

PRESS RELEASE

## Hape Kerkeling and Barbara Schöneberger at the Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin: Keine Geburtstagsshow!

Berlin, 27 November 2014



Rehearsals for the "Geburtstagsshow" (Birthday Show): Reminiscent of "Beatrix" and "Hurz", Hape Kerkeling plays the director, and the men of the Palast's ballet company haven't lost their smiles (yet) | Photo: ZDF / Oliver Vaccaro

**Happy Birthday, Hape Kerkeling! On 9 December, the entertainer and author will be celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. The ZDF TV channel is honouring him on Sunday, 30 November at 10pm with the "Keine Geburtstagsshow!" (Not a Birthday Show!). The show will feature Hape Kerkeling, Horst Schlämmer, der lustige Glückshase, Hannilein, Barbara Schöneberger and dancers of the Friedrichstadt-Palast ballet company. The Palast was selected by ZDF as the perfect venue for the birthday show: After all, what better place for Germany's greatest comedian than the largest theatre stage in the world?**

The gala documentary depicts the chaotic preparations for a birthday show in the style of "This is Your Life" that will never actually take place. Hape Kerkeling plays three protagonists who, during the gala rehearsals, brilliantly obstruct the proceedings, preventing it from becoming the kind of regular birthday show that so many other stars long for. Barbara Schöneberger plays the increasingly irritated presenter of the birthday show, until she finally throws in the towel.

Gero von Boehm, screenwriter Micky Beisenherz and Hape Kerkeling created and realized the major project together. "It was a dream come true for me as a director to have an opportunity to work on the largest theatre stage in the world", said Gero von

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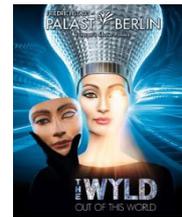
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Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin  
Europe's Show Palace

Friedrichstraße 107  
D-10117 Berlin-Mitte  
In the East End Theatre District

General Director:  
Dr. Berndt Schmidt

Chairman of the Board:  
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Tim Renner



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Boehm, who was also the show's producer. "To stage the organized chaos of a big show, we needed the perfect location. Shooting crazy scenes and at the same time making fun of some leading media personalities is the icing on the cake for a screenwriter. I'm looking forward to the show which doesn't happen", added writer Micky Beisenherz.

"The shapely, perfectly-choreographed legs from Berlin encountered the melodramatic director, the intrusive gossip journalist, the shady manager and an out-of-control film crew. "It was guaranteed to be good", enthused Hape Kerkeling about his latest collaboration with the Palast.

"Whenever Hape Kerkeling and his alter egos call, we're always up for any kind of craziness. We're really pleased that we were able to provide our expertise and experience and contribute to making his birthday gala a complete farce", said General Director Dr. Berndt Schmidt.

The show will be given its TV broadcast on ZDF next Sunday, 30 November 2014, at 10pm. A sneak preview will be shown on Saturday, 29 November 2014, at 8:15 pm on ZDFneo.

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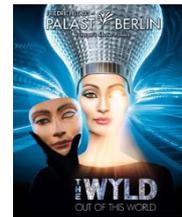
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