

# Open Mic Spotlight Interview: Götz Naleppa

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[New York Festivals International Radio Awards](#) Open Mic Spotlight Interview offers insights into the brilliant careers of radio content creators from around the globe. NYF's Grand Jury of award-winning directors, producers, journalists, writers, actors, creative directors, composers, on-air talent, and programming executives are actively involved in creating the innovative content heard on radio today.



Götz Naleppa

This week NYF's Spotlight Interview features thought-provoking insider information from Advisory Board & Grand Jury member, Götz Naleppa Drama Director & Sound Artist of Naleppa Audio Productions, Germany. Since 1970, Götz Naleppa has produced and directed innumerable radio plays, initially for the Radio 'RIAS Berlin', and then for Germany's National Radio Deutschlandradio as well as nearly every public broadcasting corporation in Germany.

He is one of the most well-known and experienced directors of radio plays in Germany. His award-winning work includes literary radio plays,

but also thrillers, plays for children, comedies or documentaries. In the 1980's Götz turned his efforts towards musical and experimental radio play forms and towards sound composition.

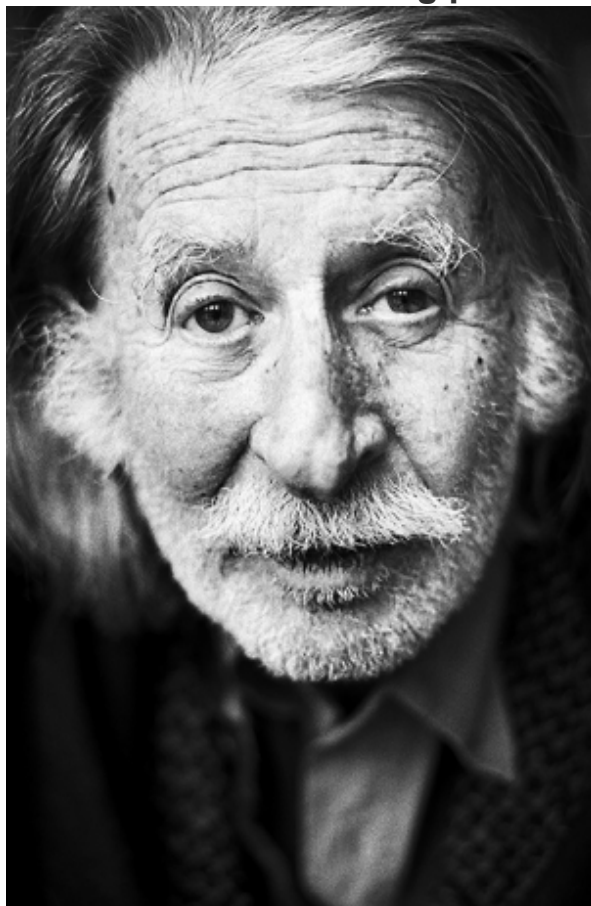
Götz has shared his vast creative knowledge with the next generation teaching at Berlin's Technical University and the Academy of Fine Arts, as well as workshops and direction work in Latin America.

From 1994 to 1996 he set up of the radio play departments of Deutschlandradio (Cologne/Berlin) as head of the radio play departments of both broadcasting centers.

Since 1997 he worked as producer and editor for Deutschlandradio (responsible editor for sound art).

In 2008 Götz left Deutschlandradio in order to work as freelance producer, translator and media artist. Throughout his illustrious career he has earned numerous awards for radio play direction including multiple Radio Play of the Month 'Hörspiel des Monats', Prix Europa, Prix Marulic, numerous Gold Medals earned at New York Festivals, and Prix Italia and others.

**New York Festivals: What was the turning point in your career?**



George Tabori

Götz Naleppa: Meeting and becoming a friend to theatre-author and director George Tabori. Until this moment I was a director like many others. But his example and teaching taught me to be what I am now as

a director of plays (radio and theatre).

The second turning point was, when I dared to go beyond words – towards SOUND. Words are limited, sound is limitless.

**New York Festivals: Did you have a mentor, if so how did they help you achieve your career goals?**

Götz Naleppa: See last question. George Tabori taught me to get out of the way of actor's creativity and just take the gifts they are ready to give me – and not to force them to fulfil my will. So, the best works in my career were those, where my ego was mostly absent.

