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# GERMAN WORLD

*plus*

**RING-Festival  
in Los Angeles:**

Will Wagner click in  
the film metropolis?

**Capitalizing for  
Success:**

New German-American  
hot spot opens in  
Washington DC

*Österreicher  
startet  
durch zur  
Weltkarriere*  
**Austrian  
Oscar  
Winner  
catapulted  
onto  
World  
Stage**



**Über-Bingo  
for Christoph Waltz**



Indem wir die Volkszählung  
beantworten, tragen wir  
wesentlich dazu  
bei, die Bedürfnisse  
unserer Kinder in den  
nächsten 10 Jahren  
zu beantworten.



Wenn jeder einzelne von uns die Volkszählung beantwortet, leisten wir gemeinsam einen wichtigen Beitrag. Denn die Volkszählung unterstützt unsere Gemeinschaft dahingehend, sich einen gerechten Anteil der jährlich über 400 Milliarden US-Dollar zur Verfügung stehenden Bundesförderungsmittel für Bereiche, wie z. B. Gesundheitswesen, Schul- und Berufsausbildung, zu sichern. Nehmen Sie sich beim Eintreffen des Census-Fragebogens im März 10 Minuten Zeit, um 10 einfache Fragen zu beantworten. Ihre Antworten werden vertraulich behandelt und sind gesetzlich geschützt. Weitere Informationen finden Sie unter [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).

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**2010**

ES LIEGT IN UNSEREN HÄNDEN

Liebe Leser,

zahlreiche spannende Ereignisse fanden bereits in der deutsch-amerikanischen Gemeinschaft im ersten Quartal des Jahres 2010 statt, über die wir für Sie in diesem Heft berichten werden. So eröffnete am 5. Februar mit dem *Viennese Opera Ball* in New York offiziell die Ballsaison in USA und im gleichen Monat konnten wir uns über viele Erfolge der amerikanischen, deutschen, österreichischen und schweizer Teilnehmer bei der Winter-Olympiade in Vancouver freuen.

Anfang März drehte sich hier bei uns in Hollywood natürlich alles um die Oscar-Verleihung. Besonders froh waren wir über den Oscar-Gewinn unseres Titelhelden Christoph Waltz und über den Erfolg der sympathischen deutsch-amerikanischen Schauspielerin Sandra Bullock, die beide erstmalig den „Goldjungen“ in Empfang nehmen konnten. Passend zum Frühlingsanfang brach auch in Washington DC für die deutsch-amerikanische Gemeinschaft ein neuer Zeitabschnitt an: nach vielen Jahren der Vorbereitung konnte in der amerikanischen Hauptstadt endlich das erste *German-American Heritage Center* eröffnet werden. *German World* war natürlich für Sie dabei. Mehr darüber auf den Seiten 10, 11 und 36.

Wir wünschen Ihnen viel Vergnügen bei der Lektüre und eine schöne Frühlingszeit.

Herzlichst,

**Petra Schürmann**

Herausgeberin



Dear Reader,

*The first quarter of 2010 kicked off with many exciting events for our German-American community. In New York, this year's ball season opened again with the glamorous, annual Viennese Opera Ball at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on February 5. Later that month, we had more reasons to celebrate with the many victories of American, German, Austrian and Swiss athletes at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver.*

*In March, it was all about the Oscars here in Hollywood. We were very happy to see Austrian actor Christoph Waltz and German-American actress Sandra Bullock being honored with the golden statuette — both first time Oscar winners. With the beginning of spring, a new season also started for the German-American community in Washington. After many years of preparation and fundraising, the first German-American Heritage Center was finally able to open its doors in the nation's capital. German World was there for you and brings you the latest on this new German-American hotspot on pages 10, 11, and 36.*

*As always, we wish you happy reading and a pleasant spring.*

*With best regards,*

**Petra Schürmann**

Publisher

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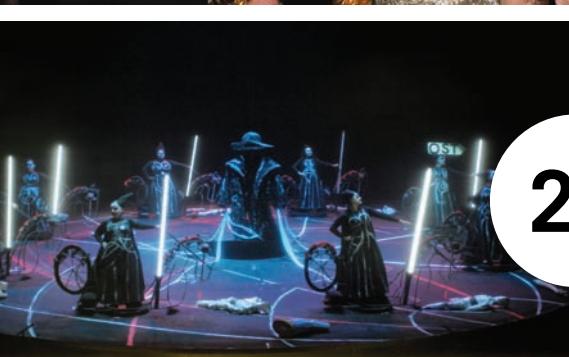


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12



24



32

GERMAN  
WORLD

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**GERMAN-WORLD.COM, INC.**

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**GERMAN WORLD MAGAZINE**

is published quarterly by  
**GERMAN-WORLD.COM, INC.**  
Subscription rate: \$19.95/year  
Single copy: \$4.95/issue

**POSTMASTER**  
send address changes to  
**GERMAN-WORLD.COM, INC.**  
PO Box 3541, Los Angeles, CA 90078.

Entire contents © 2002 - 2010 by  
**GERMAN-WORLD.COM, INC.**  
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**Printed in the USA by**  
**Southwest Offset Printing, Gardena, CA.**

## ON THE COVER

- 16 – 18** DANCING WITH THE GOLDEN BOY: Über-Bingo for Christoph Waltz and Sandra Bullock at the Oscars
- 24 – 27** WAGNER FEVER IN LA: Los Angeles prepares for its first Ring-Festival
- 10 – 11** GERMAN ROOTS: First German-American Heritage Center opens in the nation's capital.

## CURRENTS

- 6 – 7** BERLIN, BERLIN: Young Israelis flock to the city their grandparents once fled.

## BUSINESS

- 18 – 19** GACC NEWS: Great outlook for German companies to do business in the US
- 20 – 21** ONE-STOP SCIENCE SHOP IN NEW YORK: The DWIH opens its doors.

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

- 8** OPERA NEWS by Nina Wachenfeld
- 17** FILM NEWS: "Mauerhasen" in US Cinemas
- 24 – 27** THE AUSTRIAN CULTURAL FORUM PRESENTS: "Solace"

## LIFESTYLE & TRAVEL

- 30 – 31** EMIL GAMPE: Cool Fashion Design from Austria
- 32** TRAVEL: Discover the Ruhr Region, Europe's Cultural Capital 2010
- 33 – 35** CULINARY FINDS: White asparagus and fine wines from Germany

## HISTORY

- 28** QUEEN LUISE OF PRUSSIA:  
The "Lady Diana" of the 19th century died 200 years ago

## REGULAR COLUMNS

- 36 – 41** SPOTLIGHT: Ball Season & Oscar Parties  
German World takes you behind the scenes
- 50** Subscription Information

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# Berlin, Berlin...

## Young Israelis flock to the city their grandparents fled

**The German capital is home to a growing community of young Israelis, who have shaken off the burden of history to celebrate Berlin's reincarnation as one of the most open-minded cities in the world.**



By JANE PAULICK & SONIA PHALNIKAR

Located in the fashionable Mitte district, the Ackerkeller club is hosting one of its regular "Meschugge Parties". The walls are decorated with Star of David pennants and blue and white Israeli flags.

Just around the corner on Oranienburger Street, in what used to be Berlin's Jewish quarter, is the New Synagogue — once the largest in Europe. With the Old Jewish Cemetery and its many plaques commemorating former Jewish residents, Mitte is a neighborhood where history casts a long shadow.

But with local nightspots such as the Ackerkeller attracting increasing numbers of Israeli revelers, hot off the many low-cost flights now operating between Berlin and Tel Aviv, the scars of the past are clearly beginning to heal.

The "Meschugge Parties" are organized by Aviv Netter, aka DJ Aviv Without the Tel. He moved to Berlin from Tel Aviv four years ago, attracted by the German capital's liberal atmosphere and fabled nightlife.

He says that these days, Berlin is the last word in hip for urban Israelis, and that for young people keen to take time out after their military service, Berlin is starting to replace traditional "chill-out" destinations like India.

Thirty-year-old Dan Etzony is another Tel Avivian who's relocated to Berlin. He runs a cafe in the courtyard of an arts complex called the IMA Design Village.

Dan has German, Moroccan, Polish and Russian roots, and both his grandfathers originally came from Berlin. One of them lost his whole family in Auschwitz, but he always told Dan that he should visit Berlin.

"He was in love with Germany," said Dan. "He always told me I should go to Berlin. I didn't do it while he was living but after he died I came here and I could immediately see why he liked it."

But not everyone in Dan's family approved. His father, in particular, struggled to come to terms with his decision to make Berlin his home, but eventually overcame his reservations and even visited.

"We were looking at the map and someone came up to us and asked us if we needed help," said Dan. "My father started to cry in the middle of the street. He said: 'I was afraid that I would see that [the Germans] are such a nice people. Everything that I thought I knew for 60 years and was raised to believe is totally not true.'"

Even though attitudes to Germany are changing in Israel, a move to the city where the Holocaust was planned is still frowned upon by many.

Photos Courtesy German National Tourist Office



"It's still a statement to say that I'm going to Germany, to Berlin," said Dan. "Lots of people ask: Why? How can you be there, with that language and those people?"

As the grandchildren of German Jews who left in the 1930s, it is easy today for Israelis to stay in Germany thanks to a clause in Germany's constitution that guarantees Jews persecuted under the Nazi regime and their descendants a right to a German passport.

The singer Ofri Brin, a native from the Golan Heights, was drawn to the city by its bohemian tradition, and enjoys playing a role in restoring its pre-war reputation as a hive of creativity and tolerance. She and her partner play in the experimental pop band Ofrin, and have just recorded their third album in Berlin. He had come here to study music — following in the footsteps of his German grandfather, a pianist who played scores for silent movies. "Berlin has become such a cultural pearl," Ofri said. "That's what it was before the war — it was always a place that broke all the rules and made things happen." She also says she enjoys Berlin's anonymity.

Her delight in big city invisibility seems to be typical of Israelis in Berlin. Their precise number is almost impossible to come by, as they tend to eschew official Jewish organizations.

Ilan Weiss moved to Berlin from Israel some 20 years ago. He runs a newsletter and a website coordinating the social life of Israelis in Berlin. He estimated that there are 3,000 to 5,000 of them in the German capital today, but added there could easily be more.

The younger generation identifies themselves as Israeli rather than Jewish, added Weiss, pointing out that Israeli Jews who did not grow up in the Diaspora feel less of a need to "belong."

Still, the present generation has its own problems. Today, some Israelis move to Berlin because Germany seems like a safe harbor. In a sense, history has come full circle. ■

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**Please visit [www.dw-world.de](http://www.dw-world.de) to read the full article and visit [www.german-world.com](http://www.german-world.com) for the German version of the article.**

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## Verfemte Musik

‘Entartete’ Komponisten im Internationalen Konzertrepertoire



## Ostracized Music

The Project “Recovered Voices”  
Continues with Schreker’s “The Stigmatized”

Von/By NINA WACHENFELD

Los Angeles Opera präsentiert die US-Premiere von “Die Gezeichneten”, des Österreichers Franz Schreker (1878-1934). Musikdirektor James Conlon dirigiert die vierte Produktion im Rahmen des von ihm gegründeten Projekts „Recovered Voices“, welches sich Werken jener Komponisten widmet, die im Holocaust verfolgt wurden. Erstmals wird eine der Opern des spätromantischen Komponisten in den USA aufgeführt. Unter dem Arbeitstitel „Recovered Voices“, sinngemäß „das Neuerklingen verdeckter Stimmen“, haben sich in den USA bereits mehrere Minifestivals unter James Conlons Regie etabliert. Dabei ist es ihm wichtig, nicht etwa als „Schuldaufarbeiter“ zu fungieren, er sieht sich von artistischen Motiven getrieben. Irgendwann, so hofft Conlon, werden auch seine „entarteten“ Komponisten keiner Förderung mehr bedürfen, sich vielmehr selbstverständlich ins internationale Konzertrepertoire eingliedern.

