



100 JAHRE

SALZBURGER FESTSPIELE
17. Juli – 31. August 2021

ZUM FEST 100 YOUTHFUL YEARS

100 years young – that was to be the guiding motto of the centenary celebrations of the Salzburg Festival in 2020, packed with festive occasions and events. The pandemic, however, proved an extreme challenge. The fact that we were able to present a modified programme in August 2020, 100 years after the founding of the Festival, a programme that resonated throughout the world and set a bold example of the power of the arts, thereby impressively reviving the founding idea – that is what we considered the greatest anniversary gift of all. Still, not just productions already long underway had to be postponed to 2021, but also the events conceived especially for the centenary. Those projects which could not be implemented in the anniversary year of 2020 will now see the light of day in 2021 – thereby extending the centenary season through the autumn of 2021.

Our festive centenary programme reflects upon Festival history, illustrating the worlds of yesterday, today and tomorrow. These are examined, for example, in the **“Speeches about the Century”**, delivered this summer by **Wolfgang Rihm, Vanessa Redgrave** and **Jan Philipp Reemtsma**. The speeches offer observations – from very different vantage points – on the past century with all its highs and lows, its abysses and beauty, its political and social revolutions and achievements. Outstanding personalities recount how they grappled with the world, opening our eyes and their own through the arts, scientific discourse or philanthropical intervention. Naturally, these speeches are also about the scars, the wounds inflicted by this past century – offering nothing more and nothing less than notes on our world.

A **panel discussion on “Art & Ethos”** with prominent participants probes the conflict between the artist’s moral responsibility and the artistic value of their work – taking as its point of departure the ignoble role played by Poldi Wojtek (the designer of the Festival logo) during the era of National Socialism. Originally, the discussion on today’s assessment of artworks of high quality by morally questionable artists was to take place in the early summer of 2020; the pandemic forced its cancellation. In October 2020 we finally presented the expert opinions on Poldi Wojtek and the Festival logo authored by historian Oliver Rathkolb and design historian Anita Kern. The corresponding panel discussion – featuring **Ruth Beckermann, Kathrin Rhomberg, Peter Raue** and **Oliver Rathkolb** and moderated by **Michael Kerbler** – will now take place on 12 August.

Since its founding 100 years ago, the Salzburg Festival has been reinventing itself: in its reaction to the present, through continuous new interpretation, for example of works by Strauss and Mozart – while at the same time, it continues its own myth-building, canonizing the *Jedermann* play, for example, or repeatedly reiterating the story of its founding. Not only artistic interpretation has played a major role here, but also the assignment of meaning, as in identity building – both within the Austrian and European context. On the occasion of the centenary, therefore, a special new edition of the “Festival Dialogues” – completing the programme of discourse accompanying the Salzburg Festival’s centenary on 26 and 27 August – explores



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the festival phenomenon itself: its sources, the significance of festivals today, the meanings inherent to the format. Speakers include **Aleida Assmann, Jan Assmann, Udo Bermbach, Korbinian Birnbacher, Philipp Blom, Antonia Eder, Karl Markus Gauß, Volker Gerhardt, Birgit Recki** and others.

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