

## **In Hanover, the first KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen draw a positive balance**

After 24 days with well over 40 events, the first KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen came to a successful close in Hanover at the weekend with a "Garden Walk" by the English artist Hamish Fulton, a guest performance by the Akademie für Alte Musik Berlin with "4 Elemente - 4 Jahreszeiten" and the rediscovery of the baroque opera "Artemisia" by Francesco Cavalli by the Italian ensemble La Venexiana. The motto of the first KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen was "Die Macht des Spiels" (The Power of Play) and numerous events were dedicated to the question of how much play and art people need to live.

### **KunstFestSpiele have achieved their goal and arrived in Hanover**

Artistic Director Elisabeth Schweeger drew a positive balance: *"The first KunstFestSpiele have arrived in Hanover and have achieved their goal. With over 7,000 visitors and a capacity utilisation of over 75%, we have achieved more than we dared to hope for."*

For the first time, a festival in Hanover was not only able to attract a local and regional audience right from the start, but also numerous national and even international guests to Hanover. National and international media have reported on the new festival and emphasised Hanover's anti-cyclical commitment despite times of crisis: "Everywhere culture is being cut to the bone: Hanover of all places is symbolically countering the threat of mediocrity." (Spiegel Online, 20 June 2010). Over 1,000 articles about the KunstFestSpiele appeared in the print media alone. These correspond to an advertising equivalent value of more than 5 million euros.

### **Building a bridge from the baroque to the modern with an interdisciplinary concept**

The KunstFestSpiele play an important role in the new concept for the Herrenhausen Gardens, as Marlis Drevermann, Head of Cultural Affairs, emphasised once again in a final press conference: *"I am delighted that the first edition of the festival has already succeeded in making the vision for this special place clear. The extraordinary format of the KunstFestSpiele, which focuses on an interdisciplinary exchange between the arts, is unique in Europe and was developed especially for Hanover and the Herrenhausen Gardens. The KunstFestSpiele thus impressively demonstrates a bridge from the Baroque to the modern age and is in the spirit of Leibniz."*

During the KunstFestSpiele, Hanover became a platform for interdisciplinary exchange, with numerous artists and cultural professionals from all over Germany and Europe visiting the Herrenhausen Gardens, including the curator of the German Pavilion at the next Venice Biennale, Susanne Gaensheimer (MMK Frankfurt), the future artistic director of the Düsseldorf Schauspielhaus, Staffan Valdemar Holm from Sweden, the director of the Danish State Theatre in Copenhagen, Emmet Feigenberg, as well as director Mikołaj Grabowski, artistic director of the National Theatre in Krakow, Kampnagel director Amelie Deuffhard and choreographer Wanda Golonka from Berlin.

The programme highlights of the first KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen included guest performances of Heiner Goebbels' "Stifters Dinge", Michael Riessler's world premiere of "Mirages" and numerous productions created especially for the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen and the Herrenhausen Gardens:

In addition to Roman Signer's performances in the Gartentheater, Rebecca Saunders' new version of "Chroma" in particular was enthusiastically received by the audience, as was Alexander Charim's new production of the baroque opera "Orfeo", which opened the festival - a production that "seems far more lively and contemporary than much of what comes across as opera in Vienna." (Der Standard, Vienna, 7 June 2010). More than 800 visitors were enchanted by the "Chorus" voice installation with over 400 singers. In addition, Christoph Schlingensief's "Remdoogo" installation in the Great Garden and the machine opera "Caprificus" attracted numerous visitors throughout the festival and confronted baroque and modernity in a unique way.

The next KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen will take place from 27 May to 19 June 2011 in the Herrenhausen Gardens in Hanover.

On the festival homepage at [www.kunstfestspieleherrenhausen.de](http://www.kunstfestspieleherrenhausen.de) you will find further information and numerous pictures of the festival. Further up-to-date information, also for the next KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen 2011, can also be found on Facebook [www.facebook.com/KunstFestSpieleHerrenhausen](http://www.facebook.com/KunstFestSpieleHerrenhausen) and Twitter [www.twitter.com/KunstFestSpiele](http://www.twitter.com/KunstFestSpiele)

**Press contact:**

Goldmann Public Relations  
Daniela Goldmann, Ingo Sawilla  
Tel.: +49 (0)30/259 357-10  
Fax: +49 (0)30/259 357-29  
E-Mail: [isawilla@goldmannpr.de](mailto:isawilla@goldmannpr.de)

Die KunstFestSpiele is an event by the  
City of Hanover, Department of Culture

**Festival contact:**

KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen  
Sandra Kühne, Herrenhäuser Gärten  
Tel.: +49 (0)511/168-44 256  
Fax: +49 (0)511/168-47 709  
E-Mail: [kunstfestspiele@hannover-stadt.de](mailto:kunstfestspiele@hannover-stadt.de)

