

Media Service August 2008

Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Colleagues,

“Dresden – Mirror of the World” was the name of an exhibition by the Dresden State Art Collections in Japan in 2006. This summer a mirror of the world can be experienced in Dresden itself, with exhibitions transporting visitors to China and concerts bringing Spain and Italy to life. What they have in common is the special atmosphere of Dresden. Help your readers/ media users to participate in these wonderful events.

With kind regards from Dresden,

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First things first

1) The best Summer Night events with “Dresden Days”

“Diva Maxima” on 2 August in front of the Semperoper / Pillnitzer Schlossnacht on 9 August

The three great stars of the music scene are to perform together for the first time: opera diva Montserrat Caballé, musical star Angelika Milster and Italian singer Milva will be performing a selection of their best-known hits on Saturday 2 August 2008 on an open-air stage in front of Dresden's famous opera house, the Semperoper. A week later, on 9 August, the park at Schloss Pillnitz will be transformed into a midsummer night's dream. At the Pillnitzer Schlossnacht musicians, actors, artistes and an army of chefs will resurrect the lavish Baroque court festivities of the era of August the Strong but with modern amenities.

As part of its “Dresden Days” package, Dresden-Werbung und Tourismus GmbH has devised two inexpensive offers in which these two events will be the highlight of an attractive and unforgettable summer weekend in Dresden. Prices start at 152.50 euros for three overnight stays including breakfast, admission ticket to the Pillnitzer Schlossnacht and the Dresden City Card. This provides 48 hours of free public transport within Dresden including Pillnitz, free admission to the most important art museums in the city, as well as numerous other price reductions. A range of information materials are also included. A weekend with two overnight stays, admission to the “Diva Maxima” concert and information materials is available from 182.85 euros. You can choose from up to 50 Dresden hotels.

Further information and bookings:

Dresden-Werbung und Tourismus GmbH, PF 12 09 52, 01010 Dresden,
Tel.: 0351-49 19 21 20; dresdendays@dresden-tourist.de; www.dresden.de/dresden-days

Exhibitions

2) Golden Dragon – White Eagle

Exhibition about Art in the Service of Power at the Imperial Court of China and at the Saxon-Polish Court (1644-1795) by the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden in collaboration with the Palace Museum, Beijing in the Dresden Royal Palace from October 11, 2008 to January 11, 2009

This is the first time that treasures from the Chinese Imperial Palace in Beijing will have been presented alongside works of art from the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden in a joint exhibition in Dresden's Royal Palace. The imperial court of China and the Saxon-Polish court (which is exemplary for many a European court) will be compared as to their strategies for enhancing the prestige of the ruler and his entourage. The exhibition will focus on similarities and differences in their respective utilisation of the arts, ritual and ceremony, and their collecting policies.

The presentation will cover the period of the late 17th and the 18th century, an age in which these two distant courts each developed a deep fascination for the other's culture. Under August the Strong, in particular, there was a vogue for all things Chinese – his desire to possess the treasures and knowledge of the Far East was unmatched by any other European ruler. Simultaneously, at the Chinese imperial court, Western knowledge was introduced by the Jesuits, and the Manchurian ruler, for example, was fascinated by the musical boxes and automata they brought from Europe.

The exhibition will encompass around 300 top-quality objects from among the holdings of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden and from the former Imperial Palace in Beijing. They will be displayed in the following thematic sections: Representational displays of power, Festivities, Representational publicity, Grand architecture, Courtly arts and sciences, Politics and diplomacy and Views of others. Within these themes key terms will be explained by way of example, with comparisons constantly being drawn between "China" and "Dresden".

The objects on show will range from the throne ensemble via hunting portraits to women's shoes. An introductory section featuring selected objects and educational materials will describe the geographical and historical situation of the two countries during the period in question. Since their mutual influence was particularly felt in the arts in the 18th century, there will be a section devoted to the principles of Chinese art, European art and the new 'hybrid' forms arising from the encounter between the two cultures, illustrated by landscape paintings, porcelain and clocks.

Governmental control required not only real power but also, and above all, demonstrations of power and prestige. The central insignia of power (throne, regalia, seals) and their ritual or ceremonial use will be presented, as will also symbols (the dragon, the colour yellow) and allegories (Augustus, Hercules Saxonicus). An important role was played by state portraits, which in China, although influenced in their form by European painting, served a completely different purpose. They were exclusive objects used in ancestor worship, unlike in Europe where they were copied and distributed (in the form of paintings, prints, miniatures and medals). Since the Chinese Emperor was at once supreme ruler and 'Son of Heaven', the theme of religion, and especially its instrumentalisation (Buddhism as a unifying force; the conversion of August the Strong to Catholicism), will also be dealt with in this section.

Important court festivities and their ceremonial procedures and forms document cultural differences – such as the screening off of the Chinese Emperor during processions in contrast

to the public entrances of European rulers. In addition to dress and jewellery, theatre, dance, opera and music were important elements of festive culture, which will be presented in the form of exhibits and audible examples. As well as traditional Chinese opera costumes from the Palace collection, the exhibition will also contain the score and script of the opera L'eroe cinese (The Chinese Hero) composed by the Saxon court composer Hasse after a libretto by Pietro Metastasio, which was performed at Schloss Hubertusburg in 1753.

