

Press Release

February 2020

## Star lighting designer Mikki Kunttu to give the keynote speech at Prolight + Sound 2020

Johannes Weber  
Tel. +49 69 7575-6866  
johannes.weber@messefrankfurt.com  
www.messefrankfurt.com  
www.prolight-sound.messefrankfurt.com

**The 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of Prolight + Sound in Frankfurt am Main (31 March to 3 April 2020) will offer a highlight for all professionals from the lighting-technology sector right on its opening day. Award-winning lighting set and content designer Mikki Kunttu will give a keynote speech at the show. In this lecture, the designer will offer insights into his work and milestones of his career whereby particular emphasis will be given to his internationally acclaimed work on the ‘Swan Lake’ ballet at the Royal Danish Ballet. The initiator of the lecture and organisation partner is Lightpower GmbH, which will be represented by an extensive presentation at Prolight + Sound.**

The keynote lecture will be given at the ‘Theatre + Light Stage’ in Hall 12.0 at 16.30 hrs on 31 March 2020. Afterwards, Mikki Kunttu will answer questions from the audience. “We are proud to welcome one of today’s most influential personalities for the creative use of professional event technology as our keynote speaker”, says Prolight + Sound Director Mira Wölfel. “With his innovative ideas and readiness to branch out in extraordinary directions, Mikki Kunttu has generated valuable impulses for the sector over recent years.”

“For all of us in the entertainment industry Prolight + Sound is the top event of the year and it’s a great honour to be invited for a keynote. I’m very happy to deliver a speech about a project so dear to me, where the elements of lighting design, set design and screen content came together in a very special way.”, says Mikki Kunttu.

### **Mikki Kunttu: Spectacular designs in Europe and around the world**

Finnish designer Mikki Kunttu has been active in the field of theatre, live-entertainment, television and visual arts since the end of the 1990s. In the course of his career, he has created the designs for over 100 modern dance productions. Moreover, Kunttu is also renowned for his work in the tour and concert sector with designs for artists such as Nightwish, Michael Monroe, Hanoi Rocks and Apocalyptica. For television, he was an influential member of the design teams for the Eurovision Song Contest in 2007, 2013 and 2016. Kunttu has also cooperated on visual-art projects, as well as lighting and projection installations, such as ‘Reflections’, ‘Oratoribus’ and ‘Grace’ for Helsinki’s ‘Season of Light’ Festivals from 2009 to 2011. He is the joint founder and initiator of the festival together with the City of Helsinki.

Messe Frankfurt Exhibition GmbH  
Ludwig-Erhard-Anlage 1  
60327 Frankfurt am Main

Mikki Kunttu has received numerous awards in the course of his career. They include the New York Dance and Performance Awards ('Bessie Awards') in 2006 and the Koura Award of the Finnish Broadcasting Company in 2007. At present, he lives in Canada, where he has created designs for Cirque du Soleil's 'ALEGRIA - In a New Light', 'Scalada: Stelar' and 'Vitori'.

Mikki Kunttu is the production designer (sets, lighting and video) for Finnish National Opera's new production of Wagner's 'Ring'. The first of the four operas, 'Das Rheingold', opened in August 2019. The next ones are set to follow during 2020 and 2021.

All Prolight + Sound visitors and journalists are invited to the keynote lecture.

The Prolight + Sound will take place from 31 March to 3 April, 10 to 18 hrs.

Full details about Prolight + Sound and ticket booking can be found at [www.prolight-sound.com](http://www.prolight-sound.com). Further information about the life and work of Mikki Kunttu at [www.mikki-kunttu.com](http://www.mikki-kunttu.com).

#### **Background information on Messe Frankfurt**

Messe Frankfurt is the world's largest trade fair, congress and event organiser with its own exhibition grounds. With more than 2,600\* employees at 30 locations, the company generates annual sales of around €733\* million. We have close ties with our industry sectors and serve our customers' business interests efficiently within the framework of our Fairs & Events, Locations and Services business fields. One of the Group's key USPs is its closely knit global sales network, which extends throughout the world. Our comprehensive range of services – both onsite and online – ensures that customers worldwide enjoy consistently high quality and flexibility when planning, organising and running their events. The wide range of services includes renting exhibition grounds, trade fair construction and marketing, personnel and food services. Headquartered in Frankfurt am Main, the company is owned by the City of Frankfurt (60 percent) and the State of Hesse (40 percent).

For more information, please visit our website at: [www.messefrankfurt.com](http://www.messefrankfurt.com)

\* preliminary figures 2019

Prolight + Sound  
The global Entertainment Technology  
Show  
Frankfurt am Main  
31 March to 3 April 2020