

PRESS RELEASE

## Friedrichstadt-Palast is new partner of 'Berlin gegen Nazis' and sends Drag Queen on tolerance tour

Berlin, 16 July 2015



Together for diversity and a colourful Germany: the Drag Queen in Hasir Turkish restaurant. Photo: Hannibal Hanschke

**The Friedrichstadt-Palast is a new partner of 'Berlin gegen Nazis'. As a stage for diversity and tolerance, the Show-Palast is now helping to combat far-right extremism and racism as part of the network. Its first 'official act' was to take a charming ambassador for tolerance out to çay (Turkish tea).**

At the present time, especially in social networks, it can be seen how dangerous stereotypes – even from the supposed centre of society – are poisoning minds and discussions. So much the better, then, if a charming encounter can sweep aside multiple clichés in one stroke. Very much in the spirit of intercultural understanding in Berlin, the Drag Queen from the Palast's current Grand Show 'THE WYLD – Out of this world' recently visited Turkish restaurant Hasir in Berlin's Mitte district – and was welcomed with open arms, çay and doner.

The Drag Queen – played by Serbian dancer Siniša Petrović – and her open-minded host Selahattin Kaya got along famously from the start. Even if – blame the killer platform shoes – the two didn't quite communicate 'eye-to-eye', they were immediately on the same wavelength. 'We have always believed in respect for one another, so we were all the more delighted at our surprise glitter-glam visit from the Palast. Bigotry and intolerance have no place with us,' said Selahattin Kaya from the Hasir group, adding that mutual dialogue is the only way to overcome barriers and break down prejudices.

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Dr. Berndt Schmidt

Chairman of the Supervisory Board:  
Tim Renner, Permanent Secretary for  
Cultural Affairs

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Like all 500 costumes in THE WYLD, the Drag Queen outfit was created by world-famous Parisian fashion designer Thierry Mugler.

Employing people from more than 30 countries, the Palast Berlin reflects the cultural diversity of the capital. Under the stewardship of Dr. Berndt Schmidt, for many years the theatre has actively opposed any form of discrimination, and supports a free and cosmopolitan society: 'Normal is not just what the majority thinks, it is what is permitted in a free society. Being different is normal too.'

Hit production 'THE WYLD – Out of this world' likewise emphasises Berlin's diversity and tolerance. With well over 450,000 visitors to date, THE WYLD is set to break records, and audience reactions at the final applause every night show that the overwhelming majority of people agree with this view. THE WYLD runs until July next year.

Carolin Brenner of the 'Berlin gegen Nazis' network: 'When it comes to taking a stand against neo-nazis, it is important for art, culture and civil society to act together. So we are pleased to welcome the Friedrichstadt-Palast as another strong partner in our network against far-right extremism, racism and anti-semitism.'

The Friedrichstadt-Palast is also involved in the Berlin tolerance coalition and in the alliance against homophobia, which was established in 2009 on the initiative of the Berlin regional association of the Lesbian and Gay Association in Germany (LSVD).

Image material (photographer: Hannibal Hanschke) is available to download here: [www.palast.berlin/de/service/presse/bildmaterial-logos/#aktuelles](http://www.palast.berlin/de/service/presse/bildmaterial-logos/#aktuelles)

Websites:

[www.palast.berlin](http://www.palast.berlin)

[www.hasir.de](http://www.hasir.de)

[www.berlin-gegen-nazis.de](http://www.berlin-gegen-nazis.de)

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