Both the royal household and the immediate family of the ruler belonged to court society, whose members functioned both as participants and spectators in all the courtly festivities and who were also the people that such festivities were intended to impress. The theme of the princely family will be explored, with emphasis being placed on women at court – the Empress Dowager or Princess, concubines and mistresses – and their position and influence at court. In particular, jewellery, clothes and other gifts and tokens from their benefactors bear eloquent testimony to the position of each woman within the court. A special section designed specifically for children will be devoted to the subject of childhood at court. Saxon princesses and Chinese heirs to the throne, kitchen boys, wet-nurses and maids will all feature here, with a wealth of interesting information being provided about everyday life at that time, and there will also be numerous activities to join in with. Replica cloaks to try on, a calligraphy workshop, historical games and a museum quiz will allow visitors to transport themselves to a different time and a distant world.

During the period in question, architecture provided the backdrop for all forms of artistic expression. The spectrum of an architect's tasks ranged from town planning via the design of royal residences to the construction of pleasure palaces, hunting lodges and parks. The prestigious building activities and the importance of hunting will be illustrated in the exhibition by numerous designs, plans and models, as well as sculptures and interiors. The hunting trophy from Schloss Moritzburg in the form of a head with antlers produced by the artist Johann Christian Kirchner will be on display, as well as a chair made of antlers from the Chinese Imperial Palace.

The Chinese Emperors practised the arts, trained as scholars (calligraphy, poetry) and were collectors; likewise, the Saxon Electors acted as collectors and patrons of the arts. Examples will be presented of the items which the princely collections particularly focussed on, such as jade, bronzes, porcelain, paintings and treasury art, as well as the form of presentation of the collections. In addition, the status and role of court artists and scientists will be examined, since especially in fields like astronomy and porcelain and silk production a degree of cultural exchange can be discerned.

The final section deals with the theme of diplomacy and the ceremonial associated with it: diplomatic gifts, the role of the Jesuits in China, and special rules of ceremony (such as the kowtow). In the work "Ten Thousand Ambassadors at the Court of Beijing" ambassadors from many nations are depicted presenting gifts as tribute to the Emperor. The exhibition will also include a court rapier and a 547.71 karat sapphire, which Tsar Peter the Great gave as a gift to August the Strong in 1698.

This clearly illustrates the differing international political circumstances facing the two rulers: the central, all-dominating Chinese Empire, on the one hand, and the need for rival European powers to ensure balance through diplomacy, on the other. A special section will be devoted to the two cultures' views of each other, ranging from presentations claiming to be realistic to utopian ideas and caricatures of the other side. Instead of a traditional catalogue, an accompanying handbook has been prepared especially for this exhibition, in which the most important terms concerning Chinese and European art are presented. The entries are in alphabetical order and written concisely and informatively by proven experts, with the key-words ranging from Ahnenkult (Ancestor Cult) to Zeremoniell (Ceremonial).

Information: www.skd-dresden.de

4) Madrid's Prado comes to Dresden with luxuriant flowers

Exhibition "Still-lives in Dresden's Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister" marking the acquisition of the "Still-life with Flowers" by Juan de Arellano from 30 August to 30 November 2008

The Prado in Madrid is one of the world's most important museums – on a par with Dresden's Old Masters Gallery, the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister (Old Masters Picture Gallery). Whilst the Prado is famous above all for its Spanish paintings, the Dresden collection is especially well-known for its Italian and Flemish works. The Dresden collection of Spanish paintings is mistakenly underrated, for it surpasses all comparable collections in German museums.

A spectacular purchase and an exhibition featuring mainly Spanish still-lives organised in association with the Prado are intended to pay tribute to this section of the Dresden museum in a way that is commensurate with its rank. The exquisite still-life with flowers by Juan de Arellano, which was purchased in 2005 and has now been restored, will be the centrepiece of a cabinet exhibition on the subject of Spanish still-life painting, in which around 25 paintings dating from the 17th and 18th centuries will be on display – all of them important works on loan from the Museo del Prado in Madrid and from private collections in Europe, including some that have never been shown in Germany before.

From 1738 onwards Saxony had special relations with Spain. In that year, Charles III, King of Spain, married the Saxon Princess, Maria Amalie. This marriage established close family ties between the Spanish royal family and Dresden.

The Dresden Senior Court Painter, Anton Raphael Mengs, one of whose masterpieces adorns the altar in Dresden's Cathedral, was appointed "Pintor de Cámara" in 1761 and in 1769 he was even raised to the status of "Primer Pintor del Rey" in Madrid. Today, one of the halls in the Prado is devoted to him.

Today, the Gemäldegalerie Alte Meister holds a small but choice selection of Spanish paintings. Works by artists such as El Greco, Jusepe de Ribera, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo and Diego Velázquez make up the "Spanish Ensemble".

Further info: www.skd-dresden.de

5) Yin and Yang – Modern Chinese Garden Art at Schloss Pillnitz

Exhibition "Chinese Gardens for Living: Illusion into Reality" from 8 June until 31 October 2008 / Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden collaborate with the National Art Museum of China in Beijing

A Chinese dream in Saxony – that is how Augustus the Strong envisaged his summer palace in Pillnitz. And the Baroque palace complex set in tranquil gardens and magnificent parkland was built in a style according to contemporary ideas of what China was thought to be like. Just under 300 years later, today's China is presenting itself in an exhibition that is unique in Germany.

Under the title "Chinese Gardens for Living: Illusion into Reality" well-known Chinese designers, architects, painters and photographers are displaying their works, which explore the philosophy behind the Chinese garden. In the Far East, a "garden" is not only considered to be a place for living but is also a philosophical concept.

A “garden” is subject to the law of Yin and Yang, the principle of duality whereby opposite phenomena are in a state of mutual attraction and dynamic equilibrium, the ultimate goal being harmony between the two poles. From 28 June until 31 October 2008, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photographs and architectural installations will be transforming the Kunstgewerbemuseum in the Bergpalais and selected areas of the park into a place replete with ideas and visions.

