

Salzburg Easter School – PhD-Forum
in the context of the Salzburg Easter Festival 2015
23-27 March 2015, Salzburg
Feasting and Fasting – Carnival Cultures
Cavalleria rusticana and Pagliacci

Organised by Atelier Gespräche / PLUS Kultur

Pietro Mascagni's *Cavalleria rusticana* and Ruggero Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*, habitually performed together, constitute two landmarks of the Italian verismo tradition. Verismo marks the departure from Romantic conventions and their generic/formal restrictions, and, as such, it is characterised by an emphasis on everyday life and seeks to encapsulate the fates of the lower classes. The two operas present violent emotional dramas driven by their characters' jealousy and desire for revenge. Both plots reveal the darker sides of human nature in different formats: as a rivalry for honour or in terms of a scorned lover's rage. At the same time, the strong religious overtones in *Cavalleria rusticana* are juxtaposed against the carnivalesque atmosphere in *Pagliacci*.

Both operas will be staged at the 2015 Salzburg Easter Festival. The director Philipp Stölzl aims at exposing their similarities while retaining each opera's unique character.

The aim of this PhD forum, organised within the framework of the Austrian Research Association ÖFG (www.kulturelle-dynamiken.sbg.ac.at) and the Salzburg-based project PLUS Kultur (www.sbg-plus-kultur.at), is to explore various cultural traditions of feasting and fasting, the theatricality of carnival and the carnivalesque, its ritual character, as well as the connections between deprivation and excess, purgation and renewal, order and subversion.

Organisation:

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