„Die Gezeichneten“ erzählt die Geschichte von Sehnsucht nach Schönheit, dem Traum vom Elysium, der an der brutalen Realität platzt. Der Erfolg des im letzten Jahr des 1. Weltkrieges uraufgeführten Werkes war nachhaltig und verhalf Schreker dazu, zu einem der meistgespielten Komponisten seiner Zeit zu werden. Schreker wurde sogar zum einzigen würdigen Nachfolger Richard Wagners ausgerufen und wurde ebenso viel gespielt wie Richard Strauss. Mit der Machtübernahme der Nationalsozialisten allerdings fand seine Karriere aufgrund seiner jüdischen Herkunft ein jähes Ende. ■

Los Angeles Opera presents the US premiere of “Die Gezeichneten” (The Stigmatized) by Austrian Franz Schreker (1878-1934). Music director James Conlon will be conducting the fourth production of the project “Recovered Voices,” founded by him and dedicated to the works of the composers persecuted in the Holocaust. It is the first time one of the operas by the late Romantic composer will be performed in the USA. Under the working title “Recovered Voices,” several mini-festivals directed by James Conlon have already been established in the USA. For him it is important that the festivals not function as a way to work through guilt. Instead, he sees himself driven primarily by artistic motives. Someday, Conlon hopes, his “degenerate” composers will no longer need any promotion and will naturally be integrated into the international concert repertoire.

“Die Gezeichneten” tells the story of the longing for beauty, the dream of Elysium, which is destroyed by brutal reality. The success of the work, which premiered during the final year of the First World War, was lasting and helped Schreker become one of the most performed composers of his time. Schreker was even declared the only noble successor to Richard Wagner and was performed as often as Richard Strauss. When the National Socialists seized power his career came to an abrupt end due to his Jewish ancestry. ■

► **Premiere: April 10, 2010, in Los Angeles.**  
Tickets at [www.laopera.org/212.972.8001](http://www.laopera.org/212.972.8001).



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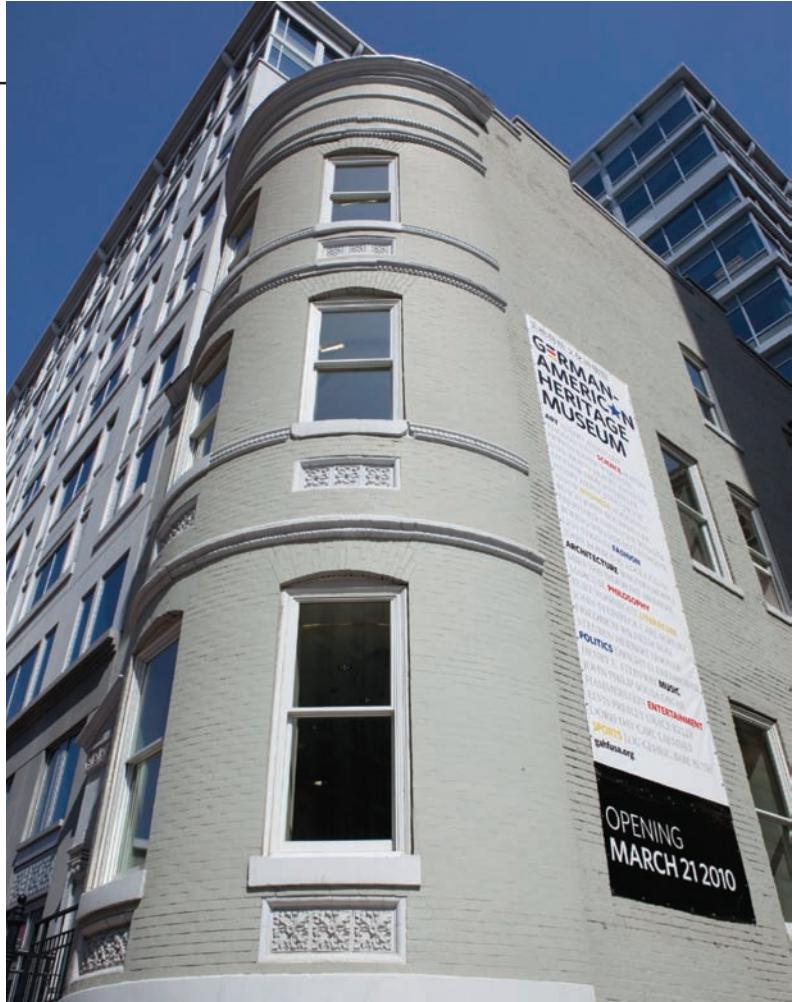


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# New German-American Hot Spot in DC: Grand Opening of German-American Heritage Museum



US-Senator Richard G. Lugar assisted by German Ambassador Dr. Scharioth (r.) & the GAHF-President Bern E. Deichmann (l.) officially opens the new center.



**The newest addition to Washington's museum circuit re-establishes a Victorian townhouse in Chinatown as a vital center for German-American relations.**

After more than 400 years of German immigration to the United States, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA (GAHF) opened the first national German-American Heritage Museum. From Friedrich Wilhelm von Steuben to Levi Strauss, it tells the story of Americans of German descent who helped shaping the America of today. Through historical narratives as well as state-of-the-art multimedia installations and exhibits, visitors have the unique opportunity to discover untold facets of American history.

Centrally located in historic Hockemeyer Hall at 719 Sixth Street, NW in Washington, DC, the home of the German-American Heritage Museum is itself a testament to the achievements of German immigrants in the United States. Built in 1888 by John Hockemeyer, a German immigrant who became a successful merchant, the Victorian townhouse is part of the Penn Quarter, historically a vibrant district of Washington, DC, originally settled by German immigrants. On October 17, 2008, the German-American Heritage Foundation of the USA® acquired Hockemeyer Hall to establish the museum. With the help of a committed network of supporters and a successful fundraising campaign, the GAHF has renovated the interior and exterior of the neglected building. Opening the German-American Heritage Museum at Hockemeyer Hall, the GAHF traces the building back to its truest roots by re-establishing the building as a vital center for German-American relations.



The exhibition hall on the 1st floor.



New GAHF-Executive Director Ruediger Lentz giving his opening address on March 19.

More than 500 visitors from all parts of the U.S. came to the new center on opening weekend and viewed the permanent exhibits featuring German immigration, as well as smaller temporary exhibitions on German clubs and immigrant families. Admittedly, this new German-American hot spot is relatively small but its space was put to best use. It also accommodates a multimedia kiosk about Germany today and an auditorium for lectures and conferences — or even for small dinner parties, one of Executive Director Ruediger Lentz' latest ideas. Lentz also pointed out that the heritage center had not been established with the goal to compete with the Goethe Institut which is located just a 5-minute-walk away, but in order to complement each other's programs. Visitors can easily move between the two German cultural centers passing, on their way, Vapiano's, a hip Italian restaurant that is owned by German-American entrepreneur Kent Hahne, one of the heritage center supporters. German-American culture coming full circle — in the heart of D.C.'s Chinatown. - gw/ps

► Starting on March 21, 2010, the Heritage Museum will be open to the public Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 11AM to 6PM, Wednesday 2PM to 7PM and Saturday & Sunday 12PM to 5PM.  
[www.gahfusa.org](http://www.gahfusa.org)



Mr. & Mrs. Tillman (l.) from Philadelphia and Dorothea Hauck, whose father, the late Pastor Hauck, was one of the founders of the GAHF initiative, are visiting the exhibition hall.

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# Über-Bingo for Austrian actor at the OSCARS

**Österreicher startet durch zur Weltkarriere**  
*Christoph Waltz catapulted onto World Stage*

Von/By ANDREAS FUCHS

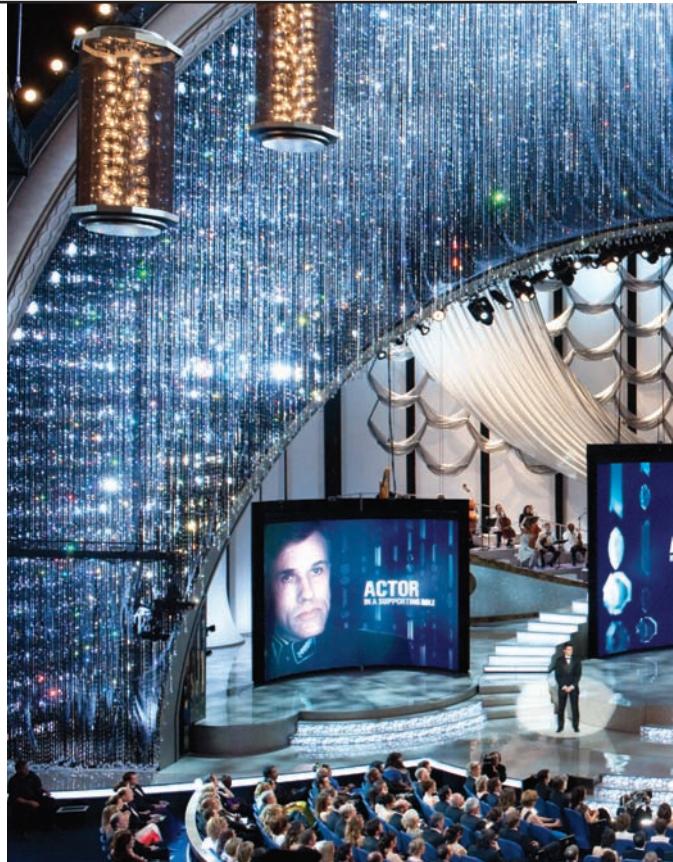


Noch nie hatte es so viele Oscar-Nominierungen für Schauspieler, Filmschaffende und Produktionen aus dem deutschsprachigen Raum gegeben wie bei den diesjährigen 82. Academy Awards in Hollywood. Entsprechend groß war die Anspannung auf den verschiedenen deutschen und österreichischen Oscar-Parties, groß die Hoffnungen der aus Europa angereisten Nominierten. Letztendlich gab es jedoch den „Über-Bingo“, wie der Wiener Schauspieler Christoph Waltz es in seiner Dankesrede nannte, als ihm die begehrte Trophäe von Penélope Cruz überreicht wurde, unter den deutsch-sprachigen Oscar-Nominees nur für ihn und für die deutsch-amerikanische Schauspielerin Sandra Bullock.



