

PRESS INFORMATION

The children's show: Thunderous applause at Friedrichstadt-Palast during the premiere of the 2011 version of "The Snow Queen"

Berlin, October 30, 2011

The walls of Friedrichstadt-Palast were shaking. Thunderous applause and deafening cheers erupted from the 1,893 guests – mostly children – during the finale for both premiere performances of the "The Snow Queen," presented by the Youth Ensemble at 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. With roaring applause and stomping feet, siblings, parents, relatives and friends thanked the more than 100 kids for their exceptional performance on stage. The excitement was palpable throughout the entire theater as Leyla (played by Franziska Juntke) went looking for her dear friend Kay (Janko Danailow), only to end up in the crystal palace to finally free him from the icy clutches of the Snow Queen.

The soloist Santina Maria Schrader was completely captivating in this updated stage version of the Hans Christian Andersen fairytale. She played the Snow Queen so convincingly that during the final applause, many of the kids weren't sure whether they should cheer or boo this evil ruler of snow and ice. In children's theater, it is the highest compliment to be booed for playing a wicked role so impressively. Santina Maria Schrader can therefore be certain of a job well done.

Tom Schilling attended the morning performance with his son and was thrilled: "I really and truly enjoyed the show, and my son liked it even more. The breakdancers and the dazzling set design were both very cool." Dana Golombek attended the show with her daughter Louisa and really liked the set for Origamia, as well as the Ponschky characters: "Every child on stage could really sing, dance and act. That's just great. It's always impressive to see how much fun and true joy the children have performing on stage." Heike Kloss echoed this specifically: "It's unbelievable how much perfection, enthusiasm, and magic these young actors bring to the stage. The shows here are always above and beyond. I think it's great that children are given the opportunity to participate in such a fantastic show with this level of technology and overall quality."

Dieter Kosslick, Director of the Berlin International Film Festival, also attended the show with his son: "It was really great. The imaginative production design propels the magic of the gigantic stage to a new level. What I found especially impressive was the way they modernized a fairytale everyone already knows by adding elements such as hip-hop and break dance." Andrej Hermlin, whose son David was a member of the Youth Ensemble added, "There were so many highlights, but the dream tunnel was especially breathtaking. I can't say I'm especially objective because my son is involved, but the show is simply wonderful. That's Friedrichstadt-Palast – there isn't anything else like it."

"The Snow Queen" runs from October 30, 2011 to January 27, 2012. Of the 80,000 available tickets, 54,000 have already been sold or reserved, meaning most of the performances during this run will be completely sold out.

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Traditionally, in order to comply with child labor laws, shows with child performers have two premieres on the same day with two different but equally talented groups. Friedrichstadt-Palast recommends that ticket holders be at least five years old.

Note to media representatives:

Show photos and other images from the premieres can be found in the press section at www.show-palace.eu/de/presse. You are free to use the photos royalty free, as long as the photographer is properly credited.

Please note the new official spelling for **Friedrichstadt-Palast** (formerly Friedrichstadtpalast). The name has been legally changed and is officially filed with the commercial registry. The change was made to improve readability.