Inside the Bergpalais the exhibition will be divided into three sections: photography and painting, architecture and installations, and sculpture and fashion. Illusionistic display walls will create an artistic “garden path”. The essential elements of a Chinese garden – stones, water, soil, plants, light, paths and buildings – are to be found in the works of art. Traditional garden scenes and views of nature are transferred to the spines of books, ceramics and clothes, among other materials. Both Western and Far Eastern artistic trends are drawn upon. For example, the works of art reveal the influence of American Minimal Art and Conceptual Art, as well as making references to traditional Chinese ink painting and porcelain art.

The exhibition is open daily from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m. and is a further important contribution to the “China in Dresden in China” year of the Staatliche Kunstsammlungen Dresden.

Further info: www.skd-dresden.de

6) Historisches Grünes Gewölbe: tickets available for 2009

Tickets available this year from mid-October 100 visitors per hour

The Historisches Grünes Gewölbe (Historical Green Vault) has developed into one of Dresden’s most popular tourist attractions. Last year, over 320,000 visitors came to see Augustus the Strong’s lavishly decorated treasury with its more than 3,000 works of art. Around 460,000 visitors also feasted their eyes on the nearly 1,000 additional masterpieces of treasury art in the Neues Grünes Gewölbe (New Green Vault).

Whereas the Neues Grünes Gewölbe is freely accessible during the opening hours, tickets specifying a particular time are issued for admission to the Historisches Grünes Gewölbe. This is because only 100 visitors per hour can be allowed to pass through the dust-prevention and security doors. But those visitors then have the feeling of almost being able to touch the precious objects, most of which are free-standing, rather than in showcases. Eighty percent of the tickets are available in advance. Starting now, tickets are also on sale for the first half of 2009. The remaining tickets are sold for same-day visits at around 10 a.m. at the museum ticket office.

Out of the approximately 200,000 tickets for 2008, less than ten percent are still on offer. The first available dates are from mid-October. Just under half the tickets for November are still to be had, whereas the tickets for September are already just about sold out. Yvonne Coulin, Managing Director of Dresden-Werbung und Tourismus GmbH, who is responsible for advance ticket sales, says: “Even when dates are booked up, it is worth looking on the internet two months in advance. That is when the options expire for unsold reservations made by tour operators.”

Admission tickets cost 11.50 euros including advance ticket sale fee.

Info and bookings: www.dresden.de/schatzkammer or 0351 - 49 19 22 85.

7) “People in Guest Houses”: special exhibition in the Stadtmuseum

Until 5 October: a visit to places of hospitality in Dresden in seven episodes / Accompanying programme with talks and culinary journeys through time / Book by Manfred Wille

Pubs and taverns, restaurants and cafés have always been focal points of urban life. Politics is conducted in the back room, people let off steam at the table reserved for the regulars, those at the bar philosophise about life, the universe and everything, while business deals are settled in the private room. Those of like mind meet up for coffee, whilst lovers get to know each other through dancing together. Whether at the inn, in the pub or at a café, people meet and exchange ideas, either anonymously or with friends. Guesthouses provide a space that is somewhere between the public and the private sphere.

This is the subject of an exhibition on display in Dresden’s Stadtmuseum (City Museum) until 5 October. In seven episodes it takes the viewer to various places of hospitality in Dresden, tells the stories of guests and hosts, eavesdrops on their conversations and examines the changing function of the guesthouse in urban life over the course of the past four centuries.

The focus is not only on the city’s famous sons and daughters and its prominent guests but also on the normal citizens of Dresden enthusing about their local pub. The exhibition accompanies Dostoyevsky to the elegant Café Reale on the Brühl Terrace and Gerhart Hauptmann to his wedding in the Belvédère. It participates in a meeting of the workers’ sports movement at Gasthof Reick and reconstructs a fight between apprentice barbers and night watchmen at Gasthof Schmidt in the lane Weisse Gasse.

The exhibition deals with ballroom rendezvous, order in the back room, the prejudiced views of the guardians of public morals and the eternal desire for pleasure and entertainment.

In an area totalling 380 square metres, 240 objects are on display including crockery and bones from the latrine of the cellar restaurant, the Ratskeller, under Dresden’s town hall, which date from the 16th and 17th centuries and were only recently excavated by the Saxon State Office for Archaeology during construction work on the Altmarkt.

The exhibition is accompanied by a wide-ranging programme of events, extending from academic lectures via a culinary journey through time to dance and theatrical performances.

In parallel with the exhibition a book has been published about the development of places of hospitality in Dresden since 1380. The author, Manfred Wille, a Dresden restaurateur with 55 years of professional experience, has not produced a dry history book but instead brings history to life. The work is illustrated with more than 300 pictures of historic guesthouses, kitchens, menu sequences and bills of fare. The book also relates the history of many establishments, their owners and guests, including many a story to evoke a chuckle. Light is cast on Saxon cuisine and its masters. Attention is also paid to the difficult period following the Second World War and to the development of gastronomy in the GDR.

“Dresdner Gastlichkeit – von den Anfängen bis zur Gegenwart”, Kleine Kulturgeschichte des Gastgewerbes in Dresden, Manfred Wille, A. & R. ADAM Verlag Dresden, 256 pages, 4-colour offset printing, hardcover

Info: www.museen-dresden.de

Stage

9) “Der Freischütz” on Europe’s most beautiful outdoor stage

Until 21 September opera, drama and fairy tales at Felsenbühne Rathen / new production of Weber’s “Freischütz”

At Europe’s most beautiful open-air theatre, in the heart of the Saxon Switzerland National Park, nature is part of the stage scenery. The sheer rock faces of the Rathener Wehlgrund create a natural backdrop. Until 21 September the Landesbühnen Sachsen from Radebeul will be presenting adventures, romantic stories and beautiful voices there.

