



SALZBURGER
FESTSPIELE
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jung & jede*r Stories for a Young Audience



Berge flüstern laut, at pre-rehearsals for the musical theatre for children, left to right: Matteo Hartzmann (music), Franca Luisa Burandt (performance), Jakob Boeckh (scenography), Anne-Suse Enßle (recorder & performance), Maria Leitgab (dramaturge), Ursula Gessat (Manager, jung & jede*r) and Elli Neubert (director)

(SF, 17 January 2025) Three new productions, including one world premiere: in 2025 two musical theatre productions and one play for children will be presented as part of the Salzburg Festival's youth programme *jung & jede*r*. Mobile productions for school classes start in April.

Berge flüstern laut

In the work-in-progress *Berge flüstern laut* (Mountains Whisper Loudly), three performers and a collection of large and small recorders, violin and voice recreate Salzburg's legends and myths for a young audience. Together with the director Elli Neubert, Matteo Hartzmann (music), Jakob Boeckh (scenography) and Maria Leitgab (dramaturgy) are responsible for this search for wondrous creatures, strange places and enchanting occurrences. Pre-rehearsals for this new production have already begun. "Our goal is to retell these stories for a young audience, to fill them with today's values and content, for that is what also defines legends: that they have been told over and over again for centuries, always a little bit differently," says the director **Elli Neubert**.

Mein ziemlich seltsamer Freund Walter



Set presentation for the children's play *Mein ziemlich seltsamer Freund Walter* by Sybille Berg; pictured from left: Fabiola Kuonen (director) and Claudine Walter (sets and costumes)

Extraterrestrial life, homemade computers and fascinating books – that's what interests eight-year-old Lisa. She is different than other children, always feeling lonely and thinking this is her own fault. She escapes from her clueless parents and the mean kids at the playground into her own world, which is suddenly turned on its head: in *Mein ziemlich seltsamer Freund Walter* (My Pretty Strange Friend Walter), Sibylle Berg's play for children and teenagers, Lisa discovers an extraterrestrial creature with an unpronounceable name, whom she takes in and calls Walter. Walter turns her life upside-down and shows her the beauty of real friendships in this play about small steps in difficult situations. Fabiola Kuonen directs, working with a leading team including Claudine Walter (sets and costumes), Marylène Salamin (music) and Maria Leitgab (dramaturgy).

Mobile Productions for School Classes

Berge flüstern laut and *Mein ziemlich seltsamer Freund Walter* will be shown in April, May and June as mobile productions for school classes in schools and cultural centres throughout the State of Salzburg, as part of **From Abtenau to Zell am See**. This programme now also includes venues in the Lungau and Pinzgau districts. Thanks to the **school programme**, students experience music and theatre directly – whether at their own school or at a cultural centre in the State of Salzburg. Furthermore, school classes can also work creatively and in-depth on a Salzburg Festival production as part of project weeks. They are supported by artists as well as pedagogues in workshops and conversations. New school contacts have been added for the 2025 season.

Musketiere!

The world premiere of Sebastian Schwab's **children's opera** *Musketiere!* (Musketeers!) has been co-commissioned and produced by the Salzburg Festival and the Vienna State Opera. A fearless girl with a head full of fantasies and a strong sense

of justice confronts the vain king and his power-hungry councillor, Cardinal Richelieu, who rule the country with an iron fist. Together with the cheeky horse Holgär and the somewhat clumsy but courageous Portos, she sets out to break the hold of the mysterious golden croissant, which makes people egotistic and ruthless. In epic adventures and turbulent fights, the three self-styled musketeers prove that it's worth believing in something, to fight for it and stand up for one another: one for all, and all for one!

At the **Opera Camps**, music-loving children and teenagers aged 9 to 17 become immersed in the world of opera and spend a week at Arenberg Castle with artists and experienced teaching professionals. Here they engage with material from great operas and conclude the week by performing their own interpretations of the works, assisted by members of the Vienna Philharmonic, in front of an audience. In 2025 there will be one *Erwartung / Abschied* camp and opera camps on *Maria Stuarda* and *Macbeth*. Hanne Muthspiel-Payer and *passwort:klassik*, the music education programme of the Vienna Philharmonic, are responsible for the concept and leadership of the camps. The opera camps are presented in cooperation with the Vienna Philharmonic and with the support of the Salzburg Foundation of the American Austrian Foundation (AAF).



Final performance of the opera camp on M. Weinberg's *The Idiot* 2024 © SF/Marco Borrelli

The **Drama Camp** allows theatre-loving teenagers to delve into a work and the themes of one of the Salzburg Festival's drama productions, spending a week on a rehearsal stage. Through theatrical improvisation, stage scenes and creative writing processes, they develop texts and scenes and present their own production in a final performance. In 2025, a drama camp will focus on *Jedermann*.

The **Festival Mentorships** are now well-established: experienced Festival visitors share their passion and enthusiasm for the Salzburg Festival and their own Festival stories with young audience members from the region. They take on a mentorship for teenagers and young adults aged 16 to 26 who have never attended a Salzburg Festival performance. A reception and introduction to the work before the

performance offers a space to get to know one another and for conversation. Attending the performance together gives both parties a very special inroad to the Festival's world.

Youth Tickets and Education Offerings: 6,000 tickets for young people. A discount of up to 90 percent is available for teenagers and young adults born after 30 June 1998. Selected performances are flanked by education offers: youth introductory talks convey insights into the work and production before the performance.

"Young Friends" of the Salzburg Festival have access to the comprehensive summer programme of the Friends of the Salzburg Festival and receive preferential treatment when ordering youth tickets. Register at www.festspielfreunde.at.

Friday mornings belong to children on Kapitelplatz during the Festival. The **Siemens>Children's>Festival** offers the youngest audience members film screenings of opera, ballet and drama performances, presented as a colourful mix of fantastical stories. Admission is free.

Photo link:

<https://www.salzburgerfestspiele.at/fotoservice/programm-jungjeder-2025>

jung und jede*r, the Salzburg Festival's youth programme, is supported by:

UNIQA has been an important partner for the Salzburg Festival since 2004. Conversely, the Festival is a fixed programme of UNIQA's corporate culture. For many years the focus of this collaboration has been on youth programmes. This enables the Salzburg Festival to steadily expand its efforts in this field. The youth programme *jung & jede*r* and thus the production of selected children's operas, youth camps and accompanying events for children and teenagers is made possible thanks to UNIQA's help.

Raiffeisen Salzburg has been a partner of the Salzburg Festival since 2020. Education, social responsibility, ecology, sports, but also culture are part of the corporate self-concept of the Raiffeisen Banking Group. The idea of enabling the Festival to give the children's and youth programme *jung & jede*r* as a gift to young Festival visitors and to extend its reach to schools throughout the State of Salzburg met with open ears at Raiffeisen. The partnership between the Salzburg Festival and Raiffeisen is designed for many years. "Wir macht's möglich" – together, we make things happen.

The **Salzburg AG** is deeply rooted in the state and city of Salzburg, and is therefore proud to be a part of "life". Just as culture is an essential part of Salzburg's identity, the Salzburg AG is a deeply anchored in the region. Therefore, the company is glad to be a partner of *jung & jede*r*, the Salzburg Festival's youth programme. As an innovative, digital and sustainable Green Tech company, the Salzburg AG does everything to improve the quality of life of Salzburg's citizens and to design a climate-friendly energy for the future.