

PRESS INFORMATION

A declaration of love to life: VIVID Grand Show celebrates its World Premiere in Berlin

Berlin, 11 October 2018



In the end, there was no stopping – lengthy standing ovations and rousing applause for the new VIVID Grand Show | Photo: Pedro Becerra

A tremendous blaze of colour at the Friedrichstadt-Palast, which has been sold out for weeks now: around 2,000 guests, including Lady Kitty Spencer and Barbara Eden, celebrated the dazzling World Premiere of the VIVID Grand Show. Philip Treacy, the world's most famous milliner, designed avant-garde creations for the most lavish show in Europe. The production budget is the biggest yet, totalling €12 million.

The new VIVID Grand Show is a declaration of love to life and surprises with exuberant sensory impressions. For the first time in the Palast's 99-year history, a woman is responsible for writing and directing the Grand Show. Canadian Krista Monson lives in Las Vegas where she was instrumental in the long-running success of the Cirque du Soleil show 'O' as Artistic Director: "VIVID features futuristic elements, but also remains close to reality. Many people experience that life can change in just a split second."

Oliver Hoppmann, who has been Creative Director at the Palast since 2015, is one of the youngest showmakers on the European theatre scene. Working alongside Krista

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Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin

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General Director:
Dr. Berndt Schmidt

Chairman of the Board:
Dr. Klaus Lederer
Senator for Culture and Europe



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Monson as Co-Author and Co-Director, he completes the dream team, coordinating the international creative team based in five time zones.

After Christian Lacroix, Thierry Mugler and Jean Paul Gaultier, the Palast's General Director and Producer Dr. Berndt Schmidt has now commissioned the talented headpiece designer Philip Treacy as Design Director and Costume Supervisor. Treacy raves: "VIVID is the most exciting project I've ever been involved in. The Palast gave me the creative freedom to work on ambitious designs and to reinterpret revolutionary headpieces from my career with experienced eyes." Under the direction of Philip Treacy, the Paris-based fashion designer, illustrator and art director Stefano Canulli is responsible for the extravagant costumes for the world's biggest theatre stage.

For General Director Dr. Berndt Schmidt, VIVID is also the antithesis to recent developments: "We counteract many of the latest tendencies with a declaration of love to life. As such, VIVID is entertainment at its best. While it does not point any fingers, it also is not apolitical in the contemporary context." It is not without reason that the headpiece designed by Philip Treacy that features on the show poster dazzles in all colours of the rainbow – it is a clear commitment to respect and diversity.

In the VIVID Grand Show, young R'eye is transformed into an android – half human, half machine. Though her life is dominated by external control, her yearning for freedom lives on. And, indeed, one day she does begin moving to a different beat. With bright-eyed wonder, she beholds the world with new eyes and perceives the overwhelming beauty of the things we often overlook. The acronym "ID" emphasised in the VIVID show name refers to the human identity that R'eye so dearly hopes to find for herself.

The around 20,000 people, who attended the twelve preview shows, also acknowledged the VIVID Grand Show with cheers and standing ovations. "Unlike other theatres, we do not have several strings to our bow. We only have this one shot. If it proves a hit, then our existence is secured; if not, then the situation can rapidly become precarious," says General Director Dr. Berndt Schmidt, who has produced all of the theatre's hit shows since 2008.

Among those to attend the star-studded World Premiere were: Arthur Abraham, Kena Amoa, Seyran Ateş, Inka Bause, Luise Befort, Caroline Beil, Nicole Belstler-Boettcher, Mara Bergmann, Stephanie Brungs, Tanja Bütter, Bettina Cramer, Gabi Decker, Dr. Lothar de Maizière, Eberhard Diepgen, Katy England, Peter Escher, Kim Fisher, Leonard Freier, Romy Haag, Waldemar Hartmann, Thomas Hermanns, Ewa Herzog, Linda Hesse, Sascha Hingst, Fabian Hinrichs, Anna Hofbauer, Isabell Horn, Eva und Peter Imhof, Jeremy Issacharoff, Cherny Jobatey, Olivia Jones, Jette Joop, Lothar Keller, Sarah Knappik, Dr. Florian Langenscheidt, Dr. Klaus Lederer, Wolfgang Lippert, Roman Lob, Natascha Ochsenknecht, René Pollesch, Alexandra Polzin, Georg

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Preuß, Tina Ruland, Kim Sanders, Kool Savas, Axel Schulz, Jens Spahn, Raphael Vogt, Gottfried Vollmer, Klaus Wowereit, Anastasia Zampounidis

More information: The show is scheduled to run for at least 12 months. Tickets cost from €19.80 (incl. fees) and are available online (www.palast.berlin/en) and via the ticket hotline (+49 30-2326 2327). Please note that revue shows are not musicals. Coherence is primarily achieved through visual imagery, rather than narrative storytelling. Meaning they are also perfect for guests with no knowledge of German. The full production title is 'VIVID Grand Show'. Please note the correct spelling of the theatre name: Friedrichstadt-Palast. This is the original spelling used from 1947 (until the early 1980s), which has been the official spelling again since 2014.

Show images to download:

www.palast.berlin/en/info/press/photos-logos/#vivid-grand-show

Show trailer (58 seconds): www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8K3wsk3Slk

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