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KUNST FEST SPIELE HERREN HAUSEN

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Press information

KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen „Heimat Utopie“
1 until 22 June 2013, Herrenhäuser Gärten Hannover

The 4th KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen: a complete success

Under the motto "Home Utopia", a total of 17 music theatre productions and concerts, six very different art projects and installations, the final presentation of the Academy of Games and a round table discussion could be experienced in the Herrenhausen Gardens between 1 and 22 June 2013.

The concept of offering encounters between music, theatre, performance and visual arts in a relaxed, summery atmosphere in Hanover's baroque gardens was a complete success. The offer to open up the elaborately designed stage spaces, such as the "Kinder Toten Lieder" with a video sculpture by caprificus.org or the Needcompany with "The House of Our Fathers" for the palace and garden visitors, was also extremely well received!

9,286 guests attended music theatre and performances (6,455) and installations (2,831). The capacity utilisation rate was 85%. Over 27,000 visitors enjoyed the diverse and partly interactive art installations in the Great Garden.

The fourth KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen opened on the first weekend in June with a speech on the theme of "Heimat Utopie" by architect Prof. Wolf D. Prix and Mayor Bernd Strauch. This was followed by the world premiere of the music theatre piece "ATLAS - Islands of Utopia" by José María Sánchez-Verdú and Sabrina Hölzer, sponsored by the German Federal Cultural Foundation and the Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, which was described in various reviews as having "an evocative character".

The director received the prestigious Belmont Prize for Contemporary Music 2013 at the premiere. Other world premieres included "Madrigali Notturmi" by Swiss composer Katharina Rosenberger and "Romanzen" with Ensemble S and the Mädchenchor Hannover. The encounter between pianists Igor Levit and Frederic Rzewski was one of the many highlights, as was "The House Of Our Fathers", in which the Needcompany around Jan Lauwers delivered a three-day performance marathon in the baroque gallery building. The crowning finale was Heiner Goebbels' "When The Mountain Changed Its Clothing".



The KunstFestSpiele is an event organised by the City of Hannover, Partners of the Department of Culture: VHV Versicherungen, HANNOVERSCHE, Niedersächsische Sparkassenstiftung, NORD/LB, Sparkasse Hannover and VGH



"With the fourth edition, the KunstFestSpiele have further established themselves: this can be seen both in the visitor numbers and the press response. Many museum and garden visitors found their way to the art installations in the gallery building, which were accessible to them for the first time. The three-day marathon of performances by the Needcompany was overwhelming. I particularly enjoyed the fact that the projects in the garden made it possible for everyone to encounter art." This was the conclusion of Marlis Drevermann, Head of Cultural Affairs for the City of Hanover.

Art installations were on display in the Great Garden for the entire duration of the festival: "MAZE 62" by Michael Sailstorfer and "Schon Schön" by students of scenography at Hanover University of Applied Sciences and Arts. The installation "Still Life" by Hannes Malte Mahler was presented in the foyer of the Orangery. Erwin Stache's sound art projects - e.g. his cuckoo clock orchestra - invited the public at the Herrenhausen Gardens to try them out, with the Neue Presse describing them as "KunstFestSpiele für alle" (art festival games for everyone).

Dr Elisabeth Schweeger, artistic director of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen, sums up: "For the fourth time, the KunstFestSpiele enabled encounters with outstanding Hanoverian artists and international stars. We heard and saw a lot of exciting things that related to the festival motto Heimat Utopie. I am just as pleased that the festival has reached an even larger audience this year as I am about the successful educational work of the Academy of Games, which gives the children, artists and us as a festival team so much impetus."

Outlook: The 5th KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen are planned for 2014 on the theme of "Verhältnisse" (Relationships).

Best regards! Barbara Krüger and Maya Stockmann

Photo attached Needcompany, "The House Of Our Fathers", (c) Krückeberg

Information, press and photo material are available in the press section of our website.

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