

PRESS INFORMATION

The new Yma is also – a man. And what a man.

Berlin, February 23, 2011

Friedrichstadt-Palast was just the Berlinale's biggest film palace. Now, when shows resume on February 25, Jörn-Felix Alt can be seen in the role of Yma in the hit show 'Yma – too beautiful to be true.' The title is a play on the fact that the beautiful stage figure of Yma is actually a handsome man.

But that's not something every guest realizes. Many first notice it during the final applause when the male name appears in the credits (and even then some still think it's a typo or definitely a mistake made by the show's producers). If a handsome man can pass so easily for a beautiful woman, then there is also no end to the sexual prejudices that are expressed to the point of absurdity.

To date, the role of Yma was played by Andreas Renee Swoboda. He'll be back on stage in August. "We had already agreed to this change before the premiere, because we were completely impressed by both performers at the casting calls," says Dr. Berndt Schmidt, the managing director of Friedrichstadt-Palast. "They offer two very different interpretations of Yma, not only in terms of outer appearances, but both are simply stunning and seductive. A delightful confusion of the senses."

Since the world premiere on September 2, 2010, more than a quarter-million delighted guests have already seen the show. That makes it the most successful premiere in the history of Friedrichstadt-Palast.

That Jörn-Felix Alt belongs on the big stage is something the young Berliner-by-choice knew early on. He already took acting lessons at age 6, which were soon followed by dance and singing lessons. Since 2007, the tenor singer has been a 'musical show' major at Berlin's renowned University of the Arts, an ambition that quickly paid off for Jörn-Felix Alt. He could already be seen as a singer in the Young Opera Ensemble of the Stuttgart State Opera, in Kurt Weill's *One Touch of Venus* in Dessau, in George Gershwin's *Crazy for You* in Leipzig, and in other productions as well. From November 2010 to January 2011, he could also be spotted on stage as Gentle John in *My Avatar & I* at the Neuköllner Opera.

With his natural charisma, Alt not only knows how to impress the audience, but the experts as well. In 2006, he won first place in both the 'Jugend musiziert' (Young people make music) state competition and in its national competition – and in both cases in the musical category. In 2009, he also won the Prize for Young Singers in the junior competition sponsored by the national singing competition 'Bundeswettbewerb Gesang.' Now as Yma, he will shine on stage, bringing splendor and glamour to the biggest theater stage in the world.

If you would like to fall in love with the new Yma, you can do so from February 25 to July 3.

Note to media representatives: The attached photo is available as a print-quality download in the Press Area of our website: <http://www.show-palace.eu/de/presse/bildmaterial-logos/yma-zu-schon-um-wahr-zu-sein/>. The photo may be used free of charge if the photographer, Sonja Hornung, is credited.