Büchner as Büchner Dimiter Gotscheff | Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf | Germany
1991	Hermaphroditus - Ivan Stanev in Various Roles Ivan Stanev | Hebbel Theater and Mickery Theater Amsterdam | Germany and Netherlands

1990 Performance and Punishment - after Fyodor Dostoyevsky
in Various Roles
Ivan Stanev | Hebbel Theater and Eurokaz Festival Zagreb |
Germany and Croatia

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Awards

2026	German Television Academy Award (Nomination) for Best Actor in a Series 'Unfamiliar'
2016	German Actors Award for Best Actor in a Comedy 'Worst Case Scenario'
2015	Gertrud Eysoldt Ring for Outstanding Acting Achievement Theater Heute Prize as Actor of the Year for 'Waiting for Godot'
2011	Bambi Best Film National for 'Männerherzen und die ganz ganz große Liebe' | 'Mens' Hearts and the Very Very Big Love'
	Best Actor at the Skena Up Theater Festival Pristina for 'Tagebuch eines Wahnsinnigen' | 'Diary of a Madman'
	German Comedy Prize in the Category Film Comedy for 'Kokowääh'
	Theater Prize Berlin 2011, Prussian Maritime Trading Foundation, for his entire work in the theater
2010	Best Actor at the MOT Theater Festival Skopje for 'Tagebuch eines Wahnsinnigen' | 'Diary of a Madman'
2009	Best Actor at the Mess Theater Festival Sarayevo for 'Ivanov'
2001	Golden Chest, Best Male Performer, International Television Festival Plovdiv, Bulgaria for 'Devil's Tail'
1996	Advancement Award for Dramatic Arts of the city of Düsseldorf for 'Ein Monat in Dachau' | 'A Month in Dachau'
1995	Critics' Prize: Best Actor of the Year in Nordrhein-Westfalen for 'The Cherry Orchard' and 'Swan Songs'
1994	13th Theater Festival NRW: Prize for Best New Actor for 'The Seagull'
1993	Critics' Prize for Best New Actor in Nordrhein-Westfalen for 'The Seagull'