

BIOGRAPHY – Dr. Henriette J. Runte



Theater and literature have always tied together my love of languages and cultures, and I have been writing and performing from a very early age.

To date, I have written and successfully published an autobiography about my family's immigration, a work of fiction about the multigenerational dilemmas faced by multicultural families, a play that satirizes retirement, and a romantic book of poetry.

For the stage, I have created and performed two one-woman shows:
- one that traces the parallels between Molière's life and mine, while presenting the development of fashion throughout the years;
- and one about finding home in Germany.

I have also delivered a number of speeches and performances.

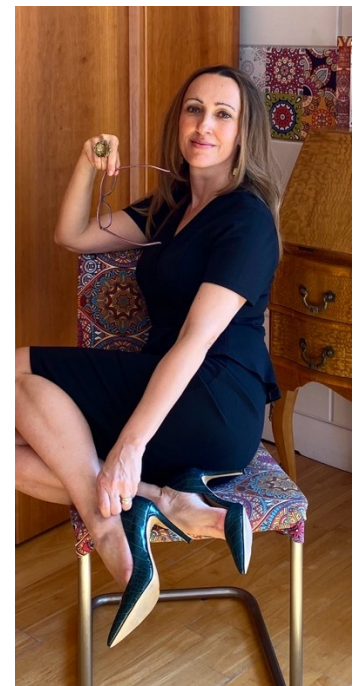
I have a PhD in French literature, with a focus on the sociological effects of theater and the Avignon Theater Festival.

My academic career has allowed me to gain 30 years of teaching experience from working at universities around the world. I have also been active as a communications consultant, both in the private and the corporate sectors.

Hamburg, Germany has been my home since 2001. I have been the acting Academic Head of Modern Languages at the University of Hamburg since 2008.

In 2020, I created the podcast, "Language and Culture with Dr. J" and established CULTUREUM with the following objectives:

- to promote awareness of culture and especially of the performing arts
- to further cooperation and understanding among people
- to educate and to encourage human connection
- to explore all aspects of communication
- to reach out also to children and young adults
- and to teach the use of literature and performing arts in establishing healthy living and working practices.





SERVICES

SERVICES FOR THE PRIVATE AND THE CORPORATE SECTOR:	SEEKING COOPERATION PARTNERS AND SPONSORS FOR:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• event moderator, presenter, or host• speaker on topics related to language, culture, belonging, education, etc.• writer for corporate storytelling• coach for<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ public speaking and presenting◦ language coaching (in English, German, and French)◦ team building and conflict prevention◦ burnout avoidance and creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• podcast episodes• performance-related projects• literary initiatives• community outreach activities

PODCAST

“Language and Culture with Dr. J”

157,000 downloads	123 published episodes	Listened to in 117 countries
created in spring 2020	Interviews conducted in <u>5 languages</u> : °English °German °French °Spanish °Hungarian	Most listeners come from (top 10 countries of listeners): Germany, the USA, France, Norway, the UK, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Canada, and Australia

Examples of episodes on performing arts, literature, or art:

- From Shakespeare to Fernando Arrabal – an Interview with Felicia Londré
- Zwischen Sprache und Musik
- Molière
- Music Speaks - with conductor Mercedes Díaz Garcia & composer Juan José Colomer
- Jazz!
- At the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art with Director/CEO Julián Zugazagoitia
- In der Elbphilharmonie mit der künstlerischen Betriebsdirektorin Barbara Lebitsch
- Meet the Artists: András Siebold from Kampnagel and the Band Sazou
- Cypriot Filmmaker Marios Piperides
- The Fabulous Crescendo Ballet Conservatory
- From Opera to Teaching: an Interview with Carl Kanowsky

Examples of episodes with members of the diplomatic corps:

- Mode, Küche und Diplomatie (an interview with French Consul General Valérie Lübken)
- Consul général de France à Hambourg Laurent Toulouse
- Darion Akins - US Consul General to Northern Germany
- Pedro Villena Pérez - Cónsul General de España en Hamburgo

Examples of episodes about cultural identity:

- Third Culture Kid, Kyle Akins, and the Sociocultural Effects of Multiculturalism
- Belonging Beyond Borders with Megan Norton
- Ruth Van Reken – About Third Culture Kids and Growing Up Among Worlds
- Spracherwerb bei Kinder und Jugendlichen

Top 10 most downloaded episodes of all time:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Third Culture Kids • Experiences of an Exchange Student in Florida • Minority Groups and Their Integration – As Seen Through the Eyes of a Hungarian Born in Slovakia • Une famille française • From Stem Cell Research to Biotechnology | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We Fade to Green • To Be or Not to Be Hispanic • Az IT-világ egy Szlovákiai Magyar szemszögéből • Swordplay with 5-time national fencing champion Peter Habala • The Travel Bug |
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BARANSULAN – a word symphony



Baransulan is a new musical form that combines the sounds of an orchestra with the spoken word. This new form - that I am calling a *word symphony* - attempts to give back meaning to words while also lending more clarity to contemporary classical music.

Baransulan includes a poetic narration that I have already completed, orchestral music composed by the great Juan José Colomer and conducted by the fabulous Mercedes Díaz García, as well as the contribution of a lyrical soprano, of a youth orchestra, and of an international youth chorus who will recite spoken pieces in 7 languages.

Baransulan tells the story of a young man's search for the meaning of words. On his voyage, he discovers many languages and is tempted by various ideologies and belief systems. It is when he also discovers music that he finally makes sense of it all.

Baransulan is a classic coming-of-age story that hones in on the importance of language, both that of words and of music. The lyrical quality and rhythm of the spoken words in Baransulan are in constant dialogue with the music, and the marriage between the poetic narration and the musical score give the piece an innovative new appeal and charm.

*"LETTERS JUGGLED INTO MEANING,
DANCING ON THE WAVES OF SOUND"*

Première planned for spring 2026 in the Grand Hall of the Elbphilharmonie in Hamburg, Germany.



BARANSULAN
*a Word
Symphony*

CAROLING for CHILDREN in HOSPITALS



2024

Accompanied by dignitaries and diplomats as well as a group of musicians from Northern Germany, Dilly, the CULTUREUM mascot, led carolers into a medley of Christmas songs – several well-known favorites in English and in German, as well as a few delights in other languages.

After the concert in the Main Entrance Hall of the Children's Hospital of the University Hospital in Hamburg Eppendorf, some of the dignitaries and members of the diplomatic corps helped Dilly deliver presents to children on the individual wards, including the cardiology ward and the intensive care unit.

In the end, Dilly presented presents for the families at the Ronald McDonald Haus in Eppendorf and surprised them with a few songs.



2025

This caroling event will be held again at the University Hospital in Hamburg Eppendorf and will extend to Marienkrankenhaus in Hamburg Marienthal.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the event will also take place at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

We are seeking partners for the event to equally take place in Calcutta, India.

To raise funds for our caroling events in hospitals, we are planning a Christmas Musical entitled 'Tis the Season that takes Dilly across the globe and lets children explore how people celebrate Christmas around the world.