Letztere dankte in ihrer bewegenden Rede, die sicherlich als eine der besten in die Geschichte der Oscars eingehen wird, vor allem ihrer verstorbenen Mutter „Helga B.“, einer deutschen Opernsängerin, und schickte herzliche Grüße an ihre Familie nach Deutschland. Der tosende Applaus und die „Standing Ovations“, mit der die fantastisch aussehende Schauspielerin vom Publikum geehrt wurde, war nicht nur die Würdigung ihrer großartigen schauspielerischen Leistung als Hauptdarstellerin in „The Blind Side“, sondern auch einer jahrzehntelangen, internationalen Filmkarriere.

Für Christoph Waltz war der Oscar, den er als bester Nebendarsteller für seine Rolle als Hans Landa in Quentin



*Never before had there been so many Oscar nominations for talent and productions from German-speaking countries as at this year's 82nd Academy Awards in Hollywood. A high level of happy anticipation could therefore be noticed at the numerous Oscar parties of the Austrian and German community in Hollywood prior to the big event; high were the expectations of the many nominees who arrived from Europe. In the end, only Viennese actor Christoph Waltz and German-American actress Sandra Bullock received the much desired golden trophy. "Oscar and Penélope... that's Über-Bingo," said Waltz in his acceptance speech when Penélope Cruz presented him with the "Golden Boy."*

**S**andra Bullock especially thanked “Helga B.”, her late mother, a German opera singer, in a moving speech which was definitively one of the best in Oscar history and included warm greetings for her family members in Germany.

Loud applause and standing ovations honored the stunning looking actress that night, acknowledging her not only for her outstanding acting performance in “The Blind Side” but also for a 20-year-long international film career.

For Christoph Waltz, who received the Oscar in the category of “Best Supporting Actor” for his role as Hans Landa in Quentin Tarantino’s “Inglourious Basterds,” this was not only the high point of a European acting career but also the official start of an international movie career.



Since his portrayal of Landa, the charming Austrian actor, who is so good at playing the "bad guy" and who signed up with the top agency ICM, is swamped with film proposals from Hollywood. He starred in the Hollywood comic production "The Green Hornet," was considered to play Sigmund Freud in a David-Cronenberg-production with "Basterds" co-star Michael Fassbender from Heidelberg as Carl Jung, and soon he will shoot the Fox 2000 production "Water for Elephants" with "super-vampire" Robert Pattinson and Reese Witherspoon. Besides, the actor who lives in Berlin and London, was able to get Fox International Productions interested in

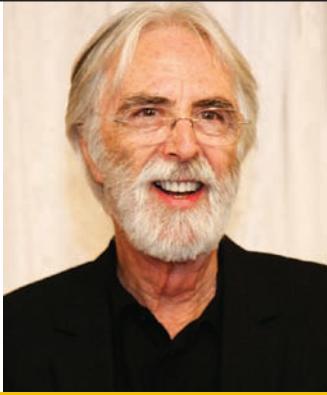


*"Dizzying. It's mind boggling, it's fantastic, it's very intense... tomorrow I'm probably sorry that it's over."*

**CHRISTOPH WALTZ**  
COMMENTING ABOUT THE HOLLYWOOD AWARDS SCENE

Tarantinos „Inglourious Basterds“ erhielt, eher die Krönung einer europäischen Schauspielkarriere, aber auch der offizielle Sprung ins internationale Filmgeschäft. Denn seither kann sich der charmante Österreicher, der besonders die Bösewichte so ausgezeichnet zu spielen versteht, vor Angeboten aus Hollywood nicht retten. Bei der Top-Agentur ICM unter Vertrag, hat er nach der Arbeit mit Tarantino bereits die Hollywood Comic-Verfilmung „The Green Hornet“ abgedreht, war im Gespräch, Sigmund Freud in einer David-Cronenberg-Verfilmung zu spielen – sein „Basterds“ Co-Star wäre der in Heidelberg geborene Michael Fassbender als Carl Jung gewesen – und wird bald mit „Ober-Vampir“ Robert Pattinson und Reese Witherspoon in „Water for Elephants“ (Fox 2000) drehen. Doch der in Berlin und London wohnhafte Schauspieler hat es erst kürzlich auch geschafft, Hollywood erneut für deutsche Filmproduktionen zu interessieren. Am 18. März 2010 gab Fox International Productions bekannt, dass sie gemeinsam mit Waltz die deutsche Filmkomödie „Auf und Davon“ nach dem gleichnamigen Roman von Meike Winnemuth und Peter Praschl produzieren würden. Christoph Waltz, der nicht nur das Drehbuch dazu schrieb und auch einer der Darsteller sein wird, gibt mit diesem in Deutschland produzierten Film auch sein Regie-Debüt.

Auch „Inglourious Basterds“, der Film, der insgesamt acht Oscar-Nominierungen erhielt und Waltz auf die Weltbühne katapultierte, war von Die Zehnte Studio Babelsberg in Zusammenarbeit mit der Weinstein Company in Deutschland produziert worden. Weitere deutschfinanzierte bzw. koproduzierte Filme, die in diesem Jahr mit Oscar-Nominierungen bedacht wurden, sind „The Last Station“



**Left the Oscars empty-handed unfortunately:** German composer Hans Zimmer, actresses Leonie Benesch, Susanne Lothar, director Michael Haneke & cinematographer Christian Berger (f.l.t.r.) had to be satisfied with Oscar nominations

(Egoli-Tossell/Zephir Films; Christopher Plummer als Leo Tolstoi und Helen Mirren als seine Gattin) und der Dokumentarkurzfilm „Rabbit à la Berlin – Mauerhase“. (siehe Artikel auf Seite 17)

Christoph Waltz ist der erste Österreicher, der als bester Nebendarsteller die höchste Ehre des Filmgeschäfts entgegennehmen durfte. Seine Landsleute Paul Muni (1937, „The Life of Emile Zola“) und Maximilian Schell (1961, „Judgment at Nuremberg“), gewannen als beste Hauptdarsteller.

Waltz, der drei Sprachen fließend spricht, in erster Ehe mit einer jüdischen Amerikanerin verheiratet war und einen in Israel lebenden Sohn hat, der Rabbi ist, sieht das Filmgeschäft jedoch losgelöst von nationalen Aspekten. Dies sei ein internationales Medium, so äußerte sich Waltz bei der Pressekonferenz nach der Oscar-Verleihung, und bei kreativer Zusammenarbeit ginge es um großartige Kollegen, Techniker, Künstler und Menschen. „Wo die herkommen, ist mir schnurzegal,“ fügte er im schönsten Wienerisch hinzu.

Dennoch kam man nicht umhin, die vielen Kreativtalente aus Waltz' Heimatland bei den diesjährigen Oscars zu bemerken. Nicht nur sorgte der Kärntner Star-Koch Wolfgang Puck wie in den Vorjahren für das leibliche Wohl der Gäste nach der Verleihung, sondern auch der Film „Das weiße Band“, eine deutsch-österreichische Koproduktion (X Filme Creative Pool und Partner), die für Deutschland ins Rennen ging und eine Oscar-Nominierung als bester fremdsprachlicher Film erhielt, entstand unter der Regie des Österreichers Michael Haneke und seines Landmanns, Kameramann Christian Berger.

## „...das ist so wie der Weg durch die Griesbreiberge im Schlaraffenland“

MICHAEL HANEKE

ÜBER DEN TRUBEL AUF DEM ROTEN TEPPICH

producing the romantic comedy “Auf und Davon” (“Up and Away”) in Germany. Not only did Waltz write the script that is based on a novel by Meike Winnemuth and Peter Praschl, but this production will also mark his feature directorial debut.

“Inglourious Basterds,” the movie that received eight Oscar nominations this year and catapulted Waltz onto the world stage of movie-making, had also been produced in Germany by Die Zehnte Studio Babelsberg in cooperation with the Weinstein Company. Additional German-funded and/or co-produced films are “The Last Station” (Egoli-Tossell/Zephir Films; Christopher Plummer as Leo Tolstoy and Helen Mirren as his wife are currently playing on 354 screens.) and a documentary short “Rabbit à la Berlin — Mauerhase.“ (See page 17 for more.)

Christoph Waltz is the first Austrian to be honored with the Oscar as “Best Supporting Actor.” His fellow countrymen Paul Muni (1937, “The Life of Emile Zola”) and Maximilian Schell (1961, “Judgment at Nuremberg”), won the trophy for “Best Actor in a Leading Role”. Waltz, who speaks three languages fluently, was married to a Jewish American and has a son in Israel who is a Rabbi, does not dwell upon any national aspects of the film business. “It’s an international medium,” he states in the pressroom after the award ceremony. Working together creatively for him is all about great colleagues, technicians, artists and people. “I don’t care at all where they come from,” adds Waltz speaking in Viennese dialect.

However, it was striking to notice how much creative talent from Austria was present at this year's Academy Awards. Not only was the menu at the Governor's Ball created by famous Carinthian chef Wolfgang Puck but also Germany's entry for “Best Foreign Language Film”, “The White Ribbon”, a German-Austrian co-production (X Filme Creative Pool and Partners) was directed by Austrian native Michael Haneke and shot by his countryman Christian Berger who



Doch genau wie die deutsch-israelische Koproduktion „Ajami“ (Twenty Twenty Vision Filmproduktion) ging das Schwarzweiß-Drama, das das Leben in einer ganz normalen protestantischen Dorfgemeinde in Norddeutschland am Vorabend des Ersten Weltkriegs in hypnotischen Bildern erzählt und auch eine Nominierung für „Best Camera“ erhielt, leer aus.

Dem von internationalen Preisen verwöhnten Michael Haneke sah man die Enttäuschung bei der „Oscar-After-Party“ im Café des Artistes in Hollywood merklich an, doch Produzent Stefan Arndt nahm es gefasst. Er hatte bereits im Vorfeld über den Nominierungs-„Thrill“ gesprochen, der schon „fast mehr als der Preis selbst“ sei. „Seit ich mit Film angefangen habe – und das war mit 13 Jahren – hätte ich es mir nie träumen lassen, zu dem illustren Kreis der Oscar-Nominierten zu gehören... Die anderen Filme sind alle exzellent. Sie (die Academy) sollen nur den besten auswählen.“

Diese Ehre wurde Oscar-Außenseiter „The Secret in Their Eyes – “El Secreto de Sus Ojos“ aus Argentinien zuteil, ab 16. April in den hiesigen Kinos zu sehen. Dann können sich German World Leser und Leserinnen selbst ein Bild machen, ob die Academy tatsächlich den besten Fremdsprachenfilm auserkoren hat. ■

*was also nominated for “Best Cinematography.” However, just like the German-Isareli co-production „Ajami“ (Twenty Twenty Vision Filmproduktion), the drama about life in a small protestant village in Northern Germany on the eve of World War I with its hypnotizing black-and-white cinematography went empty-handed. Haneke, who has been showered with international awards for his work, was obviously disappointed when he arrived at Café des Artistes in Hollywood for an “after-party,” but producer Stefan Arndt reacted very relaxed. Earlier on, he had talked about the thrill of being nominated, which was — as he put it — “almost more than receiving the award itself could be.” “Ever since I first I started in film, and that’s since the age of 13, I have never allowed myself to even dream of one day belonging to the illustrious circle of Oscar nominees... All of the other films are excellent films. They (the Academy) should just pick the best one.”*

*In the end, the Argentinian contender, “The Secret in Their Eyes — “El Secreto de Sus Ojos,” was the winner. The movie will be released in U.S. movie theaters on April 16. That’s when German World readers will be able to see for themselves whether the Academy truly selected the best foreign language film. ■*

Photo: Matt Petit / ©A.M.P.A.S.



