

PRESS INFORMATION

At the end of the year, a “photo of the century” full of history and hope: 102-year-old Holocaust survivor Margot Friedländer, the Friedrichstadt-Palast with 104 years of stage history and its world-famous hallmark dance, which will have been performed for 100 years in the new year.

Berlin, 21 December 2023



Margot Friedländer heads the Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin's 32-person kickline on the world's biggest theatre stage, as photographed by Lukas Korschan on 15 December 2023. Costume design for the kickline: Jean Paul GAULTIER.

**A German Jew whose family was murdered and barely survived the Holocaust herself. A Palast with Jewish roots that became the largest propaganda and operetta theatre of the Third Reich – and today stands for freedom, diversity and democracy. Its hallmark dance since the “Golden Twenties”: the 32-person kickline, a tradition that was also established by a German Jew. A photo brimming with history and poise.**

Particularly in the current times, this is also a photo of hope: Today, 30 women and two gender-fluid people of all skin colours, all ways of loving and all religions – from Christianity to Judaism to Islam – perform in the kickline. People from 28 nations work at the Palast, including from Ukraine, Russia and Belarus as well as from Israel and Arab countries.

The Palast's ensemble is a great example for Margot Friedländer's unwavering appeal to humanity: “We are all the same – there is no Christian, Muslim or Jewish blood. There is only human blood. Be human!”

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Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin

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Germany

General Director:  
Dr. Berndt Schmidt

Chairperson of the Supervisory Board  
Sarah Wedl-Wilson,  
Permanent Secretary for Culture



The Friedrichstadt-Palast is owned by the City of Berlin.

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This “photo of the century” was taken by Lukas Korschan on 15 December 2023, the last day and climax of Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights.

The kickline costumes for the current FALLING | IN LOVE Grand Show were designed by top French designer, Jean Paul GAULTIER.

### Historical background to the three “centenarians”:

The history of the Friedrichstadt-Palast Berlin began on 29 November 1919 with opening of the *Großes Schauspielhaus* theatre by Jewish theatremaker Max Reinhardt. In 1934, Joseph Goebbels (whose Reich Ministry of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda controlled the largest theatre in the Reich directly) renamed it the *Theater des Volkes* (Theatre of the People). The theatre has been known as the Friedrichstadt-Palast since 1947.

Margot Friedländer was born in Berlin on 5 November 1921, two years after the *Großes Schauspielhaus* first opened. She worked in forced labour, had to remain in hiding for a long time and ultimately managed to survive the Holocaust in Theresienstadt concentration camp. Her father, mother and brother Ralph were all murdered in Auschwitz. She is an honorary citizen of the State of Berlin and a recipient of the German Federal Cross of Merit 1st Class.

The row of dancers today known as the kickline has been a hallmark of the Palast since 1924. This tradition was established by Erik Charell, a gay German Jew.

Fascinating fact: Max Reinhardt brought a certain Marlene Dietrich to the stage for the first time in 1922 – at the *Großes Schauspielhaus*. At the time, she was still an unknown. Erik Charell also used her as a revue dancer and actress in his plays from 1924. Dietrich later became a staunch opponent of National Socialism. The fact that both Marlene and Margot have stood on our stage is an absolute honour, compass and obligation for us.

A peaceful Christmas and happy new year to you all!

### Additional information:

Photo of the century: [www.picdrop.com/friedrichstadt-palast/bBJGFMHqfy](http://www.picdrop.com/friedrichstadt-palast/bBJGFMHqfy)

Book tip | Margot Friedländer's autobiography: “Try to make your life”  
[www.rowohlt.de/buch/margot-friedlander-malin-schwerdtfeger-versuche-dein-leben-zu-machen-9783644104815](http://www.rowohlt.de/buch/margot-friedlander-malin-schwerdtfeger-versuche-dein-leben-zu-machen-9783644104815)

Book tip | History of the Palast during the Third Reich: “Dein Tänzer ist der Tod”  
[www.bebraverlag.de/verzeichnis/berlin/titel/dein-taenzer-ist-der-tod.html](http://www.bebraverlag.de/verzeichnis/berlin/titel/dein-taenzer-ist-der-tod.html)

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

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