**New York Festivals: What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?**

Götz Naleppa: 1st: respect towards working partners. 2nd: confidence in the inner source of my creativity.

When I asked Tabori, how to prepare for a recording-session, his answer was: do not prepare – be totally PRESENT during the recording and LISTEN to the actor!"

**New York Festivals: What are some of the biggest changes you've seen in the industry?**

Götz Naleppa: The end of the analogue era in the 1980's and the start of the digital era. I am happy to have lived and worked in both – the experience enriches my work.

**New York Festivals: Where do you see the industry moving in the next 5 years?**



Götz Naleppa: The actual tendency of time-shifted and mobile use of radio (mobile-phones, Internet, computers) will continue and accelerate. The radio stations who do not react to that tendency will be left behind. But I am not only happy about this all-time-availability of radio. It is to be paid by a deterioration of sound quality (mp3, compression) in art forms like radio play and sound art – and radio is in danger of losing its "secret," its charm.

**New York Festivals: What three words describe you as a content creator?**

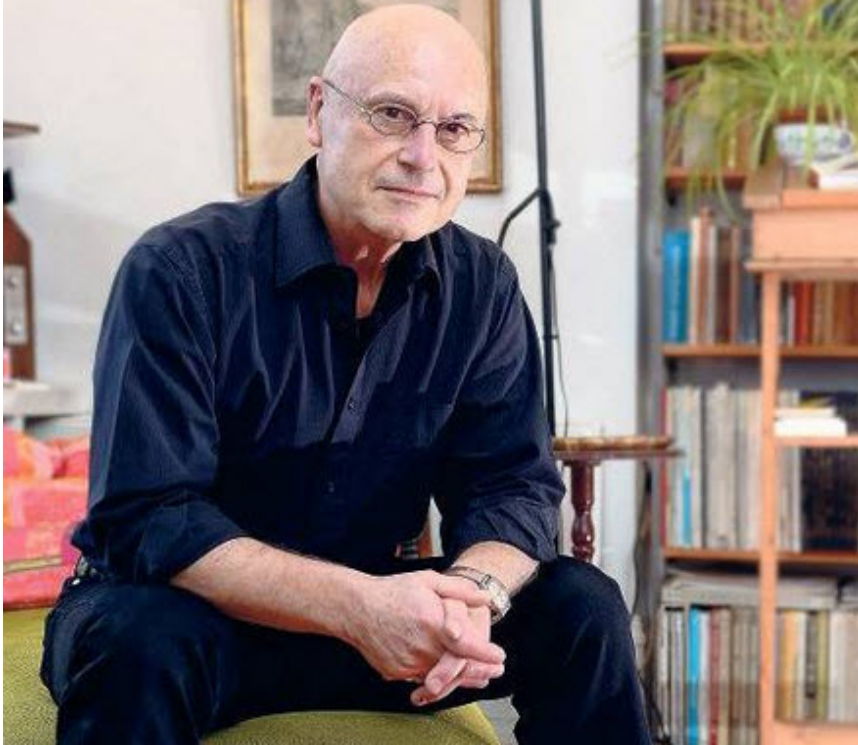
Götz Naleppa: 1st: Musicality of the design 2nd: an ear for the unusual  
3rd: an ear for the true tone

**New York Festivals: What is your favorite program that you created and why?**

Götz Naleppa: Always the program on which I am actually working.  
Why? Without passion I can achieve nothing.

**New York Festivals: Whose work do you admire the most?**

Götz Naleppa: No space here for so many names – I am a great admirer. But not a copier.



**New York Festivals: What do you think are the hallmarks of award-winning work?**

Götz Naleppa: You recognize it at once by the way your listening attitude changes: you feel drawn into the work, your emotions are involved (humor, sadness, astonishment) – and the work turns you from a listening “professional” into a mere listening and feeling human being.

**New York Festivals: What would be your dream job?**

Götz Naleppa: Why this conjunctive? I HAVE my dream job: I am an independent, self-responsible artist. No limits to my achievements – and failures.

For more information or to enter the 2018 New York Festivals Radio Awards, please visit: <http://www.newyorkfestivals.com/radio/>