

PRESS INFORMATION

# A Show to Top Them All: World Premiere of VIVID Grand Show at the Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin in Autumn 2018

Most international creative team and highest production budget to date | Headpiece design by Philip Treacy | From 27 September

Berlin, 6 March 2018



Headpiece design and Design Director Philip Treacy | Costume design and illustrations by Stefano Canulli. Designs (from left to right): Blue Cobra, Domina Android (kickline costume) and Purple Snake

The avant-garde designs by Philip Treacy, “the world’s most famous milliner” (The Times, London), adorn the heads of some of the best known public figures. The Palast is investing twelve million euros in this tremendous blaze of colour – more than ever before. New game, new luck? The world premiere will take place on 11 October, the previews start on 27 September.

Philip Treacy has worked for Armani, Alexander McQueen, Karl Lagerfeld, Ralph Lauren and Valentino. He has designed hats for ‘Harry Potter’ and ‘Sex and the City’, been named British Accessory Designer of the Year five times, and been awarded the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. The Irish haute couture milliner has also created headpieces for Queen Silvia of Sweden, Queen Mathilde of Belgium, the Duchesses of Cornwall and Cambridge, Victoria and David Beckham, Naomi Campbell, Lady Gaga, Madonna, Sarah Jessica Parker, Diana Ross, Emma Watson and Oprah Winfrey. Meghan Markle, who is set to marry Prince Harry on 19 May, wore a creation by Treacy during her first official engagement with the queen at Christmas.

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General Director:  
Dr. Berndt Schmidt

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



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In the VIVID Grand Show, Treacy will bring objects to life on the world's biggest theatre stage in an entirely unprecedented style, volume and shape: "I believe in beauty and elegance, and also that thoughts and feelings can be visualised. It is these emotions that I shall bring to the stage in the VIVID Grand Show." For General Director and Producer Dr. Berndt Schmidt, winning Treacy for the show is an absolute dream: "A glorious symbiosis has always existed between revue shows and headpieces. Philip Treacy adds the final flourish to the supreme discipline of haute couture though."

A creative team more international than for any Palast production before it is working in five time zones to prepare for the new Grand Show. A huge amount of coordination is required, as the creatives are based in 15 different cities: Belgrade, Berlin, Budapest, Düsseldorf, Hanover, Las Vegas, London, Los Angeles, Melbourne, Montreal, New York, Paris, Portland, Rome, and Stockholm. They will all meet in Berlin in the late summer for the final rehearsals.

Las Vegas-based author and director Krista Monson is a tremendous asset for the creative team. She was instrumental in the long-standing success of the Cirque du Soleil's Las Vegas show 'O' as Artistic Director and has also been involved in the theatrical enterprise's shows in Los Angeles, Macau, Milan, New York, Orlando, and Tokyo. The Canadian has directed and choreographed countless productions from Las Vegas to Istanbul, worked with stars of the likes of Céline Dion, Daniel Craig and Danny Elfman, and is the recipient of a total of three Elizabeth Sterling Haynes Awards in the Outstanding Choreography category: "The journey of VIVID makes the invisible visible and the unexpected very real. Life is about the power to transform: what we see is only one side of a diamond. Beauty lies in the quest." She will be supported by co-author and co-director Oliver Hoppmann, who is one of the youngest showmakers on the European theatre circuit. He has been the Creative Director at the Palast since 2015.

Under the direction of Philip Treacy, the Paris-based fashion designer, illustrator and art director Stefano Canulli is responsible for designing the extravagant costumes. Among others, he has worked for the avant-garde all-round talent Thierry Mugler and on the Cirque du Soleil's Las Vegas show 'Zumanity'. Sketches by Canulli are on display at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. British fashion stylist Katy England completes the design team. As Creative Director, she developed fantastical creations for Alexander McQueen and has also styled for Jil Sander, Gucci, Louis Vuitton and Giorgio Armani campaigns. The stage set is by American Michael Cotten, who previously created shows for world stars of the likes of Bette Midler, Miley Cyrus, Shania Twain, Phil Collins, and Katy Perry. Cotten also contributed his 'visual magic' to Michael Jackson's HIStory World Tour, the Super Bowl, and the Olympics in Atlanta.

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In the VIVID Grand Show, android R'eye breaks out of her externally-controlled life and sets out in search of her true identity. In English, 'identity' is abbreviated with 'ID' – and this happens to also be contained in the word 'VIVID'. Many of the countless meanings of the word 'vivid' can in fact be applied to R'eye and the new Grand Show, including vibrant, bright, powerful, lively, colourful. With the wide-eyed wonder, R'eye beholds the world with new eyes and perceives the overwhelming beauty of things we often overlook.



VIVID is a declaration of love to life. Versatile and opulent, it is the most colourful Grand Show at the Palast for a long time – given the abundance of colour and diversity in the theatre's shows, that's really saying something!

Additional information: World premiere on 11 October. Previews from 27 September. Scheduled to run for a minimum of 12 months. Advance tickets now on sale at [www.palast.berlin/en](http://www.palast.berlin/en) and via the ticket hotline (+49-30-2326 2327). Revue shows are not musicals. Coherence is primarily achieved through visual imagery, rather than narrative storytelling. Meaning they are also perfect for guests with no knowledge of German. The full production title is 'VIVID Grand Show'. More than 100 artists from 26 nations are involved in each performance. Further details of the music, soloists and artists will be released in a few weeks.

Show images to download:

[www.palast.berlin/en/info/press/photos-logos/#vivid-grand-show](http://www.palast.berlin/en/info/press/photos-logos/#vivid-grand-show)

Information on the VIVID Grand Show: [www.palast.berlin/en/VIVID](http://www.palast.berlin/en/VIVID)

Show trailer (58 seconds): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilxibMHljG0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilxibMHljG0)

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