

## PRESS INFORMATION

## Friedrichstadt-Palast's Young Ensemble performs at German Federal President's Citizens' Festival

Berlin, 9 September 2017



Photo: Sascha Radke

In just a quarter of a year, between November 2016 and January 2017, almost 80,000 kids and adults watched the colourful stage adventure 'Verrückte Sonne' ('Crazy Sun') at the Friedrichstadt-Palast – with a total attendance rate of 98 percent. Last weekend, the multiple award-winning junges Ensemble (Young Ensemble) performed excerpts from the hit children's show at a Citizens' Festival hosted by German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier in the grounds of Bellevue Palace.

It was a great honour for Europe's largest children's and youth ensemble: on the park stage, before a densely packed audience of 4,000 specially invited guests who have a distinguished record of particularly active involvement in voluntary work and outstanding services to charity, 27 kids and teenagers offered an insight into their trained stage disciplines of dance, singing and acting.

TV presenters Dunja Hayali and Ingo Zamperoni gave an introduction to Berlin's most-visited theatre, whose Young Ensemble is an institution that maintains a long tradition: its beginnings date back 72 years to the winter of 1945. The visible successes of the Young Ensemble have led to many offerings for children appearing at other theatres

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Theatre Director/General Director: Dr. Berndt Schmidt

Chairman of the Supervisory Board: Dr. Klaus Lederer Senator for Culture and Europe



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and opera houses in recent years. But the Palast's children's shows are still clearly in the lead: no other theatre in Berlin or Germany has attracted so many young visitors in such a short time with a single production.

German Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and his wife Elke Büdenbender expressed their delight at the excerpts from the production, which is staged with immensely lavish costumes and sets.

The Citizens' Festival recognised the institutions, initiatives and dedicated volunteers whose countless hours of work in associations, church communities, environmental and cultural groups, and in projects for integration and inclusion, help to keep our democracy thriving.

Information about the Young Ensemble: www.palast.berlin/en/backstage/the-young-ensemble

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