Christoph Waltz & his partner Judith Holste on the Red Carpet at the Oscars on March 7, 2010 in Hollywood.

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*Wir sind stolz auf unsere Österreicher!*



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# Rabbit à la Hollywood

## From No Man's Land to the Red Carpet

By ANDREAS FUCHS

**R**ight before the Oscars, Icarus Films secured all North American rights to the film "Rabbit à la Berlin" nominated for documentary short subject. Using the conventions of nature films, the story focuses on the "Wall rabbits" that lived in the former no man's land between East and West Berlin and lost their sanctuary with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

A theatrical release at New York City's Film Forum, where "Harlan — In the Shadow of Jud Süß" and "The White Ribbon" have also been programmed, is already booked and nationwide showings are being planned. Company head Jonathan Miller pointed out the "unusual perspective" from which Bartek Konopka, Piotr Rosolowski and Anna Wydra chose to present this "uncanny cinematic metaphor of Cold War's history."

On the red carpet leading to the Kodak Theatre, director Konopka said, "Rabbit à la Berlin" is also a universal fable about freedom. "If you don't have it," like so many people who live in political systems that curtail individual rights, you naturally long for freedom. Once you have it and find yourself in the whole wide world, with enemies and other problems, he opines, you miss the sense of security that provided such a peaceful life to the rabbits. You may even begin to long for those protective walls, he cautioned.

Konopka was drawn to the peculiar situation of the Wall rabbits in Berlin from Poland, where he studied at Krzysztof Kieslowski Film Department und Andrzej Wajda Master School of Film Directing. His producer Anna Wydra confirmed that without help from Germany, the film would have never been made. For her this included not only financial assistance but also organizational and creative support. ■

► For more information on showtimes in US cinemas & DVD release visit [www.icarusfilms.com](http://www.icarusfilms.com).



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# Deutsche Energiebranche blickt über den Atlantik

**Great outlook for German companies to do business in the US**

Deutsche Unternehmen haben auf dem lukrativen US-Markt für erneuerbare Energien und Energieeffizienz eine gute Ausgangsposition. Deshalb informieren die am 22. März in Berlin eröffneten „2. Deutsch-Amerikanischen Energietage“ über aktuelle Trends und Fördermöglichkeiten auf dem US-Energiemarkt und die daraus entstehenden Chancen für deutsche Unternehmen. Veranstalter sind die Deutsche Energie-Agentur GmbH (dena) und die Deutsch-Amerikanischen Handelskammern (AHK USA).

„Energieeffizienz und erneuerbare Energien sind Schlüsselindustrien für das 21. Jahrhundert“, sagte dena-Geschäftsführer Andreas Jung. „Deutsche Unternehmen haben in diesem Bereich viel zu bieten. Deshalb können sie sich auf dem US-Energiemarkt gute Chancen ausrechnen. Auch die US-Regierung setzt mittlerweile gezielt auf Clean Technologies.“

Simone Pohl, Geschäftsführerin der AHK USA in Chicago, betonte, dass die transatlantische Zusammenarbeit zwischen Deutschland und den USA im Energiesektor für beide Seiten großes Potenzial hat. Das unterstreicht eine Umfrage, die die AHK USA in Kooperation mit Roland Berger Strategy Consultants unter rund 300 deutschen und amerikanischen Unternehmen in den USA durchgeführt haben. Demnach sind fast 40 Prozent der befragten US-Unternehmen in den Sektoren erneuerbare Energien und Energieeffizienz an Kooperationen mit deutschen Partnern interessiert. „Diese Chancen müssen jetzt gezielt genutzt werden. Die Deutsch-Amerikanischen Energietage sind dafür eine ideale Plattform“, so Pohl.

Eröffnet wurde die Konferenz in Berlin von Bundeswirtschaftsminister Rainer Brüderle und auch die Riege der Redner war mit Bundesumweltminister Dr. Norbert Röttgen, Philip D. Murphy, Botschafter der Vereinigten Staaten von Amerika in Deutschland, Dr. Peter Ammon, Staatssekretär des Auswärtigen Amtes, Richard L. Morningstar, Sonderbeauftragter von US-Präsident Barack Obama für Energiefragen in Europa und Asien, und Scott Gregory Minos, Senior Policy & Communications Specialist im US-Department of Energy prominent besetzt. Insgesamt nahmen rund 400 Experten aus Politik und Wirtschaft an der zweitägigen Konferenz teil, die vom Bundesministerium für Wirtschaft und Technologie (BMWi) gefördert und von der Solar Millennium AG gesponsort wurde. Auch auf die Umwelt wurde geachtet: in Zusammenarbeit mit „atmosfair“ wurde diese Konferenz klimaneutral durchgeführt. ■



*German companies are well positioned to begin entering the lucrative US market for renewable energies and energy efficiency. The 2nd German American Energy Conference that opened on March 22, 2010, in Berlin, offered information about current trends and support frameworks within the US energy market, and how German companies can benefit from them. This event was organized by the German Energy Agency GmbH (dena) and the German American Chambers of Commerce (AHK USA).*

“Energy efficiency and renewable energy are key industries for the 21st century,” says Andreas Jung, the Managing Director of the German Energy Agency. “German companies have much to offer in these fields and therefore have good chances in the US market. Additionally, the US government is promoting the development of clean technologies.”

Simone Pohl, President and CEO of the German American Chamber of Commerce of the Midwest (AHK USA — Chicago) emphasizes that the transatlantic cooperation in the energy sector between Germany and the United States offers huge potential for both sides. This is underscored by the results of a survey of approximately 300 German and American companies from the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields in the US, conducted by the German American Chambers of Commerce in cooperation with Roland Berger Strategy Consultants. According to the survey results, almost 40 percent of the US companies that responded are interested in working with German partners. “These opportunities must be

specifically targeted. The German American Energy Conference is an ideal platform to accomplish this," says Pohl.

The conference was officially opened by the German Minister of Economics, Rainer Brüderle. Other keynote speakers were German Minister of Environment, Dr. Norbert Röttgen, Philip D. Murphy, United States Ambassador to Germany, Dr. Peter Ammon, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office, Richard L. Morningstar, Special Envoy for Eurasian Affairs for US President Barack Obama, and Scott Gregory Minos, Senior Policy & Communications Specialist at the US Department of Energy. Overall, around 400 experts in the political and economic fields participated in the two-day conference that was funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economics and Technology (BMWi) and co-sponsored by Solar Millennium AG. The environmental impact of this conference has been offset through a cooperation with "atmosfair." ■

► Further information about the 2nd German-American Energy Conference at  
[www.gae-conference.com](http://www.gae-conference.com) / [www.ahk-usa.com/](http://www.ahk-usa.com/)  
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Photo: bewulfsteiner.com



Mike Weiss

Photo

- 1 Keynote speakers & VIPs at the DWIH's opening:** (f.l.t.r.): Madeleine Jacobs, Executive Director & CEO of the American Chemical Society; Dr. Joann Halpern, Program Coordinator, German Center for Research & Innovation (DWIH); Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, Nobel laureate; Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, Federal Minister of Education and Research; Dr. Sebastian Fohrbeck, Director of the DAAD North American office; German Ambassador Dr. Klaus Scharioth; Prof. Dr. Helmut Schwarz, President of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation & Dr. Horst Freitag, Consul General of Germany in New York.
- 2 Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan,** Federal Minister of Education and Research.

## DWIH öffnet Türen in New York: Der One-Stop-Science-Shop

### DWIH opens in New York: The One-Stop Science Shop

Von/By MIKE WEISS

Am 19. Februar wurde in New York eine neue Heimat für deutsche und amerikanische Studenten, Wissenschaftler und Fachleute der Industrie gegründet. Das Deutsche Wissenschafts- und Innovationshaus (DWIH) ist eine neue Organisation, die die Verbindung zwischen deutschen Forschern und ihren amerikanischen Partnern stärken soll. Offiziell wurde die Organisation durch den Besuch von Würdenträgern und Führungskräften der Industrie und von dem deutschen Ministerium für Bildung und Forschung, welches von Dr. Annette Schavan geleitet wird, eröffnet.

„Lasst uns eine neue Wirtschafts-Partnerschaft zwischen Deutschland und den Vereinigten Staaten aufbauen“, sagte Ministerin Schavan in ihrer Rede. „Eine Partnerschaft, die auf gemeinsamen Werten basiert und sich für diese gemeinsame Basis von Werten selbstbewusst in der Welt einsetzt.“

Nachdem Ministerin Schavan am 18. Februar 2010 in Washington DC das erste Wissenschafts- und Technologie-Abkommen zwischen den USA und Deutschland unterzeichnete, ist die Eröffnung des DWIH am Tag darauf ein weiteres Zeichen, dass die deutsche Wissenschaft den globalen Dialog zu verbessern sucht.

Das DWIH-Konzept wurde von dem deutschen Auswärtigen Amt und Dr. Schavans Ministerium für Bildung und Forschung entwickelt und wird gemeinsam von der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG) und dem Deutschen Akademischen Austauschdienst (DAAD) verwaltet. Neben dem Büro in New York gibt es Pläne, ähnliche Büros der DWIH in Moskau, Neu-Delhi, São Paulo und Tokio zu eröffnen.

*O*n February 19 a new home for both German and American students, scientists, and industry professionals was created in New York. The German Center for Research & Innovation (DWIH — Deutsches Wissenschafts- und Innovationshaus), a new organization designed to strengthen ties between German researchers and their American counterparts, was officially opened by visiting dignitaries and industry leaders, led by German cabinet minister for Education and Research, Dr. Annette Schavan.

*“Let us build a new science partnership between Germany and the United States,” Minister Schavan said in her speech. “A partnership which is based on shared values and stands up for this common basis of values confidently in the world.”*

*Coming the day after Minister Schavan signed the first Science and Technology Agreement between the U.S. and Germany on February 18 in Washington D.C., the opening of the DWIH is another sign of German science reaching out to better engage the world.*

*The DWIH concept was created by the German Foreign Office and Dr. Schavan’s Ministry of Education and Research, and will be administered jointly by the German Research Foundation (DFG Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst). Besides the New York office, there are plans to open similar offices of DWIH in Moscow, New Delhi, São Paulo, and Tokyo.*

*“It’s a one-stop shop,” Dr. Matthias Kleiner, president of DFG, said in describing the new center. “German science is very diverse, and*

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Ketterle, Nobel laureate, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, addressing the audience.