The productions on show in the middle of this fascinating corrie are always concerned with love, passion, cunning and deception: as in Shakespeare’s “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and the operetta “Der Bettelstudent” by Carl Millöcker.

A new production by opera director Horst O. Kupich of the great romantic opera “Der Freischütz” by Carl Maria von Weber, which shifts between Heaven and Hell, between bridal garland and funeral wreath, will be performed from 13 June.

This is the seventh new staging of this work by the Landesbühnen Sachsen since 1956. This opera was written in the wild and romantic area of woods and rocky outcrops just outside Dresden, and you can really walk through the “Wolf’s Gorge” in Saxon Switzerland National Park. Carl Maria von Weber composed this work - which was celebrated by patriotic forces as a “German national opera” as soon as it was premiered in the liberal city of Berlin in 1821 - at his summer home in Hosterwitz, whilst he was Musical Director of the Dresden German Opera. In the vineyard cottage not far from the famous palace at Pillnitz there is now an interesting museum which is well worth a visit. You can see the garden pavilion in which Weber worked on “Der Freischütz” when the weather was hot, as well as the recently modernised exhibition about the life and works of this composer, who remained in Dresden until his death in 1816.

Sensual pleasures are also reflected in the powerful orchestration and expressive choral music of Carl Orff’s “Carmina Burana”.

There will be many opportunities this summer to let yourself be entranced by the unique symbiosis of nature and art at the Felsenbühne Rathen – just 40 kilometres from Dresden. It takes 40 minutes to reach the spa resort of Rathen by local train (S-Bahn) from Dresden’s main station. After crossing the River Elbe by ferry, there is a pleasant 20-minute uphill walk through the woods to get to the Felsenbühne open-air theatre.

Another way of getting there is to take an atmospheric trip on one of the vessels of the world’s largest and oldest river steamboat fleet. Departures are from the Terrassenufer in Dresden: at 10.30 a.m. for an afternoon performance. The time of arrival in Rathen is 2.15 p.m. For an evening performance you can leave Dresden at 1.30 p.m., arriving in Rathen at 5.15 p.m. There is an ample supply of food and drinks available on board.

Info: www.dresden-theater.de; www.museen-dresden.de; www.saechsische-dampfschiffahrt.de

Music

11) Jan Vogler directs the Moritzburg Festival

16th Moritzburg Festival from 9 to 24 August 2008, including concerts in Dresden

From 9 to 24 August 2008 the internationally renowned Moritzburg Festival will be taking place under the artistic directorship of the cellist and new director of the Dresden Music Festival, Jan Vogler, and will once again be attracting chamber musicians from all over the world. Among the artists performing at this, the 16th Moritzburg Festival, will be numerous internationally acclaimed soloists such as Albrecht Mayer, Mira Wang, Ilya Gringolts, Lidia Baich, Colin Jacobsen, Lars Anders Tomter, Jan Vogler, Patrick Demenga, Henri Demarquette, the piano duo Tal & Groethuysen, Igor Ardasev, Alison Balsom and Victor Hugo Villena.

The concerts, of which there will be 13 in all, will be taking place in such atmospheric venues as the Baroque palace and the Protestant church at Moritzburg, Proschwitz Manor, the Volkswagen 'Transparent Factory' and the Frauenkirche in Dresden, all of which are characterised by special dynamics and a particular joy of playing.

This year the Festival will create a musical bridge between two rapidly advancing regions of the world, with the programme focusing on Russian Romantic works and Argentinean tangos. The Argentine tango composer Gustavo Beytelmann has been appointed Composer-in-Residence. He will be both performing in concerts and participating in interviews about his compositional work.

In addition, the new CD of the Moritzburg Festival featuring tangos by Piazzolla and Schulhoff will be published by Sony Classical right on time for the Festival in August 2008. The CD will be presented exclusively in a concert entitled "Alles Tango!" on 16 August 2008 in the Volkswagen Transparent Factory in Dresden.

With the "Schlossteich-Ouvertüre" on 16 and 17 August 2008 the region's wonderful scenery and the unique backdrop of the palace will be integrated into a performance for the first time. For this occasion the Swiss composer William Blank is composing a work for violin, cello, oboe, trumpet and harp, which will be performed on the palace pond at Moritzburg, weather permitting. At the two popular galas at Schloss Moritzburg and Proschwitz, the celebrity chefs Cornelia Poletto and Stefan Hermann promise to produce unforgettable culinary delights after the chamber music concerts.

The Moritzburg Festival Academy, now in its third year under the directorship of the outstanding American conductor James Gaffigan, will welcome 40 highly gifted music students from around the world, who will form the Festival Orchestra and present several concerts.

Information and tickets: 0351 / 49 19 22 33, ticket@dresden-tourist.de or www.moritzburgfestival.de

12) Dresden Philharmonie marks 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn- Bartholdy

2008/2009 season features great names and young talents / Anne-Sophie Mutter and Wayne Marshall / Large symphonic repertoire

In 2009 the music world will be celebrating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy. Therefore the Dresden Philharmonie will be devoting particular attention to his works during the 2008/2009 season. Among the artists will be Anne-Sophie Mutter performing Mendelssohn's violin concerto. For this event, the famous conductor Kurt Masur will be returning to the conductor's platform at the Kulturpalast (Civic Centre) in Dresden to lead the orchestra. In collaboration with the Staatsschauspiel Dresden, Mendelssohn's music will also be performed in a new production of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream".

