

17 June 2012

Press information

**KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen „Fragiles Gleichgewicht“
1 until 17 June 2012, Herrenhäuser Gärten Hannover**

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Successful conclusion of the 3rd KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen with the legendary Percussions de Strasbourg.

Director Elisabeth Schweeger was very satisfied with the 7,000 visitors to 24 events. Capacity utilisation had increased from 77 to over 80 percent compared to the previous year.

Under the motto "Fragiles Gleichgewicht" (Fragile Balance), a total of 18 music theatre productions and concerts, four very different art projects and installations and two rounds of talks could be experienced in the Herrenhausen Gardens between 1 and 17 June 2012.

Hanover's baroque gardens offered space for encounters between music, theatre, performance and the visual arts, including cross-border projects from the fields of classical music and pop culture, such as the collaboration between Ensemble Resonanz and the HipHop Academy Hamburg and the American slam poet Saul Williams and the renowned Arditti String Quartet.

The Akademie der Spiele organised workshops to introduce almost one hundred students to the world of artistic creation.

682 international artists from countries including Portugal, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Great Britain, Asia and the USA were guests at Herrenhausen.

DER STANDARD from Vienna writes about the opening weekend:

"You can see that artistic director Schweeger has established a concept that goes beyond normal formats, which is now working for the third time and is apparently already "customary" by Hanoverian standards, as Mayor Weil wittily remarked at the opening. In these times of budget uncertainty, it's not the worst thing for a modern festival to be regarded as an indispensable tradition after such a short time."

(Ljubiša Tošić, 5.6.2012).

Review

The 3rd KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen opened on the first weekend in June with a speech on the subject of "Fragile Balance" by human rights activist Bianca Jagger and Lord Mayor Stephan Weil.

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This was followed by the world premiere of the musical theatre piece "Geometry of Love" by Alexander Charim and Michael Rauter. Another world premiere could be experienced on 10 June: "Schau lange in den dunklen Himmel" with the Austrian music band Franui, a co-production with Theater Basel.

The work of John Cage was illuminated by three very different works: the music performances "Musicircus" and "Stabat Songs Mater", where John Cage's composition was set in relation to music by Domenico Scarlatti. With "Danza Preparata", the Portuguese composer Rui Horta has created a choreography for the highly virtuoso "Sonatas and Interludes" for prepared piano. Marino Formenti mesmerised his audience with Liszt inspirations until one o'clock in the morning. Percussion ran through the programme with Evelyn Glennie, Vinko Globokar's "Laboratorium", Stephan Meier, an open-air concert by Martin Grubinger, Daniel Ott and the Percussions de Strasbourg at the end.

Two of the art installations were on display in the Great Garden for the entire duration of the festival: "Outside-Here" by Tamara Grcic and "NaTür" by students of scenography at Hanover University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The video installation "Assembly" by Michael John Whelan was presented in the foyer of the Orangery. The fourth art project, "Twin Talk" by Olaf Nicolai, offered visitors the opportunity to exchange ideas with identical twins while walking through the Great Garden.

Preview

In 2013, the 4th KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen are planned for 1 to 22 June on the theme of "Heimat Utopie" (Homeland Utopia).

Photo of the closing weekend attached, (c) Mahramzadeh

Further press informationen

All information, press and photo material as well as sound bites on the individual events are available in the [press section of our website](#).

Best regards! Barbara Krüger