„Es ist ein One-Stop-Shop“, so beschreibt Dr. Matthias Kleiner, Präsident der DFG, das neue Zentrum. „Die deutsche Wissenschaft ist sehr vielfältig und dieses Zentrum gibt den deutschen Wissenschaftlern die Gelegenheit sich vorzustellen. Außerdem ist es eine Adresse für junge Menschen, um zusammenzukommen und gemeinsam ihre Forschung voranzutreiben.“

Dr. Klaus Scharioth, deutscher Botschafter in den USA, sprach ausführlich über das Erbe der deutsch-amerikanischen Zusammenarbeit, über die ähnlichen Probleme, denen sich alle Nationen gegenübersehen und die Lösungen, die durch gegenseitige wissenschaftliche Unterstützung gefunden werden könnten. „Austausch ist das Wesentliche“, sagte er. „Die Probleme der Welt sind komplex und können nur dann gelöst werden, wenn wir eng zusammenarbeiten.“

Unter anderem moderierte bei der Eröffnung des DWIH Dr. Horst Freitag, Generalkonsul von Deutschland bei den Vereinten Nationen, Dr. Max Huber, Vizepräsident des DAAD, und Madeleine Jacobs, Geschäftsführer und CEO der American Chemical Society.

Nach der Frage, ob es ein Hauptziel für das neue Deutsche Zentrum für Forschung und Innovation gibt, sagte Dr. Schavan: „Es soll Menschen, die eine Leidenschaft für Forschung haben, zusammenbringen.“ ■

*this will be an opportunity for German scientists to present themselves. It will also be an address for young people to network and advance their research."*

*German Ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Klaus Scharioth, spoke at length about the heritage of German and American cooperation, the similar problems each nation now faces, and the solutions that could be found through shared scientific support. "Exchange is of the essence," he said. "The problems of the world are complex and can only be met if we work together closely."*

*Other presenters at the DWIH opening included Dr. Horst Freitag, Consul General of Germany to the United Nations, Dr. Max Huber, vice president of the DAAD, and Madeleine Jacobs, executive director and CEO of the American Chemical Society.*

*Asked if there were one main goal for the new German Center for Research & Innovation, Dr. Schavan said, "to bring people together who have a passion for research." ■*

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# Consoling Discernments & “Bare” Facts

## Exhibition “Solace” opens in New York

Photo: Mike Weiss



# Tröstliche Einsichten & Nackte Tatsachen

## Die Ausstellung „Solace“ eröffnet in New York

Von/By MIKE WEISS

**A**m 3. Februar eröffnete die Kunstausstellung „Solace“ im österreichischen Kulturforum in New York. Das supermoderne Gebäude mit der schrägen Glasfassade, die einem Skigebiet ähnelt zeigt die Arbeit von 17 Künstlern aus Österreich, Deutschland und der ganzen Welt. In einer blendenden Sammlung von Installationen, Konzeptkunst und Performance-Stücken wird der Grundgedanke von „Trost“ erforscht. Anwesend war Österreichs Bundesminister für Arbeit und Soziales, Rudolf Hundstorfer, der die Festlichkeiten mit folgenden Worten eröffnete: „Ich habe keine lange Rede - die Ausstellung ist nun eröffnet, Danke!“

Tom Marioni, ein Künstler aus San Francisco begrüßte den Abend ganz zwanglos mit seiner Arbeit. „Der Vorgang des Biertrinkens mit Freunden ist die höchste Form der Kunst.“ Das künstlerische Stück ist ein Aufbau in Form einer gut laufenden Bar mit Bierdosen, einem Tisch und Stühlen und dem reichlichen Ausschank von Flaschenbier. „Ich stelle das seit den 70er Jahren aus“, sagte Marioni, „die Menschen scheinen es zu mögen. Es ist ein Mittel der Kommunikation.“

**O**n February 3, the art exhibition Solace opened at the Austrian Cultural Forum in New York. The ultra-modern building with its ski slope-like façade of slanting glass displayed the work of 17 artists from Austria, Germany and around the world in a dazzling collection of installations, conceptual art, and performance pieces exploring the concept of “solace.” In attendance was Austrian Minister of Labor and Social Affairs, Rudolph Hundstorfer, who opened the festivities by saying, “I do not have a long speech — the exhibition is now open, thank you!”

San Francisco-based artist Tom Marioni embraced the evening’s unconventionality with his work, “The Act of Drinking Beer With Friends is the Highest Form of Art.” The piece is an installation in the form of a working bar with beer boxes, a table and chairs, and bottled beer dispensed freely. “I’ve been exhibiting this since the 70s,” Marioni said, “people seem to like it. It’s an aid to communication.”

Two video works which seemed to recall the more shocking art happenings created by the Vienna Actionists in the 60s were Koudlam’s,



The Austrian Minister of Labor & Social Affairs Rudolph Hundstorfer (center) was welcome by the director of the Austrian Cultural Forum New York, Andreas Stadler (r.) & Emanuel Layr, one of the curators.

Zwei Videoarbeiten, die in den 60er Jahren von dem Wiener Aktionisten Koudlam erstellt wurden, erinnern umso mehr an die schockierenden Kunstereignisse „ich war unten“ mit tanzenden Nackten und sexuellen Bildern und Sands Murray-Wassinks Stück „Sands Selbstbefriedigung.“

„Ich mag das alles sehr“, sagte der in München geborenen Kunstkritiker Gregorij H. von Leitis über die gesamte Ausstellung und implizierte dabei auch die Videos. „Für Europäer ist das nichts Neues. Für die Amerikaner ist Nacktheit (in der Kunst) allerdings ganz neu, deshalb ist es wichtig, wirklich wichtig, das auch in Amerika zu tun.“

In seinen einleitenden Bemerkungen, erläuterte der Leiter des österreichischen Kulturforums, Andreas Stadler, in der überfüllten Galerie, wie wichtig das Thema „Trost“ gerade in Bezug auf die heutigen, aktuellen gesellschaftlichen und wirtschaftlichen Krisen ist.

Ein Stück, das speziell für die Ausstellung geschaffen wurde, hatte eine interessante Herangehensweise an diese Fragestellung. Misha Stroj, ein Wiener Bildhauer, schuf ein dreiteiliges Werk mit dem Titel „Jetzt Können Wir Darüber Sprechen (Die Klage in der Praxis).“ Wenn man daran denkt, dass das Thema der Ausstellung „Solace (Trost)“ ist, schien diese heikle Arbeit den emotionalen Übergang von Chaos zu Stabilität zu beschreiben, ein Lebensereignis, das manchmal zu subtil ist, um es in Worte fassen zu können. ■

*“I was down” with its dancing nudes and sexual imagery and Sands Murray-Wassink’s piece, “Sands Masturbation.”*

*“I like it all very much,” said Munich-born art critic Gregorij H. von Leitis, referring to the show as a whole, but as to the videos he said, “for Europeans, we’ve seen it already. Nudity for Americans is brand new, so it’s important, actually important, to do that in America.”*

*In his introductory remarks, Austrian Cultural Forum director Andreas Stadler explained to the crowded gallery how the theme of solace is important amidst today’s current social and economic crises.*

*One piece, created specifically for the show, had an intriguing approach to this question. Misha Stroj, a Viennese sculptor, created a three-part work titled, “Now That We Can Talk About (Lament as Praxis).” Knowing the theme of the show is “solace”, this delicate work seemed to describe the emotional transition from chaos to stability, a life event sometimes too subtle for words. ■*

## EXHIBITION “SOLACE” > 02.03.2010 > NEW YORK ACEGALLERY.NET

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# L.A. im Wagner-Fieber

## A City in Wagner Fever

By NINA WACHENFELD

Trotz anhaltender Rezession hält die Los Angeles Opera an ihrem ehrgeizigen Projekt, zum ersten Mal Wagners kompletten Ring-Zyklus in der Filmmetropole auf die Bühne zu bringen, fest. Auch wenn die ambitionierte Mammut-Produktion in der Regie des deutschen Brecht-Meisterschülers Achim Freyer von der gegenwärtigen Wirtschaftskrise nicht unberührt geblieben ist, so hofft man, mit einem 14 Millionen Not-Darlehen der Stadt der Engel über die Runden zu kommen.

Das Unternehmen war unter anderem auch durch eine Sieben-Millionen-Dollar-Spende des US-Milliardärs Eli Broad und seiner Frau Edythe möglich gemacht worden. Der vor drei Jahren gestorbene Generalmanager der Los Angeles Opera und gebürtige Koblenzer, Edgar Baitzel, hatte das Ring-Projekt bereits im Jahre 2000 zwar als ultimative Herausforderung, aber auch als Notwendigkeit für die 25 Jahre junge Oper beschrieben. Um nämlich als international führendes Opernhaus anerkannt zu werden, ist ein Ring im Spielplan sozusagen unumgänglich. Hausherr und Weltklassetenor Plácido Domingo, dem vor allem die US-Presse Überforderung in seiner Mehrfachfunktion als Sänger und Intendant der Opernhäuser von Washington D.C. und Los Angeles anhängt, bleibt optimistisch. Ebenso der Chefdirigent James Conlon, unter dessen musikalischer Leitung das Projekt steht. Für ihn, so Conlon, sei der Ring Bedingung gewesen, sein Engagement an der Los Angeles Opera anzutreten. Der bekennende Wagner-Fan und Initiator des Projekts „Recovered Voices“, verweist kritische Stimmen, die dem Komponisten Richard Wagner antisemitische Tendenzen vorwerfen, in ihre Schranken. Man müsse, so Conlon, zwischen dem musikalischen Genie und dem Menschen differenzieren. Dies fällt insbesondere in einer Stadt wie Los Angeles, mit einer jüdischen Bevölkerung von mehr als einer halben Million, nicht jedem leicht. An Wagner, so scheint es, werden sich wohl auf ewige Zeiten die Gemüter erhitzen.

Nach der Premiere von „Götterdämmerung“, dem vierten und letzten Teil von Wagners Opern-Epos, am 3. April, wird das Ring-

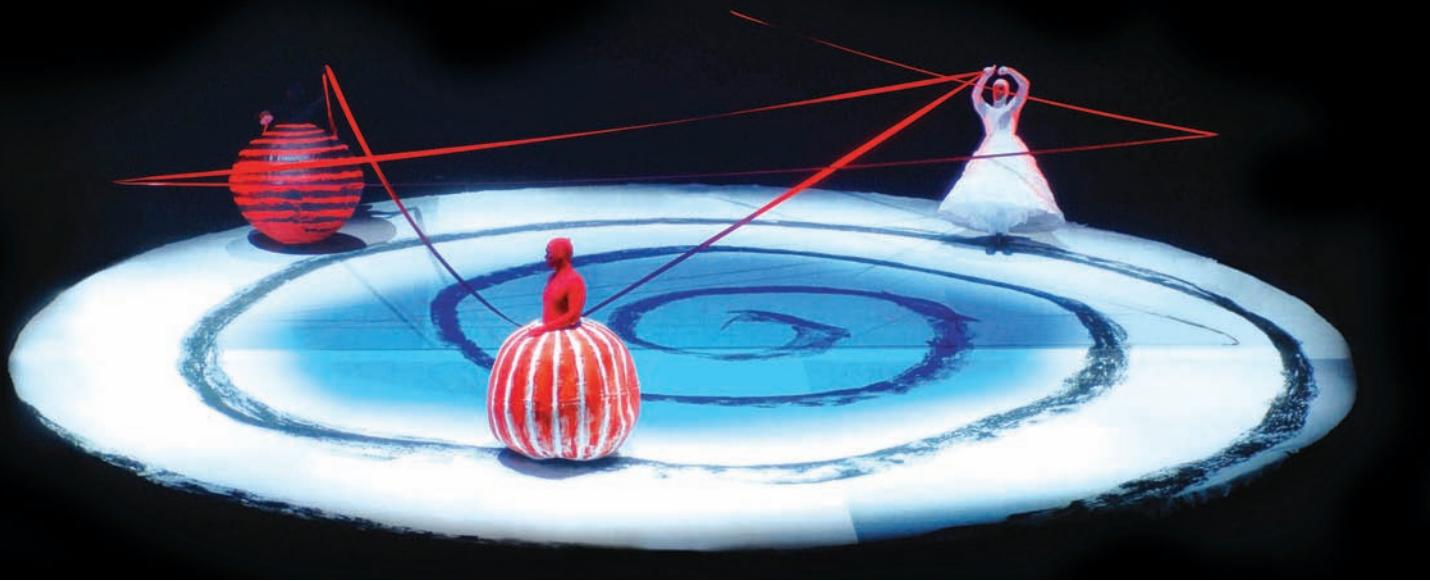
*Despite the prolonged recession the Los Angeles Opera is still on track with its ambitious project of staging Wagner's complete Ring Cycle for the first time in the film metropolis. Even though the current economic crisis has affected the ambitious mammoth production directed by German Achim Freyer, a protégé of Bertold Brecht, it is hoped that a 14-million-dollar emergency loan from the "City of Angels" will help make ends meet.*

