

PRESS RELEASE

Ganz schön anders: Europe's largest children's show celebrates reopening premiere in Berlin

Berlin, 15 November 2014



Actress Heike Kloss with licorices and hamburger | Photo: Sascha Radke

'Ganz schön anders – Von der Kraft der Fantasie' celebrated its reopening premiere on Saturday at the Friedrichstadt-Palast. The biggest children's show of its kind delighted an audience of 2,000 children and adults. On the largest theatre stage in the world, the entire cast (except for the circus performers) are kids and young people up to the age of 16.

Attending the reopening premiere with her daughter, toy horse in tow, was TV presenter Bettina Cramer: 'It's an exceptionally polished and imaginative production. A truly great show.' Actress Heike Kloss was smitten, too: 'This show really has the 'wow' factor. It totally transports the audience to another world!' Laura Louisa Garde, who hosts Alaaarm! on kids' TV channel Nickelodeon, agreed: 'Marshmallow alert! It's sweet factor 100 bundled together on one stage.' 'The Young Ensemble are extremely accomplished for their age. With its humorous and also pensive moments, the show was completely captivating,' added news anchor Tanja Bültner, as special ambassador for children's charity Stiftung Kinderherz.

Following its premiere in 2012, almost 80,000 enthusiastic young spectators saw this cheerfully colourful stage adventure with the multiple award winning Young Ensemble. Running until 30 January 2015 and now with a specially revamped stage design, the show for young visitors aged 5 and up demonstrates how the power of imagination can sometimes beautifully transform the real world too.

Young Helene often gets teased at school because she is a bit different to her classmates. She doesn't seem to have any friends, no-one comes to visit her, and she is

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Friedrichstadt-Palast
Europe's Show Palace

Friedrichstrasse 107
10117 Berlin-Mitte
In the East End Theatre District

Theatre Director/General Director:
Dr. Berndt Schmidt

Chairman of the Supervisory Board:
Tim Renner, Permanent Secretary for
Cultural Affairs



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quiet and shy. She mostly just holes up in her room, to write. She invents Lolly Licorice's Adventures in Cotton Candy Land – and escapes from her everyday life into the vivid storybook world she creates.

Pianist and band leader Andrej Hermlin: 'My favourite show in the Palast, with top costumes and upbeat music. I think the educational message is particularly important for children.' Actor Timmi Trinks was relieved: 'Disorder and a dark mood in cotton candy land. Not with the kids on stage. Sugar-sweet marshmallows, slices of cake, candies, burgers and fries – a treat for the eyes.'

And the story's pretty good too: One day, by surprise, Lolly appears for real in Helene's room and invites her to go with her to cotton candy land. Helene is delighted to find herself in the midst of her fantasy world. She meets fabulously quirky characters and gets to experience all the things that are missing in her normal life. She has friends, she joins in with games – until two characters appear from out of nowhere, who nobody knows, and spoil everything.

Rapper Nana Abrokwa and actress Julia Richter both agreed: 'Those 100+ kids and youngsters are natural and comfortable performers on stage, and they have a tremendous energy. Helene stays true to herself and refuses to put up with it any more. That's sure to inspire courage.' When she finally reads out her stories in the school assembly hall, the imaginary characters from her dream world suddenly pop to life among her astonished schoolmates.

'Helene and her friends went on a big journey and took everyone with them' – actress and singer Dana Golombek praised the special experience for children, who see only people like themselves on stage, and no adults. This is motivating for many children, and helps develop their self-confidence. Actress Natalia Wörner congratulated the Young Ensemble backstage: 'I'm totally in love with the little manager Lenny.' Actress Anne-Sophie Briest: 'Sadly every child these days has experienced bullying. A show like this can make children stronger and really change things.'

The Young Ensemble can trace its origins back to the autumn of 1945. Around 250 Berlin kids from 20 nations gain extensive stage training at the Friedrichstadt-Palast. Under the instruction of experienced youth educators, each according to their aptitudes and talents, the children are trained in the stage disciplines of dance, singing and acting (speech). They quickly learn that theatre is always a team effort.

Because of youth employment laws, there are two independent casts. School group prices are available on request.

For more information about 'Ganz schön anders – Von der Kraft der Fantasie' visit: www.palast-berlin.eu/de/shows/ganz-schoen-anders. Image material is available to download from: www.palast-berlin.eu/de/presse/bildmaterial-logos/ganz-schoen-anders

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