Press Release



Berlin's season for musicals kicks off in autumn

The new show at the Friedrichstadt-Palast is setting records even before the curtain is raised

Berlin, 13 October 2014 From classic to galactic – Berlin's musical theatre companies are starting the autumn-winter season with several new productions. Friedrichstadt-Palast is setting records with its spectacular in-house production of "The Wyld" even before opening night. Meanwhile, the Stage Entertainment Group is bringing two hits back to the capital's stages. Musicals are also hitting the stage at smaller venues.

As Burkhard Kieker, CEO of *visitBerlin*, comments, "Berlin is Germany's capital for entertainment and musicals and shows are the magnet." The organisers have their eye on the ever-increasing number of international tourists coming to Berlin and some venues are even featuring English surtitles to accompany the action on stage. An updated overview of Berlin's musicals scene can be found at <u>visitberlin.de/en/musicals</u>

"The Wyld: Out of This World" will have its première at the Friedrichstadt-Palast on 23 October. The show is the theatre's most expensive in its 95-year history, with a budget of more than €10 million. Staged by Manfred Thierry Mugler and Roland Welke, this glamorous show is all about nocturnal birds of paradise, city plants and enchanting galactic beings. The cast of 100 performers will be taking to what is claimed to be the biggest stage in the world. There is a lot of interest in the show already, as shown by the record-breaking advance sales of 100,000 tickets at the Friedrichstadt-Palast box office.

More highlights of the current musicals season

"Falco meets Mercury" combines the music of two singers no longer with us who were both bigger than life and embraced theatricality in their music. The musical revue featuring many of their major hits is running at the Admiralspalast on Friedrichstraße from 14 October until 20 March 2015.

The 1970s are back with the musical "Mamma Mia!", featuring hits by Swedish pop stars ABBA. The successful musical is returning to the Stage Theater des Westens from 26 October until 14 February 2015. From the end of March 2015, the same stage will welcome the return engagement of "Ich war noch niemals in New York" ("I've never been to New York"), which weaves many well-known songs by singer Udo Jürgens into another musical about a family. The music of Udo Lindenberg continues to be the star in the musical "Hinterm Horizont" ("Beyond the Horizon") at Stage Theater am Potsdamer Platz.

The Estrel Festival Center on Sonnenallee is also going musical through 28 December, as doppelgangers of well-known singers take the stage. Meanwhile, the performers take to the stage at the Kulturbrauerei without any instrument at all. The "Razzz Beatbox Musical" features songs and sounds that come exclusively from the performers' mouths, live and without playback.

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The famous "La Cage Aux Folles" is opening 6 December and running until 28 February 2015 at Bar Jeder Vernunft in Charlottenburg. A real Berlin classic is the musical revue "Linie 1", which débuted in 1986 at Grips Theater; the show has been revived time and time again at the Theater am Hansaplatz.

Another classic is "Cabaret - the Musical", which takes a look into the Berlin of the 1920s. Fans are going to have wait a while for its revival at the Tipi am Kanzleramt: it will be back in the summer of 2015.

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"We know Berlin." Berlin Tourismus & Kongress GmbH, under the brand *visitBerlin*, has been using that knowledge since 1993 to promote Berlin all over the world as a great travel destination. *visitBerlin*'s Berlin Convention Office markets the many convention and meeting options offered by the German capital. After London and Paris, Berlin is the third-most popular European city for tourism, with 26.9 million overnight stays in the German capital during 2013. Berlin is also one of the most popular destinations for conventions and meetings and has been among the top five for ten years now. As a tour operator, *visitBerlin* offers a wide range of travel packages and also issues the official tourist ticket, the Berlin WelcomeCard. *visitBerlin* operates six Berlin Tourist Infos. The Berlin Service Center (Tel. +49(0)30-25 00 25) provides information on the complete spectrum of tourist services in Berlin. At <u>visitBerlin.com</u>, you can access information about Germany's capital in 13 languages.

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