The orchestra's large symphonic repertoire is traditionally very broad in its spectrum. For example, the programme of events in the coming season will feature works by Beethoven, Brahms, Haydn, Liszt, Mozart, Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Richard Strauss and Tchaikovsky. Attention will also be paid to works by French composers such as Berlioz, Debussy, Ducas, Poulenc, Messiaen and Ravel, and the music of America and Britain will be represented by Bernstein, Britten and Gershwin.

The Philharmonie will also be presenting two concerts which had to be cancelled in the 2008/09 season because of the need for urgent fire-protection measures in the Kulturpalast. These are Manuel de Falla's puppet opera "Meister Pedro's Puppet Theatre" and Alexander Skryabin's "Prométhée - Le Poème du feu" with a light installation by Andreas Fuchs.

It is a time-honoured tradition at the Dresden Philharmonie to present not only top international artists but also talented young musicians who are on their way to world fame. Among these up-and-coming stars are the pianists Jean-Ives Thibaudet, Alexei Volodin and Wayne Marshall, the cellist Daniel Müller-Schott and the cellist Marie Elisabeth Hecker, the percussionist Martin Grubinger and the percussion ensemble Kroumata.

The conductors who are lined up to lead the Dresden Philharmonie for the first time include Sir Neville Marriner, Cornelius Meister, Stanislaw Skrowaczewski and Richard Hickox. In addition to Kurt Masur, conductors taking up the baton in Dresden having done so before include Dennis Russel Davies, John Axelrod, Stefan Solyom and Hans Zender.

The Dresden Philharmonie can trace its origins to the opening of the first concert hall for the citizens of the city on 29 November 1870. The organisation of major orchestral concerts in this hall, known as the "Gewerbehaussaal" brought a new quality to the development of public concert performances in the city. From 1885 onwards, the "Gewerbehausorchester" gave regular philharmonic concerts in Dresden, resulting in the orchestra changing its name in 1915 to "Dresdner Philharmonisches Orchester".

During that time, top-ranking composers, including Brahms, Tchaikovsky, Dvořák and Strauss, have performed their own works with the orchestra. Since 2005 Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos has been chief conductor of the orchestra, which has won great respect all over the world through its concert tours and CD recordings. The orchestra generally plays almost every weekend in the Dresden Kulturpalast, which was built in 1969.

Tickets are available by calling 0351 - 49 19 22 33 or at Ticket@dresden-tourist.de

Further info and overview of concerts: www.dresdnerphilharmonie.de

Festivals

13) Films and concerts against the backdrop of Dresden's panoramic skyline

From 3 July until 31 August the "Film Nights on the Banks of the Elbe" take place for the 18th time / Top films on world's largest screen / Concerts featuring international stars

For the 18th time, the "Film Nights on the Banks of the Elbe" are offering cinematic and musical entertainment on the banks of the River Elbe directly across from the Frauenkirche and the Semperoper. Among the films to be shown on the world's largest mobile screen (32 x 14 metres) will be the multiple Oscar-winning "No Country for old men", and on the stage such prominent international stars as R.E.M. will be performing.

Germany's largest and most beautifully located open-air stage will be open daily until 31 August. On 9 August Roland Kaiser will again be performing for his community of fans, and on 27 July even the Dresden Philharmonie will be playing in an open-air concert. On 24 August "Die Fantastischen Vier" will finally provide a fitting end to the concert season.

In terms of class, the film programme is no less prestigious than that of the musical events. It will include films that have won or been nominated for Oscars, as well as gems from the world of arts cinema. Against the picturesque backdrop of Dresden's distinctive skyline, film lovers will be able to enjoy movies such as "No Country for Old Men", "Darjeeling Limited" and the successful German comedy "Keinohrhasen".

To enable the audience to feel even safer at the Film Nights on the Banks of the Elbe, the organisers have also redesigned the steps that serve as the auditorium.

Info: www.filmnaechte-am-elbufer.de

Note for editors: The website provides not only the complete programme but also printable photos for downloading.

Hospitality

15) Further quarter opened on Dresden's Neumarkt

Architects have created an audacious combination of the historic and the contemporary in the "Jewel next to the Frauenkirche" / Exclusivity and unique features for tenants / Museum restaurant Dresden 1900

Dresden's Neumarkt has been adorned with a "Jewel". Opposite the Frauenkirche a quarter has been opened in which the former ten buildings, most of which were originally very narrow, have been converted into five. The architects from the Dresden planning and engineering firm IPRO have based their design on the original appearance of the buildings but have combined the historic with the contemporary. Each house has both a historic and a modern section to its façade. The client, the Dresden company Baywobau (which has already built the Hotel de Saxe on the opposite side of the square) have called this project, in which it has invested 36.8 million euros, the "Jewel next to the Frauenkirche".

An example of the interplay between historic façades and modern-looking building exteriors is the former "Zittelsches Haus". In this corner building on the square which has a total area of 2,200 square metres there is a two-storey jeweller's shop. Dresden porcelain, chocolate, exclusive men's fashions, watches and tourist souvenirs are some of the products that are on offer in the other 11 specialist retail outlets.

Tenants, including the former Prime Minister of Saxony Kurt Biedenkopf, are moving into the 47 apartments and 18 flats. There are also three restaurants. One of them is an ice-cream café opened by the regional baker and confectioner Emil Reimann, and another is the restaurant "Classico Italiano" which offers Mediterranean cuisine. A special "pearl in the jewel", however, is the museum restaurant "Dresden 1900".

