

14 June 2015

**KUNST
FEST
SPIELE
HERREN
HAUSEN**

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Press information

Taking stock after six years KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen Elisabeth Schweeger hands over a festival with its finger on the pulse

After 17 days of performances, the 6th edition of the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen ends today. Under the motto "Against the Grain", the festival presented rebels of art from America, China and Europe. The closing weekend included the German premiere of "The Blind Poet" by Jan Lauwers & Needcompany and Georg Nussbaumer's "Ringlandschaft mit Bierstrom – Ein Wagner-Areal". 14 June with Laurence Cummings and Murnau's "Nosferatu" is the brilliant conclusion to the directorship of Prof. Dr Elisabeth Schweeger.

Undisputedly at the highest artistic level, Elisabeth Schweeger has established a cross-genre festival format that is precisely tailored to the Herrenhausen Gardens – unique and internationally recognised. Contemporary concert and music theatre productions as well as art installations that build a bridge from the Baroque to contemporary artistic forms.

Overview of the artist selection:

2010: Die Macht des Spiels	among others with Heiner Goebbels, Musicbanda Franui, Rebecca Saunders, Christoph Schlingensief, Roman Signer, Sissel Tolaas
2011: Entfesselte Welten	among others with Lord Anthony Giddens (Festrede), Ensemble Modern, Lucia Ronchetti, André Wilms, der Uraufführung des „Semele Walk“ mit Vivienne Westwood and Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop
2012: Fragiles Gleichgewicht	among others with Marino Formenti, Tamara Grcic, Martin Grubinger, Bianca Jagger, Olaf Nicolai, Daniel Ott, Saul Williams and Arditti Quartet
2013: Heimat Utopie	among others with Sabrina Hölzer, Jan Lauwers & Needcompany, Igor Levit und Frederic Rzewski, Michael Sailstorfer, José María Sánchez-Verdú and Ingrid von Wantoch-Rekowski
2014: Verhältnisse	among others with Matthias Goerne, Markus Hinterhäuser und William Kentridge, Wolfgang Mitterer, Christof Nel und Richard van Schoor, Prof. Dr. Martin Roth, Manos Tsangaris
2015: Gegen den Strich	among others with mit Carola Bauckholt, Michael Beutler, Cameron Carpenter, Ensemble Musikfabrik, Georg Nussbaumer und Solistenensemble Kaleidoskop, Danny Yung, Xiao Ke x Zi Han

Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Schweeger:

“A feast for the senses, a garden for the arts, a delight for play. These are the KunstFestSpiele in one of the most beautiful gardens in the world, the Herrenhausen Gardens. At times joyful, at times dramatic, at times humorous, they pose the question of how much play, how much celebration and how much art people need in order to live, survive and develop. That’s what I started with in 2010. None of this would have been possible over the past six years without the support of our patrons and sponsors, who have also helped in many other ways. I would like to thank them for that.“

Since 2010, the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen has succeeded in establishing itself nationally and internationally as a stage for contemporary art forms through commissions and in-house productions, but also through numerous co-productions. Partners have included: Berliner Festspiele, Elbphilharmonie Hamburg; Festival d’Aix-en-Provence; FIBA - Festival Internacional de Buenos Aires; Kunstenfestivaldesarts, Brussels; Operadagen Rotterdam; Salzburg Biennale; Stiftung Mozarteum Salzburg; Wiener Festwochen.

Examples of very successful in-house productions: “Semele Walk“ (première 2011) with couture by Vivienne Westwood was performed at the Sydney Festival and the Tongyeong International Music Festival (South Korea). “Atlas - Islands of Utopia“ (première 2013); subsequently at musicadhoj (Madrid), at the festival “Der Sommer in Stuttgart“ and the Salzburg Biennale. Also the co-production with the Basel Theatre “Schau lange in den dunklen Himmel“ with the Musicbanda Franui, which was performed at MaerzMusik - Festival für Zeitfragen, Berlin, at the KLANGSPUREN Festival Schwaz and at the Basel Theatre.

The KunstFestSpiele have also been able to provide impetus at a local level. Not only through collaborations with Hanoverian artists, but especially through the Academy of Games founded by Elisabeth Schweeger, which goes back to Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz. The creative workshops are based on his idea that pleasure and knowledge should always be combined. Young people between the ages of 10 and 17 are given the opportunity to exchange ideas with internationally renowned artists and gain creative inspiration from their experiences. In 2015, 60 young people experimented at the Academy of Games in workshops organised by Ecke Bonk, Parastou Frouhar, freitagsküche, Lara Krude, Politik zum Anfassen e.V. and zeitblom.

Head of Cultural Affairs Marlis Drevermann:

“I am delighted that I was able to launch the KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen with Elisabeth Schweeger and the current Minister President of Lower Saxony, then Lord Mayor Stephan Weil, in 2009 and have supported it ever since. In the six years of her passionate work, Elisabeth Schweeger has laid the foundations for innovation and shown the courage to experiment. Today, Hanover can be proud of an unmistakable festival format with great art and extraordinary artists from Hanover and around the world, and of the upcoming artistic director Ingo Metzmacher. I am delighted that Lord Mayor Stefan Schostok is taking care of the festival’s future.“

9,500 guests (9,533 to be exact) attended the shows, performances and activities in the buildings and the Great Garden. The capacity utilisation rate was 88%. More than 25,000 visitors to the garden and events enjoyed the highly acclaimed art installation Ballenernte by Michael Beutler in the Grosser Garten. 24 productions were presented: 17 drama and music theatre productions and concerts, four installations, two discussion rounds with

the Volkswagen Foundation and the closing event of the Akademie der Spiele.

Elisabeth Schweeger has been Artistic Director and Managing Director of the Akademie für Darstellende Kunst Baden-Württemberg GmbH since September 2014. Ingo Metzmacher will be the artistic director of the 7th KunstFestSpiele Herrenhausen 2016.

Press and photo material is available at

<http://kunstfestspiele.hannover.de/Festival/Presse/Pressematerial>.

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