

PRESS INFORMATION

Press conference in front of 200 school children: the Friedrichstadt-Palast and the United Nations Association of Germany inform pupils about protecting the climate

Berlin, 11th November 2013



Dr. Berndt Schmidt (General Director, Friedrichstadt-Palast) and Dr. Beate Wagner (secretary general to the German Society for the United Nations). Photo: Sascha Radke

On the occasion our new children's production 'Keinschneechaos', which premieres on the 30th November and the 1st December, the Friedrichstadt-Palast formed an extraordinary partnership with the United Nations Association of Germany (UNA-Germany). The UNA-Germany will be the official partner of the young ensemble, and, together with the theatre, is developing educational materials about climate change in connection to the show.

This has led to the production of an animated film plus an accompanying brochure about the "UN and Climate Protection", as well as other materials, which are aimed at primary school children in Berlin, and which aim to give them a better understanding of the consequences of global warming. The animated film explains to the children why it is so difficult to reach a compromise about global climate protection when countries in the north and south have such different interests.

The issue of climate change is also addressed in 'Keinschneechaos': it is winter and the snow has suddenly disappeared. On their search for the snow, Ferdinand and Emil discover a factory in a valley which produces loads of cute and cuddly pink rabbits. To make the rabbits, the factory uses up so much energy and generates so much warmth

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that it melts the snow. Now the children face a real dilemma: do they want to have a winter with lots of wonderful snow, or would they rather have the pink rabbits?

"The problems which are associated with the term 'climate change' are extremely varied, which means that there is also a great variety of ways to engage with the topic, and in projects which work to protect the environment and the planet. The show 'Keinschneechaos' plays its own part in this process, and brings the topic visually close to the young visitors" says Dr. Beate Wagner, secretary general to the German Society for the United Nations.

Details about the collaboration were presented on the 11th November 2013 at a mutual press conference in front of 200 school children from the Heide primary school in Adlershof, Berlin. With a ceremonial celebration of the start of the partnership, they represented more than 800 academic institutions in Berlin. The pupils' ensemble accompanied the opening of the partnership with songs they had prepared especially for the occasion, like "Kinder an die Macht" ("Power to the children") by Herbert Grönemeyer.

For the first time ever, excerpts from the short animated film, "The UN and Climate Protection" were shown to the public. To symbolise every child's right to participate in decision-making, 280 green balloons, along with a huge blue globe bearing the impression of the world's continents, rose to the sky in front of the Heide primary school's renovated green facade.

At the Heide primary school, environmental awareness is one of the subjects which is not only taught but also experienced, and with which the pupils come into contact through a variety of different kinds of projects. "Being alive means being actively aware of the environment and protecting it. Children and young people should be able to live whilst enjoying and taking pleasure in the environment, and thereby taking personal responsibility for it", says Regina Maier, head teacher of the Heide primary school.

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