In the middle of the Baroque surroundings, the former teacher of mathematics and physics Ricco Geithner has brought to life the technical history of the period between the 1870s and the turn of the 20th century. Postplatz around the year 1900 is the model for nine different areas of the restaurant, which convey special experiences both in terms of their atmosphere and the cuisine, and also through cabaret performances and chat shows. The most important partner is Karl-Heinz Bellmann, who made international headlines in GDR times with his restaurant "Linie 6". At that time, Udo Jürgens, Otto and Nina Hagen were among the guests who admired Europe's largest collection of conductors' caps, tram utensils and the oldest existing tram carriage dating from 1898. All these things have now been polished up to welcome guests in the restaurant "Dresden 1900".

You can come as early as 8 a.m. for breakfast. The day kitchen run under the leadership of Vinzent Clauss, who worked as a chef for eight years in the Dresden five-star hotel Schloss Eckbert, offers a mixture of traditional fare and international specialities. In the evening it is best to have some time to spare because every Thursday there is musical cabaret on offer. On Wednesdays there are "Sonderfahrten" (Special Journeys) with Karl-Heinz Bellmann as the chatty conductor. On these occasions there are also "Celebrities at the Steering Wheel"..

Info: www.dresden1900.de; www.neumarkt-dresden

16) More than 50 summer oases available in Dresden

The oldest, highest and largest beer gardens in the city / Combining a visit to a beer garden with a pleasant walk.

In the summer months the people of Dresden and their guests can select from more than 50 summer oases and enjoy food and drinks in secluded spots outdoors. The tradition of beer gardens in Dresden began as early as the mid-18th century. The Saloppe, located below Schloss Albrechtsberg, is regarded as the city's oldest beer garden.

Today, there are beer gardens to suit every taste – whether directly on the banks of the Elbe, in the historic Altstadt, in the 'alternative' district of Dresden-Neustadt or among natural surroundings.

In the city centre the historic inner courtyard of the Kempinski Hotel Taschenbergpalais offers top-class gastronomy for up-market customers. The beer garden of the restaurant Italienisches Dörfchen has fantastic views over Theaterplatz with the Semperoper, Hofkirche, Zwinger, Residenzschloss and Brühl Terrace. If you go to the Radeberger Spezialausschank, you can sit directly on the Brühl Terrace with a view overlooking the River Elbe. A little further on you can select from seven restaurants offering outdoor seating in Münzgasse, and the newest beer garden at the Freiburger Schankhaus on Neumarkt, which offers a wonderful view of the Frauenkirche.

From the dome restaurant at a height of more than 30 metres in the Yenidze, Dresden's extraordinary building in the style of a mosque, you can look out over the whole of the city centre. In the Johannstadt Fährgarten (Ferry Garden) you can even moor your boat, and on the terrace at the Fischhaus Alberthafen you can enjoy a maritime atmosphere.

In Dresden Neustadt you are again spoilt for choice. The largest beer garden is at the Brauhaus (brewery) of the Waldschlösschen, but Wenzel's Prager Bierstuben in the Baroque Königstraße and the historic Fischhaus on the edge of the Dresdner Heide are also popular places to go.

The Schillergarten at the Blue Wonder Bridge or the Körnergarten on the opposite side of the Elbe are impressive owing to the special ambience of their location. A little further upstream are the Elbterrasse Wachwitz, the Ferryhouse built in 1860 and Schloss Hotel Pillnitz.

The Leutewitz Windmill, the Kümmelschänke, the Lindenschänke inn and the Zschoner Mill in the western part of the city are particularly popular with guests who like to combine their visit to a beer garden with a relaxing walk or hike.

You can find an overview of Dresden's most favoured beer gardens on the website of "Prinz Dresden" www.dresden.prinz.de

Also, from mid-June, the 2008 edition of the Maxity brochure "Sommeroasen Dresden" (Summer Oases in Dresden) will be available for downloading at www.maxity.de.

17) Cabaret in Dresden's new mirror tent

Premiere of the musical as "Dinner theatre" on 10 October 2008 at the Panometer / Bookings now available

From 10 October the hit musical "Cabaret" will be bringing 1930s Berlin back to life right next to the Dresden of 1756. That is because this autumn a nostalgic round mirror tent is going to be opened as a Dinner Theatre location directly adjacent to the Panometer in the Dresden district of Reick where, standing within a huge panorama, you can get the feeling of what it was like to live in Dresden in the Baroque era.

In the 70 scheduled performances, most of which will take place at weekends, more than 300 visitors will have the opportunity to combine a stylish dinner with the enjoyment of music, tension, emotion and spectacle. The organiser is the Dresden Wechselbad theatre.

The musical, with its score by John Kander and lyrics by Fred Ebb, is about an American writer who falls in love at the Kit-Kat-Club in Berlin. But everything changes with the rise of the Nazis. Kander's music, which is inspired by ragtime and early jazz, as well as the revue-style numbers in the Kit-Kat-Club added by Masteroff, which are woven in around the plot, are reminiscent of the musicals of the 1920s.

Tickets are available for 67, 72 and 83 euros plus advance ticket sale fee by calling Tel.: 0351-49192233, or from ticket@dresden-tourist.de , Further info: www.theater-wechselbad.de

Press contact: Sigrun Harder, wechselbad der Gefühle Orphée event GmbH, Maternistr. 17, 01067 Dresden, presse@orphee-event.de

18) New 3-star hotel next to Dresden's Yenidze

The "L Hotel Dresden Altstadt" is a location to suit a wide range of interests

Dresden now has 162 more hotel rooms. Next to the Oriental-style dome of the former Dresden tobacco warehouse, the "Yenidze", the new "L Hotel Dresden Altstadt" has recently opened. On this site where the Dresden cooling house was previously located there is already a multi-storey car park in operation. The hotel chain Fatal Hotels International, which is based in Israel and which already runs the Leonhardo Hotel in Freital, was able to welcome its first guests two months earlier than originally planned.

