

## STATEMENT UND ENTSCHULDIGUNG VON MARCO GOECKE ZUM VORFALL AM 11.2.23 IN DER STAATSOPER HANNOVER

"I would like to sincerely apologize to all involved, first and foremost to Ms. Hüster, for my absolutely unacceptable action. In retrospect, I clearly realize that this was a shameful act in the heat of the moment and an overreaction.

Nevertheless, I would like to state that in this post-Corona period, which is difficult for theater, it would be appropriate for all media, including the feature pages of renowned print media, to reconsider a certain form of destructive, hurtful reporting that damages the entire cultural enterprise. Behind every theater production are many people who give their heart and soul to it. Precisely because I am also a public figure, I cannot accept everything in silence. But I admit: My attack on Ms. Hüster, which can be explained by the nervous strain of two premieres in quick succession (9.2. The Hague, 11.2. Hanover), has, as I fully acknowledge, without a doubt far exceeded the limits of justifiable forms of non-silence.

At the same time, however, I would like to point out the following: In an age that reacts so sensitively to everything we do and say, even cultural criticism - and this expressly also under the indisputable premise of freedom of opinion and freedom of the press - must ask itself where it violates the boundary to insult, to denigrate works, to mobbing, to attempting to create negative opinions and to damaging business.

This is what Ms. Hüster, at least towards me (and some, though not all, colleagues will be able to confirm this), has practiced again and again for years in a more or less subtle way with her often spiteful criticisms. I apologize for the fact that my collar finally burst. But I also ask for some understanding at least for the reasons for which this has happened."