

# süden

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Gastón Solnicki on Mauricio Kagel



## Synopsis

111 cyclists reach famed opera house Teatro Colón to welcome Mauricio Kagel (1931-2008), one of the great composers of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, who was born in Argentina, but left the country and settled in Germany in 1957. However, his adventurous music remained an inspiration to a number of forward-thinking Argentinean musicians, and in 2006 he returned to Buenos Aires for a Kagel festival, where he was to direct a major concert by the Buenos Aires Philharmonic, but also worked with a group of young and eager musicians advocated to his repertoire, the *Ensamble Süden*. Filmmaker Gaston Solnicki was on hand to capture Kagel's visit on film, and the documentary *süden* chronicles the composer's efforts in working directly with the musicians as well as reflecting the situation of modern music in Argentina as such. The film surprises for its capacity to captivate even those who are not interested in contemporary music.

## Biographies

### Gastón Solnicki

Gastón Solnicki was born in Buenos Aires in 1978. He studied cooking and then changed his path to continue his studies in New York at the International Center of Photography and the Tisch School of the Arts, where he received his BFA in Film.

*Süden* (2008), his debut feature, had its world premiere at the Buenos Aires International Festival of Independent Cinema, where it received a Special Mention by the Official Jury and was awarded Best Film by the Argentine Film Press Commission.

*Papirosen* (2011) his second feature film had its world premiere in the Filmmakers of the present competition at Festival del Film Locarno.

### Ensamble Süden

In 2003, *Ensamble Süden* was founded with the unique goal of premiering in Argentina *Die Stücke der Windrose*, a cycle of eight pieces for salon orchestra that Argentine-German composer Mauricio Kagel wrote between 1989 and 1993.

The complete cycle was premiered in 2006 at the *Festival Kagel*, produced by the CETC (Ex-

perimental Center of the Teatro Colón) for the celebration of the composer's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This festival achieved a new visit from Kagel to Argentina after a thirty year absence. For the ensemble this meant the satisfaction of working intensively with him rehearsing for the opening concert at the Colón Theatre in Buenos Aires. All this process has been recorded in *süden*, the film by Gastón Solnicki.

Afterwards, the ensemble began working on other music beside pieces of Kagel and recorded a CD with a retrospective of Argentine composer Gerardo Gandini.

In the present time, *Ensamble Süden* keeps offering several contemporary music concerts in Buenos Aires.

### Mauricio Kagel

Mauricio Kagel was born in Buenos Aires on the 24<sup>th</sup> December of 1931, into a Jewish family with both Russian and German origins. He took private lessons of singing, orchestra conducting, piano, violoncello, organ. His father gave him the first musical lessons but his first piano teacher was Vincenzo Scaramuzza, a pianist from Crotona, of whom, Mauricio Kagel, has kept a fervent souvenir for the rest of his life. At the university of Buenos Aires he studied with other teachers philosophy and literature, among them was also Jorge Luis Borges. In 1954 he founded the Colon Theatre's orchestra in Buenos Aires. In 1957 he moved to Köln where he took interest in the study of electronic music, phonetics and science of communication at Meyer-Eppler in Bonn. From 1958 on he was occupied conducting orchestras and ensembles, for example founding the "Kölner Ensemble für Neue Musik" in 1960. Yet he never stopped to continue composing his own music.

Famous works being *Staatstheater* (1967/70), *Zehn Märsche, um den Sieg zu verfehlen* (1979), *Mare nostrum* (1975), *Die Erschöpfung der Welt* (1980), *Aus Deutschland. Eine Liederooper* (1981) or *Die Stücke der Windrose* (1988-1994).

From 1974 to 1997 he was professor for new music theatre at the Cologne Conservatory.

Fantasy, humour and originality are the main peculiarities of his works, Kagel became one of the most significant authors in Musical and Contemporary Theatre. During his artistic career, he directed himself most of his works, either as a producer than as a director of all his movies and radio programmes. He received

a lot of honours and credits such as the Ernst von Siemens Music Prize in 2000 and has been played at lots of important contemporary music festivals. One of his last appearances took place in July 2006, for his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday at the Colon

Theatre of Buenos Aires, the Goethe-Institut as well as the Margarita Xigu Theatre, being called as the symbol of cultural exchange between Germany and Argentina, with concerts and open re-hearsals.

Mauricio Kagel *music*  
Gastón Solnicki *direction and production*  
Andrea Kleinman *editing*  
Jason Candler *sound design*  
Diego Poleri, Gastón Solnicki *camera*  
Lorenzo Bombicci *editing advisor*  
Walter Rippel *line producer*

#### **Ensamble Sūden**

Pablo Jivotovski *violin* • Pablo Grinjot *violin* • Mariano Malamud *viola*  
Martín Devoto *violoncello* • Facundo Ordoñez *contrabass* • Federico Landaburu *clarinet*  
Diego Ruiz *piano* • Mariano Abrate *accordion* • Daniel Serale *percussion*

#### **Compañía Oblicua**

Sergio Catalán *flute* • Agustina Guidolin *trumpet* • Oscar Albrieu Roca *percussion*  
Elena Buchbinder *violin* • Favio Loverso *violoncello*

#### *invited musicians*

Alejandro Labastía *piano* • Martin Moore *bass clarinet* • Pedro Pulzovan *tuba*  
Edith Gorini *harp* • Haydee Schwartz *piano* • Roland Hermann *baritone*  
Klara Csordas *mezzosoprano*  
Marcelo Delgado *conductor of Eine Brise*

#### **Divertimento Ensemble**

Sandro Gorli *conductor* • Maurizio Leoni *baritone* • Charles Maxwell *counter tenor*  
Luca Avanzi *oboe* • Ricardo Balbunutti *percussion* • Gabriella Bosio *harp*  
Giorgio Casati *violoncello* • Lorenzo Missaglia *flute* • Christian Saggese *mandoline*  
Dario Garegnani *assistant*

#### **Orquesta Filarmónica de Buenos Aires**

Arturo Diemecke *conductor*



*The film contains extracts from the following compositions by Mauricio Kagel:*

**Kammersymphonie (1973)**

Zwei Märsche aus **Zehn Märsche um den Sieg zu verfehlen** (1978-79)

..., **den 24. xii. 1931** garbled news for baritone and instruments (1988-1991)  
*interpreted by Ensemble Süden and Compañía Oblicua*

**Mare Nostrum (1975)**

*interpreted by Divertimento Ensemble*

**Quodlibet** for a female voice and orchestra after french chansons  
from the XV<sup>th</sup> century (1988)

*interpreted by Klara Csordas and OFBA*

**Eine Brise** fugitive action for 111 cyclists (1996)

**Unguis Incarnatus Est (1972)**

*interpreted by Haydée Schwartz and Martín Moore*

**Schattenklänge (1995)**

*interpreted by Martín Moore*

**Der Turm Zu Babel (1995)**

*interpreted by Klara Csordas*

**Osten** from the cycle *Die Stücke der Windrose* (1989)

*interpreted by Schönberg Ensemble*  
Reinbert de Leeuw *conductor*

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optimal media production *DVD authoring*

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