The new 3-star-plus standard hotel is essentially functional with 18.5 m² rooms equipped with two-metre long comfortable beds, a desk and large flat-screen TV. The restaurant, which seats 86, and the bar and lounge with a seating capacity of 39 are combined with the hotel lobby. The warm colours of the furnishings and floor coverings exude an atmosphere of calm. On the walls are collages of Dresden by the artist Leela Ickrath.

For hotel director Simone Leonhardt it is above all the location that is important for the marketing of this establishment. It is only a few paces to the S-Bahn station Dresden-Mitte, the historic Altstadt is but a short walk away, and it is the closest hotel to the Dresden trade fair and exhibition centre, Messe Dresden. Single rooms are available from 59 euros per night, which is certain to influence guests' decision of where to stay when they compare this with the prices of other hotels.

Info: www.leonardo-hotels.com

19) Summer beaches in the centre of Dresden

Purobeach at the Neustadt port, City Beach in Leipziger Strasse and Beach Oasis near the Albert Bridge

Summer in the centre of Dresden offers the flair of the Baltic Sea and even of the Caribbean. Three large urban beaches have been established on the banks of the River Elbe. You can choose from the luxurious Purobeach, the sporty City Beach or the oriental-style City Oasis.

Sun beds, beach canopies and a 65 square metre pool, white sand, swaying palms and comfortable beach loungers create the special atmosphere of the Purobeach in the Neustadt Port. Even wellness treatments are available to help you relax. This is the especially lavish beach and is already in its third season. Beach life begins daily at 11 a.m. The "Tahini" Restaurant provides meals and refreshments. During the day and in the evening you can relax with chill-out music and at the weekend the city's beauties come to enjoy various disco and club events.

www.purobeach.de

If you prefer sports activities, you can go 100 metres further downstream to the City Beach. There you will find eight volleyball courts as well as table-tennis tables and table football to keep you active. You can also sunbathe on a 400 m² terrace. Raffia sunshades, large loungers and a Caribbean-style bar create a Central American flair. This beach opens as early as 10 a.m.

www.citybeachdresden.de

Further upstream, close to the Albert Bridge, the Stadtoase (City Oasis) is now in its second season. It brings a bit of eastern promise to the Saxon capital. The guests can relax on carpets and cushions while enjoying spicy oriental specialities from the kitchen. If you like, you can smoke a water pipe to help your digestion. On cool evenings the beach's own open fire provides warmth. The Stadtoase is open from 12 noon. Each Saturday one of the largest and most varied regular flea markets takes place right next door. On those days visitors can relax from their spending spree from as early as 10 a.m.

www.stadtoase-dresden.de

Miscellaneous

20) City rankings 2007 and 2008: Dresden in 6th and 5th places

German Tourism Association surveys 203 German cities / DWT demands better transport connections for Dresden and plans image-enhancing campaign / Dresden also ranked fifth with regard to future prospects

With 3.3 million officially registered overnight stays in hotels and guesthouses with nine or more beds in 2007, Dresden is in 6th place in the rankings for cities in Germany. This is evident from the recently published City Rankings for 2007 produced by dwif-Consulting GmbH on behalf of the German tourism association Deutscher Tourismusverband e.V. (DTV). The survey investigated 203 German cities with more than 25,000 inhabitants and more than 100,000 overnight stays per year.

The five most populous German cities lead the rankings: Berlin – with 17.3 million overnight stays – is in first place, followed by Munich with 9.4 million and Hamburg with around 7.3 million overnight stays. Frankfurt am Main is in fourth place with 5.4 million overnight stays, ahead of Germany's fourth largest city Cologne (4.5 million overnight stays per year). Dresden ranks sixth ahead of Düsseldorf with 3.0 million overnight stays, Stuttgart (2.6 million), Nuremberg (2.2 million) and Leipzig (1.8 million).

Over a million overnight stays were also registered in the cities of Hanover, Rostock, Bremen, Cuxhaven, Bonn, Freiburg im Breisgau, Münster, Lübeck and Essen.

In the survey, Dresden is well ahead of some other *Land* capitals, such as Potsdam, Wiesbaden, Erfurt, and Schwerin, and is also ahead of Hanover, Düsseldorf and Stuttgart. The capital of Saxony has more overnight stays than any city in Lower Saxony or Baden-Württemberg.

"If we had the same infrastructure provision as Düsseldorf and Stuttgart, with international trade fairs and direct flight connections, we would definitely be even higher up in the rankings," says Yvonne Coulin, Managing Director of Dresden-Werbung und Tourismus GmbH (DWT). In particular, the proportion of business travellers coming to Dresden is clearly under-developed. In the cities which are above Dresden in the rankings it is business travellers who make up the lion's share of the guests staying overnight.

In order to achieve further growth in the number of guests coming to Dresden purely as tourists, DWT is planning an image-enhancing campaign for the city in association with partners from the arts and culture sectors. As always, art and culture are the predominant motives and activities of visitors to Dresden. DWT intends to use them even more intensively for advertising purposes, particularly abroad.

The precondition for this is the provision of good transport facilities. Düsseldorf Airport, for example, has almost ten times and Stuttgart Airport six times as many passengers as Dresden Airport.

Dresden regularly appears among the top places in other studies, too. In the city rankings published on 30th May by HWWI and Berenberg Bank concerning German cities, Dresden was one of those reckoned to have the best future prospects with regard to its economy and the quality of life. "Especially over the past few years Dresden has succeeded in improving its position as regards numerous locational factors; it currently stands out on account of its dynamic economy and was therefore able to make it into the top five cities in Germany," says Prof. Dr. Thomas Straubhaar, Director of HWWI.

