

PRESS INFORMATION

'Kids in the Spotlight' documentary about the Young Ensemble at the Friedrichstadt-Palast to celebrate its world premiere at the 69th Berlinale.

Release in cinemas across Germany on 14 March | Shortlisted for the German Film Award | 1,000 discounted tickets for the kids' show 'Spiel mit der Zeit'

Berlin, 14 January 2019



The exhilarating journey through time entitled 'Spiel mit der Zeit' can only be seen on the world's biggest theatre stage until 27 January | Photo: Nady El-Toumsy

In collaboration with Grimme Award winner Christian Beetz (Gebrüder Beetz Filmproduktion) and in co-production with rbb, the Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin has filmed the documentary 'Kids in the Spotlight' ['Lampenfieber']. It will be released in cinemas across Germany on 14 March. The 90-minute film, which has also been shortlisted for the 2019 German Film Award, will celebrate its world premiere on 17 February at the 69th Berlinale.

PRESS CONTACT:

André Puchta
Communications Director

T +49-30-2326 2201
M +49-175-4319 092

puchta@palast.berlin
www.palast.berlin

Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin

Friedrichstraße 107
10117 Berlin-Mitte
Germany

General Director:
Dr. Berndt Schmidt

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



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'Kids in the Spotlight' follows five children from the Palast's Young Ensemble during an exciting year – from the auditions through the rehearsals with endless successes and setbacks to the grand premiere of 'Spiel mit der Zeit'. Anchored in the theatre's 100-year history, five very personal stories are shared of the young lead characters, whose private lives are also followed. The sensitive accompaniment of the children has been interspersed with spectacular show shots to create an exciting and entertaining film for the whole family.

The film was directed by Alice Agneskirchner, whose past work was recognised at the Chicago International Film Festival. One of the most successful documentary cameramen could also be won for the project: Marcus Winterbauer. He was honoured with the German Film Award for the best documentary and best editing for his film about the principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, Sir Simon Rattle. The documentary has now gained yet another accolade: 'Kids in the Spotlight' will celebrate its world premiere on 17 February during a 'Berlinale Special gala' at the 69th Berlin International Film Festival. The gala screening will take place at the Friedrichstadt-Palast, which is transformed from a show palace into a film palace for the Berlinale every year. 'Kids in the Spotlight' was also the only documentary film in the children's film category to make it onto the shortlist for the 2019 German Film Award. The nominations for the German Film Award will be selected from this shortlist.

To celebrate the Berlinale premiere and the national cinema release, film distributor NFP and Gebrüder Beetz Filmproduktion will subsidise 1,000 tickets for the two performances of the colourful stage adventure 'Spiel mit der Zeit' on Tuesday 22 January and Wednesday 23 January. The performances start at 4 p.m. and end at around 6 p.m. on both days. Tickets will be offered for the special price of €7.50 for children (up to 17 years) and €12.50 for adults. These much sought-after tickets are available by calling the ticket hotline (+49-30-2326 2327) – mention 'Kids in the Spotlight' ['Lampenfieber'] when you call. The aim is to enable families who are less well off to also see the children's show on which the film is based (savings of up to €32 possible!). The final (already sold-out) performance of the show will take place on 27 January.

With 280 children and teenagers from over 20 nations, the Palast's Young Ensemble is the largest children and youth ensemble in Europe. It was awarded the Culture Prize of the state of Berlin and the Children's Culture Prize by the German children's charity Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk e. V. for outstanding achievements in working with children. The Palast's ensemble is unique the world over for the fact that all roles in its children's shows (including the lead roles) are played exclusively by over 100 children and young people.

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