The project was made possible in part by a seven-million-dollar donation by US billionaire Eli Broad and his wife Edythe. The chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Opera and Koblenz native, Edgar Baitzel, who died three years ago, described the Ring project in 2000 as the ultimate challenge, but also as a necessity for the young 25-year-old opera. To achieve recognition as an internationally leading opera house, a Ring in the repertoire, so to speak, is indispensable. General director and world-class tenor Plácido Domingo, whom the US media in particular sees as overburdened in his multiple function as singer and director of the Washington DC and Los Angeles opera houses, remains optimistic, as is the principal conductor James Conlon, the music director of the project. For him, says Conlon, the



# Stadt der Engel rüstet sich für ihr erstes Ring-Festival

## Los Angeles prepares for its first Ring Festival



Festival L.A. auf Hochtouren laufen. Schnupperveranstaltungen zum Thema Wagner in lokalen Museen, Büchereien, Universitäten, Schulen, Konzerthallen und kulturellen Einrichtungen wie dem Goethe Institut sind bereits jetzt gut besucht. Jedoch geht es nun vor allem auch darum, den Kartenverkauf für die drei RING-Zyklen anzukurbeln, die ab Ende Mai gespielt werden. Dabei wird man mit geschicktem Marketing insbesondere den Opernbesucher aus Übersee hofieren müssen, der die weite Reise für 17 Stunden Wagner in vier Tagen gerne in Kauf nimmt.

Bis dato sind die Segmente des Vierteilers, die beginnend im April 2009 bis April 2010 an der L.A. Opera aufgeführt wurden, überwiegend positiv aufgenommen worden. Ein Trumpf ist dabei wohl, dass Achim Freyer in seiner Inszenierung auf jegliche politische Deutung der Wagner'schen Mythenwelt verzichtet. Vielmehr wird der L.A. Ring als volksnah gehandelt. Im Vorfeld wurden auch wagnersche Zeitgenossen ermutigt. Dies sei ein Ring ohne Voraussetzungen. Für RHEINGOLD entwarf Freyer eine grell verfremdete Zirkuswelt, in der sich die oftmals als verwirrend anmutende Handlung spielerisch klar entwickelt. In der WALKÜRE triumphierte der bald siebzigjährige Plácido Domingo als Siegmund mit erstaunlicher Stimmkraft. Der seit Jahrzehnten in Europa etablierte Freyer-Stil mutet in einem Land, wo auf der Bühne weitgehend Realismus regiert, jedoch noch revolutionär an. Seine Personenverfremdung ist nicht jedermann's Sache, und so laufen die von der Oper geschalteten Ring-Blogs mit teilweise empörten Kommentaren über. Die erhitze Diskussion kann dem

*Ring was a condition for his acceptance of the position as music director at the Los Angeles Opera. The devoted Wagner fan and initiator of the project "Recovered Voices" dismisses the critical voices that accuse composer Richard Wagner of anti-Semitic tendencies. According to Conlon, one must differentiate between musical genius and the person. This is not easy for everyone, however, especially in a city like Los Angeles with a Jewish population of more than one and a half million. Wagner, it seems, may always be provocative.*

*The Ring Festival LA will take off on April 3 after the premiere of TWILIGHT OF THE GODS, the fourth and final part of Wagner's opera epic.*





## RING FESTIVAL LA

### March 26 – August 16, 2010

CITYWIDE FESTIVAL of 115 ARTS AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS

### March 26 - April 25, 2010

The MET Theatre & USC — Max Kade Institute present:

Richard and Felix: Twilight in Venice  
Information >323.957.1152

### April 3, 11, 17 & 25 / 1pm & April 21 / 5:30pm

LA Opera: Richard Wagner's *Götterdämmerung*  
Information >laopera.com

### April 8 - July 31 / 2010

Exhibition: Timeless Enchantment: Richard Wagner's Ring of the Nibelung in Visual Arts and Performance  
Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum, CSU, San Bernardino Information >museum.csusb.edu

### April 12, 2010 / 7pm

Symposium at the Goethe Institut: "Achim Freyer and Matthew Gurewitsch on *Götterdämmerung*,"  
Information >goethe.de/losangeles

### April 12, 2010 / 8pm

James Conlon Conducts the Colburn Orchestra,  
Program includes Wagner's Siegfried Idyll, and  
works by Zemlinsky and Ullmann.  
The Colburn School, L.A.  
Information >colburnschool.edu

### April 13, 2010 / 7pm

Symposium: "An Evening with Maestro James Conlon,"  
Hammer Museum / hammer.ucla.edu

### April 15, 2010 / 7:30pm - 9pm

"From Nietzsche to 'Star Wars': The Wagnerian Power of the Ring,"  
MOCA Ahmanson Auditorium, L.A.  
Information >213.626.2222 / moca.com

### April 15, 2010 / 7:30pm

Conversation: "Music, Memory and Morality: How and Why Wagner Matters,"  
Museum of Tolerance, L.A.  
Information >museumoftolerance.com

### April 15 - August 16, 2010

LACMA Exhibition: Myth, Legends, Fables, and Cultural Renewal: Wagner's Sources  
Information >lacma.org

### April 16, 2010 / 6pm - 9pm

Student Arts Festival: "Integrating Wagner's Ring Cycle," Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, L.A. Information >laep.org

### April 17 - 30, 2010

German Opera Tales. Four professional opera singers perform musical moments from Das Rheingold, Humperdinck's Hansel und Gretel, and Mozart's The Abduction from the Seraglio.  
County of Los Angeles Public Libraries-Locations  
Information >colapubliclib.org.

### April 17 - April 20, 2010

Street Performance organized by Villa Aurora:  
Invisible Siegfrieds Marching Sunset Boulevard  
A Passage Opera for tarnhelmed wanderers on  
Sunset Boulevard and sound-contributors from  
Los Angeles and all over by George Nussbaumer.  
Information >villa-aurora.org

### April 21, 2010 / 7pm

Symposium: "Drama in Wagner's Ring: Music Propels the Action"  
University La Verne / ulv.edu

### April 23, 2010 / 5-8 pm & April 24, 2010, 11am - 5pm

Hip Hop Theatre Workshop—"Timeless Enchantment:  
From the Ring to the Cipher, a Hip Hop Connection  
to Wagner's Ring,"  
Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum CSU, San Bernardino / museum.csusb.edu.

### April 24, 2010 / 11am - 1:30pm, 7:30pm - 11pm

Free Movie Festival for Children and Families  
Warner Grand Theatre, San Pedro / culturela.org

For more events and information visit

[RingFestivalLA.com](http://RingFestivalLA.com).

## “RING” BASICS

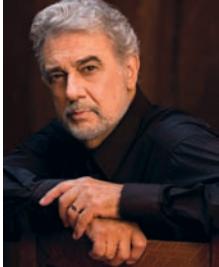
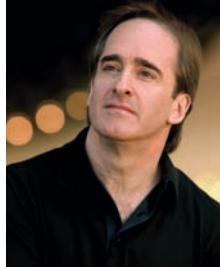
- **Richard Wagner:** Born in Bayreuth in 1813, died in Bayreuth in 1883
- **Wagner's most significant work:** The Ring of the Nibelung. Opera cycle in four parts: Rhine Gold-Valkyrie-Siegfried-Twilight of the Gods. Music and text by Richard Wagner. In his epic Wagner combined inspiration from Norse sagas and the Old German heroic epic poem “Nibelungenlied” (The Song of the Nibelungs). The Bayreuth Festspielhaus opened with the world premiere of the Ring in 1876.
- **Richard Wagner Bayreuth Festival 2010:** July 25 to August 28
- **Info and tickets:** [www.wagneropera.net](http://www.wagneropera.net)
- **Other important “Ring” productions in the USA:** Seattle 2013 and New York Metropolitan Opera 2010-11

Theatermann und Künstler Freyer nur recht sein. In erster Linie ist seine Inszenierung eine Serie atemberaubender Bilder, deren Interpretation er dem Betrachter überlässt. Fürs weitere Gelingen verfügt Freyer über ein Ensemble erstklassiger Sänger und Darsteller, denn zweifelsohne übersteigt der Wagner'sche Anspruch die Stamina vieler Vokalisten. Neben Domingo, beeindrucken insbesondere Linda Watson als „Brünhilde“,

Wagner events in local museums, bookstores, universities, schools, concert halls, and cultural institutions such as the Goethe Institute have been well attended. Their purpose is to boost ticket sales for the three RING cycles to be performed at the end of May. Clever marketing hopes to lure opera visitors from overseas willing to embark on the long trip for 17 hours of Wagner in four days.

So far the four segments of the Ring, performed at the LA Opera from April 2009 through April 2010, have been positively received. A likely clincher is that the staging by Achim Freyer refrained from any political interpretation of the Wagnerian mythical world. Rather, the LA Ring has been treated as a work for the common people. The run-up marketing emboldened even Wagner-wary contemporaries. This is a Ring without postulates.