For more information on these studies see:

Deutscher Tourismusverband e.V., Nicole Habrich; Tel. 0228 / 98522 -14;

habrich@deutschertourismusverband.de

Berenberg Bank, Karsten Wehmeier, Tel. 040 / 350 60-907; karsten.wehmeier@berenberg.de,

Or:

Dresden-Werbung und Tourismus GmbH, Pressestelle, Franziska Scholze, Tel. 0351-49192126,

Franziska_Scholze@dresden-tourist.de

21) First King of Saxony back in Dresden

Monument to Friedrich August I by sculptor Ernst Rietschel unveiled on 29 May

Dresden's Schlossplatz is now endowed with an additional monument. On 29 May 2008 the monument to the King of Saxony Friedrich August I (the Just), a work by the famous sculptor Ernst Rietschel, was officially unveiled on this square. Until November 2007 the monument to Friedrich August I stood next to the Japanisches Palais at Palaisplatz. This is the second time the statue of Friedrich August I has been moved. Until 1930 it stood in the centre of the Zwinger courtyard.

Now the thoroughly restored sculpture has been placed in an attractive location between the Hofkirche and the staircase leading up to the Brühl Terrace, directly in front of the Ständehaus. This was formerly the site of an equestrian statue of King Albert, which was lost after 1952.

Friedrich August I "the Just" was born on 23 December 1750 and died on 5 May 1827 in Dresden. Under the name Friedrich August III he was granted the title King of Saxony by Napoleon in 1806. This gave Saxony the quality of a state, which was retained when it became the Free State of Saxony. His desire for peace, his righteousness and the level-headedness of the monarch, as well as his commitment to defending his legal position, prevented Prussia from destroying the independence of the Saxon state, as it attempted to do after 1813. As Grand-Duke of Warsaw, Friedrich August the Just lent his personal support for the preservation of the Polish state. That explains why there were so many Polish émigrés in Saxony after 1830.

One reason for the restoration and re-erection of the monument is its artistic significance with regard to 19th century sculpture. The base was designed by Semper and Thürmer, and the statue of the monarch by Ernst Rietschel. Ernst Rietschel (1804 - 1861) was the founder of the Dresden Sculpture School in the 19th century. From 1832 he was a professor at the Dresden Kunstakademie and was largely responsible for reforming the way in which sculptors were trained.

Rietschel presents the King in a seated position and in a contemplative pose – at that time a completely new way of depicting rulers. Further famous sculptures by Rietschel are to be found next to the Semperoper, for example.

22) Walking through the 100-year old garden city of Dresden-Hellerau

In the footsteps of Franz Kafka, Mary Wigman and Gret Palucca

Many travellers pass it on their way from the airport to the city centre. However, few people know that in the middle of the woods, on the hill to the north of Dresden is a gem of architectural and cultural history: Germany's first garden city, which will be celebrating its 100th anniversary next year.

On a site covering around 140 ha, construction work on the Deutsche Werkstätten furniture factory and the accompanying housing estate began in 1909. Richard Riemerschmid drew up the design for the factory and the building plan for the garden city. Famous architects, including Heinrich Tessenow and Hermann Muthesius, worked alongside Riemerschmid on developing the urban architectural concept for the project. A characteristic feature of the design of Hellerau is the way in which it harmoniously combines working, living, leisure, culture and nature.

The romantic narrow streets lined with small terraced houses in traditional Saxon style, each with its own front garden, wind their way up the hill through the woods. In the middle of the

quarter is the square-shaped market place, which is the business centre. Hellerau's crowning glory is the restrained architecture of the Festspielhaus designed by Tessenow – the renowned social centre of the garden city.

Many notable artists and intellectuals, such as Rilke, Werfel, Shaw, Kafka, Kokoschka and Mary Wigmann visited and stayed in Hellerau.

Further info: www.dresden-hellerau.de or Tel. 0351-7924179

Service

23) Dresden's English City Guide for International Visitors

The publisher Knüpfers Verlag presents sights, beer gardens, party beaches and bathing lakes as well as attractive shopping facilities / Also available for download from the internet

The "Maxity pocket magazine City Guide Dresden" (2008 edition) has been published in English language with a circulation of 20,000 copies. This City Guide Dresden displays on 128 pages the top addresses and all relevant information on and about the city in the handy A6 format; thus, making a vital contribution to the strategic tourism marketing of Dresden and the neighboring regions. The following five categories facilitate the guidance of the reader: Eating & Drinking, Shopping, Accommodation, Culture & Education, Excursion Tips & Getting Around.

The target group of the City Guide Dresden are primarily the more than 514,800 international tourists and business travelers according to the overnight stays in Dresden in 2007 (Source: DWT Annual Tourism Report) as well as the about 20,000 fellow citizens and 4,000 students from abroad who live here.

In addition to the excellent presentation of select restaurants, hotels, stores, cultural facilities, and excursion tips, numerous personalities contribute to the unique profile of the Maxity City Guide Dresden with their prefaces and articles.

The new City Guide Dresden, which was first published already eight years ago and since then has been solely financed and produced by our company, also contains articles written by the editorial staff, for example, on Dresden's multifaceted stages and museums, the "World Culture Forum," and the "Dresden International School."

A general overview of the most significant events and festivals as well as important addresses and phone numbers for tourists along with an international train schedule round off the copious variety of information found in the Maxity City Guide Dresden.

The brochures are available both on the internet at www.maxity.com and from the publisher:

Knüpfers Verlag GmbH; Am Brauhaus 12, 01099 Dresden, Tel +49 (351) 800 700

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