

PRESS INFORMATION

Respect each other. Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin sets a sign for respectful interaction and against the brutalization of discussion culture

Berlin, 30 August 2016



The hoisting of the “Colours of Respect” in front of the Palast. Each colour represents an aspect of life, from origin to religion to sexual orientation. | Photo: Pedro Becerra

The Palast, Berlin’s most visited stage of Berlin with 700,000 visitors from all over the world each year, advocates respect towards all legal perceptions and ways of life. On Tuesday, the establishment hoisted the ‘Colours of Respect’ to set a clear and immediate sign.

Respect each other. You would expect this being a trivial matter of fact. Yet, the developments and events in the world, the undifferentiated, inhuman hatred, which creeps out of forums and social media, show that a lot is happening at the moment which wouldn’t even have been possible a few years ago.

Nowadays, the Palast, also because of its own history, stands for diversity, freedom and democracy. Under the name of “theatre of the people”, it was the largest Nazi propaganda stage of the Third Reich. Until 1990, the Friedrichstadt-Palast was the model entertainment theatre of the GDR.

“Only a few years ago, I would never have thought of writing self-evident facts onto multi-coloured flags. However, these times are extremely on the move, so that even seemingly self-evident matter of facts are at risk once again. That’s why the majority needs to stop being silent towards populist simplifiers and rise up against enemies of our

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Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin
Europe’s Show Palace

Friedrichstraße 107
10117 Berlin-Mitte
In the theatre district East End

Intendant/director:
Dr Berndt Schmidt

Head of the supervisory board:
Secretary of State for Culture Tim Renner



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freedom”, says General Director Dr Berndt Schmidt, and adds: “But also whilst standing up against this, we need to remain respectful if we want to be role models for a civilized and cultivated interaction with each other.”

The Palast is a “theatre for people” in the best sense of the word. 700,000 guests from all social classes visit us every year. 40 per cent of these are Berliners, 60 per cent from Germany and the rest of the world. The average age is 38.4. From now on, the Palast promotes respectful interaction with a flag over the main entrance, in front of the building and on all its advertising material.

“Respect each other” is supported by a selection of colours (Colours of Respect), which is inspired by the rainbow flag, yet remains neutral with regard to political, religious and social issues, as well as sexual orientation. The Colours of Respect are an independent statement for all those committed to mutual respect.

The design was created pro bono by the Hamburger artist Zhoi Hy.

The hoisting of the flag in front of the main entrance of the Palast, with a view to Friedrichstraße, took place by members of the international ballet ensemble from Egypt, Brazil, Bulgaria, Germany, Italy, Canada, Austria as well as Slovakia and the Ukraine. They represent different opinions, backgrounds, religions and sexual orientations. Here again, on the stage that means the world, working together requires discipline – and mutual respect.

“Respect also means to differentiate whilst defending yourself, not to generalize or see single events or group memberships as the complete image. Think in a differentiated way so that your words or acts won’t affect innocent people”, writes Schmidt in his statement for the Palast on his page www.palast.berlin/respect. You don’t fight against Nazis with Nazi-methods, nor do you combat blinded terrorists with blindness and terror. The choice of words and methods differentiates sensible from indecent people.

You can read the entire statement on the website www.palast.berlin/respect, the meaning of the eight colours is also explained there. You can also find different versions of the Colours of Respect in the download section, which can be downloaded and shared. Any person, institution or company is welcome to use the Colours of Respect free of charge.

Further information:

www.palast.berlin/en/
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