For RHINE GOLD Freyer designed an alienatingly garish circus world in which the often confusing plot unfolds in playful clarity. In VALKYRIE soon-to-be seventy-year-old Plácido Domingo triumphed as Siegmund with his amazingly powerful voice. The Freyer style, established in Europe for decades, still seems revolutionary in a country in which realism prevails on stage. His alienation effects are not be everyone's



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**VERNISSAGE > 31.5.2010 > ACE GALLERY, BEVERLY HILLS**  
**ACEGALLERY.NET**



sowie John Treleaven in der Rolle des „Siegmund“. Der Tenor und Bayreuth-Veteran Graham Clark als „Loge“, ist ein Goldstück und der ukrainische Bass Vitalij Kovaljov überragend - sowohl in Kostüm als auch Stimme. Mit all den guten Zutaten gespickt, wird sich noch zeigen, ob der L.A. Ring die internationale Musikwelt überzeugen kann. Alle Hoffnungen sind nun auf die lokalen Veranstaltungen um das Werk Wagners herum gesetzt. Dies mutet noch eigenartig an, ausgerechnet in der Filmstadt Los Angeles. Doch hier passieren ja bekanntemassen die ungewöhnlichsten Dinge. ■

► Further information on ticket sales and event dates in the Internet at  
[www.RingFestivalLA.com](http://www.RingFestivalLA.com)

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cup of tea, and thus some Ring opera blogs were overflowing with indignant comments. The heated discussion is fine with theater artist Freyer. His staging is a series of breathtaking images whose interpretation he leaves to the viewer. Also working in favor of Freyer's success is an ensemble of first-class singers and actors, for without doubt the stamina of many of the vocalists surpass even Wagnerian demands. In addition to Domingo, especially impressive is Linda Watson as Brunnhilde, and John Treleaven in the role of Siegmund. Tenor and Bayreuth veteran Graham Clark as Loge is as good as gold, and Ukrainian bass Vitalij Kovaljow is outstanding — in voice and costume. Peppered with all the good ingredients, though, it remains to be seen if the LA Ring can convince the international music world. All hopes are now placed on the local events focusing on Wagner's work. This seems strange, especially in the film city of Los Angeles. But here the strangest things are known to happen. ■

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# Queen Luise of Prussia

# *Königin Luise*

# von Preußen

Von/By PIA REUTTER

Vor 200 Jahren starb die „Lady Diana“ des 19. Jahrhunderts. Sie galt als „Mutter der Nation“ und wurde als „Schönste der Schönen“ gefeiert.

**K**lug soll sie nicht gewesen sein, dafür schön, anmutig, sanft, heiter, natürlich, charmant und ihrem überforderten und oft verstimmten Gatten, dem preußischen König Friedrich Wilhelm III., bedingungslos ergeben. Das Volk verehrte sie wegen ihrer Einfachheit und Herzlichkeit, die man als bürgerliche Tugenden begriff.

Als Luise Auguste Wilhelmine Amalie, Herzogin zu Mecklenburg-Strelitz wurde sie im Jahre 1776 in Hannover geboren. Als Luise sechs Jahre alt war, starb ihre Mutter, weshalb sie den Rest ihrer Kindheit bei der Großmutter verbrachte. Ende 1793, im Alter von 17 Jahren, heiratete sie Kronprinz Friedrich Wilhelm in Berlin.

Ihr Leben umfasste eine der bewegendsten Zeitspannen des 18. und 19. Jahrhunderts – von der Französischen Revolution bis zum Beginn der Preußischen Reformen. Als Preußen mit Russland ein Bündnis schloss, traf Luise auf den Zar Alexander I., von dem sie begeistert schwärzte und der seinerseits auch von der Königin fasziniert war. Die Forschung ist sich jedoch sicher, dass eine von Biografen oftmals vermutete Liebesbeziehung niemals stattgefunden hat.

Königin Luise galt als hilfreiche Stütze und Entscheidungshilfe ihres Gatten, jedoch wird ihre Rolle beim Friedensschluss von Tilsit 1807 politisch überschätzt. Luise hatte Napoleon um maßvolles Vorgehen bei den Friedensbedingungen gebeten, diese Bitte blieb jedoch unerhört.

Luisas Ansehen wurde dadurch nicht geschmälert. Nach ihrem Tod 1810, in Folge einer Lungenentzündung, begleiteten Tausende ihr Begräbnis. Man stilisierte ihr frühes Ableben zum Opfertod, mit dem Deutschnationale die Erbfeindschaft zu Frankreich begründeten und auch Preußens Sieg über Frankreich 1870/71 deutete man als späte Rache für ihren Tod. Die Nationalsozialisten sahen sie selbst über 100 Jahre später noch als Reichsgründerin.

In Berlin und Brandenburg finden dieses Jahr anlässlich des 200. Todesstages zahlreiche Veranstaltungen statt, um an die beliebte Regentin zu erinnern. ■



She is regarded as the “mother of the nation” and was celebrated as “the most beautiful of the beautiful”: Prussia’s Queen Luise was a legendary figure in her lifetime, quasi the “Lady Diana” of the 19th century.

*I*ntelligent she was not, instead she was beautiful, gracious, gentle, cheerful, natural, charming and unquestioningly devoted to her overburdened and often ill-tempered spouse, Prussian King Friedrich Wilhelm III. The people admired her for her simplicity and cordiality, regarded at the time as bourgeois virtues.

*S*he was born in Hanover in 1776 as Luise Auguste Wilhelmine Amalie, Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz. When she was six her mother died, which is why Luise spent the rest of her childhood with her grandmother. At the end of 1793, at the age of 17, she married Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm in Berlin.

*H*er life spanned one of the most turbulent periods in the 18th and 19th century — from the French Revolution to the beginning of the Prussian reforms. When Prussia formed an alliance with Russia, Luise met Russian Tsar Alexander I and found him charming. The tsar was also fascinated by the queen. Researchers are certain, however, that an affair between the two, often alleged by biographers, never happened.

Queen Luise was considered to be a great support to her spouse and aided him in making decisions, but her role in the Peace Treaty of Tilsit in 1807 has been politically overestimated.

Luise asked Napoleon to show restraint with the terms of the peace treaty. But this appeal went unheard. This did not hurt Luise's reputation. After her death following a lung infection in 1810, thousands followed her funeral procession. Her early death was seen as the death of a martyr, with which German nationalists justified their hostility to France. Prussia's victory over French in 1870-71 was also regarded as late revenge for her death. Even the National Socialists saw her as the founder of their empire more than a 100 years later.

Berlin and the state of Brandenburg are celebrating their famous "daughter" with numerous special events through spring and summer 2010. ■

## EVENTS Remembering Queen Luise of Prussia

### • APRIL 18, 14 PM

*Children's Ball at Queen Luise's Residence.*  
->Charlottenburg Castle, Berlin

### • APRIL 1 – MAY 30

Exhibition: *Luise. Life and Myth of a queen.*  
->Berlin, Charlottenburg Castle

### • APRIL 1 – OCTOBER 24

Exhibition and Lectures: *Luise. Queen of the Hearts.*  
->Film museum Potsdam, Marstall am Lustgarten.

### • MAY 1 – OCTOBER 31

Exhibition: *Luise.* >Berlin, Pfaueninsel

### • JULY 31 – OCTOBER 31

Exhibition: *Luise. The Queen's Robes.* >Paretz Castle (Brandenburg)

Von/By NINA WACHENFELD

## Literaturnobelpreis für Herta Müller *Herta Müller receives the Nobel Prize of Literature*



Als die gebürtige Rumänin im Oktober 2009 in Oslo als zwölfte Frau mit der höchsten Würde der Schriftstellerwelt ausgezeichnet wurde, bedachte man nicht nur eine hervorragende Autorin, sondern eine passionierte Menschenrechtlerin, die in ihren Werken unter anderem das Grauen des Ceausescu-Regimes beschreibt. Bestens bekannt seit den frühen 90er Jahren, und in mehr als 20 Sprachen übersetzt, wird der fiktive Schreibstil der vielprämierten Autorin aus dem ehemals deutsch-rumänischen Dorf Banat vielfach mit Franz Kafka verglichen. Herta Müller, deren Mutter viele Jahre in russischen Arbeitslagern verschwand, und deren Vater zum Mitglied der Waffen SS verpflichtet wurde, war Mitglied einer Aktionsgruppe, welche Redefreiheit und den Bann von Zensur propagierte. Nachdem ihr zunächst die Emigration nach West-deutschland verweigert wurde, lebt sie seit 1987 mit ihrem Mann, dem Schriftsteller Richard Wagner, in Berlin. Weitere Preisträgerinnen des Friedenspreises der Literatur sind u.a. Selma Lagerlöf, Pearl S. Buck, Toni Morrison, Elfriede Jelinek und Doris Lessing. ■

When the native Romanian received the award in Oslo in October 2009, becoming the twelfth female Nobel laureate in Literature, tribute was paid not only to a superb author, but also to a passionate human rights activist who, in her works, describes the terrors of the Ceausescu regime. Best known since the early 1990s, her works have been translated into more than 20 languages, and the fictional style of the award-winning author from the former German-Romanian region of Banat has often been compared to Franz Kafka. Herta Müller, whose mother disappeared for many years into Russian labor camps, and whose father was conscripted into the Waffen SS, was a member of an activist group which advocated freedom of speech and a ban on censorship. After initially being refused permission to emigrate to West Germany, she settled in West Berlin in 1987 with her husband, novelist Richard Wagner. Other women who have received the Nobel Prize in Literature are Selma Lagerlöf, Pearl S. Buck, Toni Morrison, Elfriede Jelinek, and Doris Lessing, among others. ■



HERTA MÜLLER  
*Atemschaukel*

ROMAN  
HANSER

### ► AUSWAHL AUS HERTA MÜLLERS WERK / SELECTED WORKS BY HERTA MUELLER

#### **Atemschaukel (2009) - Hanser Verlag**

Dieses Werk, nominiert für den Preis des Deutschen Buchhandels, beschreibt den Weg eines deutschstämmigen Mannes in den Gulag der Sowjetunion. Müller sieht sich zu diesem Buch durch Erzählungen des Poeten Oskar Pastior, sowie das Schicksal ihrer eigenen Mutter inspiriert. Dieses Werk wurde mit dem Franz Werfel-Preis für Menschenrechte ausgezeichnet.

#### **Everything I possess I carry with me (2009) - Granta/Metropolitan Books**

Nominated for the Prize of the German Book Trade, this novel recounts the experiences of a man of German descent in the Soviet Union's Gulag. Müller says the book was inspired by the accounts of poet Oskar Pastior and the fate of her own mother. Her novel received the Franz Werfel Prize for Human Rights.

# EMIL GAMPE

Cooles Design aus Österreich  
**erfolgreich** bei  
**BRAVO TV**

Von/By SONIA LASZLO



Photo Courtesy: Emil Couture

## EMIL GAMPE: Cool Fashion Design from Austria a BRAVO TV Winner

**D**er österreichische Modedesigner Emil Gampe gewann den heißumkämpften Wettbewerb „**Launch My Line**“ des US TV-Senders BRAVO. Der Linzer verliebte sich in Modedesign, als er als fünfjähriger seiner Oma beim Schneidern zusah. Bei dem sympathischen Österreicher sind dies allerdings keine Hirngespinste. Er steht als studierter Textiltechniker mit beiden Beinen fest auf dem Boden, ging von Wien nach London, arbeitete dort als Berater für Berühmtheiten, wie zum Beispiel für Stevie Wonders Frau, die Designerin Kai Milla, und machte sich schließlich auf den Weg in die Stadt der Engel. Fachkenntnis, wunderschöne feminine Linien seiner Kreationen, zeichnen den Modeschöpfer Emil Gampe aus. Das Modetalent, von dem wir sicher noch viel hören werden, gab GERMAN WORLD ein Interview:

**A**ustrian fashion designer Emil Gampe won the hotly contested competition “**Launch my Line**” on American TV channel BRAVO. The Linz native fell in love with fashion design as a five-year-old while watching his grandmother make clothes. For this charming Austrian it was not just woolgathering or creative flights of fancy No, he is a state-certified textile technician who left Vienna for London, worked as a consultant for celebrities such as Stevie Wonder's wife, designer Kai Milla, and finally made his way to the city of angels. Expertise and the beautiful feminine lines of his creations are what characterize couturier Emil Gampe. German World interviewed the great fashion talent, about whom we will certainly hear more:

**Glückwunsch zum Gewinn! Was war an den Kreationen für Deinen Sieg als Designexperte ausschlaggebend?**

Emil Gampe: Bei „Launch My Line“ geht es erstmals nicht nur darum, jede Woche einen starken Look zu liefern. Das Ziel war zusätzlich, eine zusammenhängende Modelinie zu bauen – eine Aufgabe, vor der ich als Designer und Konsulent (österr. für Konsultant oder Berater) ständig stehe. Im Finale fand die Jury unsere Linie im Bezug auf Design, Farb- und Materialauswahl besonders stimmig. Das hat dann schließlich zum Sieg geführt.

