

PRESS RELEASE

A big heart for small patients: Palast visitors donate € 82,884 for Berlin children's charity Kinderschutzensengel

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Theatre director Dr. Berndt Schmidt, Jacqueline Boy, Olivier Erié St. Louis, Kathy Weber, Cindy Sander, Jan Sosniok, Vera Int-Veen, Kai Lentrodt, chief physician Prof. Dr. med. Volker Stephan, Wolfgang Bahro. Photo: Pedro Becerra

Berliners, Brandenburgers and their guests can be counted on when it comes to helping others. Representing Friedrichstadt-Palast visitors as well as the entire ensemble, and in the presence of celebrity ambassadors, theatre director Dr. Berndt Schmidt, solo singers Cindy Sander and Olivier Erié St. Louis handed over exactly € 82,884 to the charity Kinderschutzensengel, which was formed in 2005, at the Sana hospital in Berlin-Lichtenberg.

Every evening from the end of November until New Year's Eve in 2014, after Grand Show THE WYLD was over, members of the international ballet ensemble gratefully received every cent in donations at the exits from the auditorium. Once again, Berliners and their guests showed their enormous generosity – to the delight of the non-profit organisation. Kinderschutzensengel ('children's guardian angels') is the only association in Germany allowed to take its five therapy dogs into children's wards and visit small patients directly at their bedside.

Specially trained Australian Shepherd dogs Merlin, Cujo, Tiffany, Sheila and Snow bring often seriously ill and disabled children new courage, help them feel secure, and

Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin
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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demonstrably promote the healing process. In many cases, even traumatised and psychologically withdrawn children frequently open up to the dogs.

'I am incredibly happy that this big donation will allow us to continue our work for a long time to come. It also ensures we can run our Midsummer Night's Dream gala again this year,' stated Jacqueline Boy, president of the Kinderschutzensengel association. Invitees to the gala include children suffering from heart and lung diseases as well as cystic fibrosis. Their siblings can attend too. The event in July also hosts children whose parents have cancer, and children from care homes and crisis centres.

Theatre director Dr. Berndt Schmidt: 'As a Berlin institution, we have collected every year since 2010 for smaller charities in the region. This gives us a direct insight into the work that they do and the people behind the organisations. Hospitals in Berlin and Brandenburg treat children from all across Germany and the whole world, which means that our regional assistance also benefits people beyond the region and internationally. And our guests are extremely willing to give: donations over the last five years have totalled € 437,000.'

'A huge thank you to all show-goers and the whole Palast team for such magnificent support for the Kinderschutzensengel. It really warms the heart,' said TV presenter Vera Int-Veen. Her colleague Kathy Weber added: 'I thought I must have read the total wrong. I am impressed by the strength of Berliners' support.' Actor Wolfgang Bahro was full of enthusiasm: 'I love being at the Palast. It is a really great institution and exactly what Berlin needs.' Actors Jan Sosniok and Kai Lentrodt also attended the cheque presentation as honorary ambassadors of the charity.

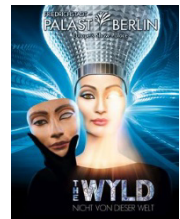
Donations: Kinderschutzensengel e.V., Bank für Sozialwirtschaft, IBAN: DE0810020500001151500, BIC: BFSWDE33BER. For more information, visit www.kinderschutzensengel.de

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