**Die Jury hat Dich mit Valentino verglichen. Wie geht man mit solchen Komplimenten um?**

EG: Ich habe mich beim Finale dafür eingesetzt, dass ein rotes Cocktailkleid die Show eröffnet. Da lag der Vergleich mit Valentino nahe, zumal er für seine roten Kleider weltweit bekannt ist. Ich fühle mich natürlich durch Vergleiche mit Ikonen wie Valentino geehrt, versuche aber trotzdem meinen eigenen Weg zu gehen. So hoffe ich, dass auch EMIL einmal zu einer unverwechselbaren Marke wird.

**Du hast einen interessanten Zugang zur Auswahl Deiner Models. Kannst Du darüber Näheres sagen?**

EG: Im Bezug auf Models und Fotografen mache ich manchmal ganz gern Experimente. Frauen, die noch nie vor der Kamera gestanden haben und Fotografen, deren Stärke außerhalb der Modefotografie liegt, liefern oft sehr beeindruckende Ergebnisse. Naivität hat hier etwas Erfrischendes...

**Wieso hat es Dich aus Österreich erst nach London und dann in die USA gezogen?**

EG: Der Gedanke in verschiedenen Ländern zu leben, hat mich schon immer fasziniert. Irgendwann habe ich dann beschlossen, meinen Träumen zu folgen. London als erste Station war für mich eine tolle Stadt, um viel über Design zu lernen und Erfahrungen zu sammeln.

New York als Modezentrum der USA und Los Angeles als weltweites Zentrum der Unterhaltungsindustrie waren meine nächsten Etappen, um meine Karriere voranzutreiben. Ich habe große Herausforderungen einfach gern...

**Wie sehen die nächsten Monate für den Modeschöpfer und sein Modehaus aus?**

EG: Nach dem Gewinn der Fernsehshow geht es mir darum das entstandene Interesse an meiner Person zu nutzen, um meine Linie „EMIL Couture“ auszubauen und eine zusätzliche Linie mit stärkerer Verbreitung ins Leben zu rufen. Dazu werde ich demnächst Investoren und aktive Partner brauchen. ■

**Congratulations on your win! What was it about your creations that helped you win as a design expert?**

Emil Gampe: “Launch My Line” is not about delivering a strong look every week. The goal was to build a coherent fashion line — a task I always face as a designer and consultant. In the finals the jury found our line very harmonious in design, color, and material. This is what ultimately gave us the victory.

**The jury compared you to Valentino. How do you react to such compliments?**

EG: In the finals it was my idea to open the show with a red cocktail dress. The comparison with Valentino then lay close at hand because he is known worldwide for his red clothes. Naturally, I feel honored to be compared to an icon like Valentino, but I still want to follow my own path. I hope EMIL will become a distinctive brand name.

**You have an interesting approach toward selecting your models. Can you tell us more about that?**

EG: Sometimes I like to experiment with models and photographers. Women who have never been in front of the camera, and photographers who specialize in areas outside fashion photography, often deliver very impressive results. Here naivite is refreshing...

**Why did you emigrate from Austria to London and then to the USA?**

EG: The thought of living in different countries has always fascinated me. One day I decided to live my dreams. As my first stop, London was a wonderful city to learn a lot about design and gain experience. New York as the fashion center of the USA and Los Angeles and the international center of the entertainment industry were the next steps in my career. I love good challenges...

Photo: Tom Zeiley

**What do the next few months look like for you as a couturier with a fashion boutique?**

EG: After winning the TV show I want to take advantage of the interest generated in me to develop my line “EMIL Couture” and launch another line with a heavier distribution. To do that I need investors and active partners. ■



Emil Gampe wins BRAVO's Contest “Launch My Line”



# Vom Stahlhochofen zum Hochofen der Kultur Change through Culture

Erstmals ist mit dem Ruhrgebiet eine ganze Region Kulturhauptstadt Europas. Unter dem Namen „Ruhr 2010, präsentieren 53 Städte ein Jahr lang 300 Projekte und 2500 Veranstaltungen.

Mit einem herzlichen „Glück auf“, dem alten Bergmannsgruß, eröffnete Bundespräsident Horst Köhler im März 2010 während eines Festakts in Anwesenheit des Präsidenten der Europäischen Kommission, José Manuel Barroso, die „Kulturhauptstadt Europas Ruhr 2010“ auf dem Gelände des Weltkulturerbes Zeche Zollverein. Mehr als 100.000 Zuschauer waren trotz eisiger Temperaturen zur Eröffnung gekommen und Ruhrgebiets-Rockstar Herbert Grönemeyer hatte eigens eine neue Revier-Hymne „Komm zur Ruhr“ für den Anlass komponiert. Die Stadt Essen trägt den Titel Kulturhauptstadt im Namen von 53 Ruhrgebietsstädten mit 5,3 Millionen Einwohnern aus 170 Nationen, dem drittgrößten Ballungsraum Europas nach Paris und London. Das Ruhrgebiet, Deutschlands ehemaliges Zentrum der Kohle- und Stahlindustrie ist nun zu einem kontrastreichen Kulturgeflecht in der Mitte Europas geworden. 1000 Industriedenkmäler, 300 Museen und Kunstzentren, 120 Theater und 100 Konzertbühnen gilt es nun zu entdecken. Sie sollen das Klischee des Ruhrgebiets als einer – wie es Horst Köhler formulierte – „Region der Schlote“ vergessen machen. „Kultur durch Wandel, Wandel durch Kultur“, lautet das Motto. ■

*For the first time, a whole region, namely the Ruhr District, is the European Cultural Capital. 53 municipalities will be presenting 300 projects and 2,500 events over the course of one whole year.*

*During the official ceremony in the presence of José Manuel Barroso, President of the European Commission, in March 2010, Germany's Federal President Horst Köhler opened the Cultural Capital of Europe Ruhr 2010 at the historical Zollverein Coal Mine Industrial Complex with a cordial “Glück auf” (“Good luck”), the traditional miners' greeting. More than 100,000 Ruhr residents braved icy temperatures to celebrate the grand opening until the early morning hours. The Ruhr region's very own rock star Herbert Grönemeyer struck up his new, specially composed mining-district hymn “Komm zur Ruhr”. The city of Essen holds the title of Cultural Capital on behalf of 53 municipalities in the Ruhr District, which has a total of 5.3 million inhabitants and is thus the third largest conurbation in Europe after Paris and London. The Ruhr region, Germany's former industrial heartland with its coal mines, coking plants and steelworks, is now a cultural conurbation full of contrasts in the heart of the Europe. 1,000 industrial monuments, 300 museums and arts centers, 120 theatres, and 100 concert venues are there to be discovered. The aim is to rid the district of the cliché of being—as Horst Köhler put it—“a region of chimney slots”. The motto is Culture through Change, Change through Culture. ■*

## ► HOW TO BEST DISCOVER RUHR2010?

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THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO DISCOVER OUR METROPOLIS: A GEOGRAPHIC ONE & A THEMED ONE. WE PICKED A FEW SUGGESTIONS ON THE THEMED APPROACH:

### MUSEUM FOLKWANG

From March 20 to July 25, 2010, the Museum Folkwang in Essen will present the unique exhibition: *“The Most Beautiful Museum in the World” — Museum Folkwang until 1933*. The museum's spectacular pre-1933 collection has been reassembled for the first large-scale special exhibition. The Museum Folkwang was home to one of the most significant collections of modern and contemporary art worldwide in the 1920s and early 1930s. Paul J. Sachs, co-founder of the MoMA in New York, called it in 1932 "the most beautiful museum in the world".

### RUHR.2010 EXHIBITION "OUT OF THIS WORLD" AT GASOMETER

The exhibition *“Out of this World — Wonders of the Solar System”* at the Gasometer Oberhausen, that attracted its 500,000th visitor on February 16, 2010, is a Ruhr2010 event not to be missed.

### DISCOVER THE RUHR VALLEY BY BIKE

Ruhr Valley Cycle Trail takes cyclists on a 220 km tour along the Ruhr river, from the river's spring in the Sauerland mountains to the mouth near Duisburg, where Ruhr meets Rhine. The cycle trail offers a wide range of surroundings, from quiet and peaceful meadows to vibrant city flair in the new Ruhr metropolis. Excellent biker-friendly hotels and guest houses are available.  
Info: +49 1805 18 16 30 / [www.ruhrtalradweg.de](http://www.ruhrtalradweg.de)

### NOT TO BE MISSED

**EXTRASCHICHT** — The Ruhr Region's Biggest Summer Night Party During “ExtraSchicht”, the “Long Night of Industrial Culture”, more than 40 former industrial plants change into fascinating venues of dance, plays, music and cabaret, illuminated by extraordinary light installations. June 19, 2010 / 6 PM to 2 AM / [www.ruhr2010.de](http://www.ruhr2010.de)

### WHERE TO STAY?

**Some unique accommodation — from rustic to elegant:**

- Kokerei Zollverein, Tor 3, Essen / [www.zollverein-touristik.de](http://www.zollverein-touristik.de)
- Schacht III\*\*, Conference Centre & Hotel, Gelsenkirchen / [www.schachtiii.de](http://www.schachtiii.de)
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# Discover Distinctive German Wines in the United States

**For husband and wife team, Sabrina Bochen and Damon Goldstein, this is a true labor of love...**



Damon and Sabrina met in San Diego in 1998. It was “love at first sight” that blossomed into 2 1/2 years of long distance dating and is now approaching 10 years of happy marriage. Sabrina was born and raised in the heart of the Rheingau, considered one of the most historic wine producing regions in Europe. During their time together in Germany, they discovered the remarkable world of German viticulture. That passion has led them to pursue becoming one of the leading importers of premium German wines in the US.

“Truly Fine Wine was founded with the objective of sourcing an exclusive collection of the best small production German wines available,” says Sabrina. “The focus is on the drier styles, but we carry a robust selection ranging from entry level (\$10) to collector dessert wines (\$25+). Our Rieslings range from Qualitätswein to Prädikatswein, along with Charta wines and Erstes & Großes Gewächs (1st Growth).”

German World was thrilled to find — apart from the traditional sweeter Rieslings known in the U.S., a great selection of dry Riesling, “Spätburgunder” (German Pinot Noir) and fantastic “Weißburgunders” (Pinot Blanc).



We sampled a selection of their wines and were extremely impressed with the quality and range of their offerings.

Truly Fine Wine also carries German Sekt or sparkling wine from Weingut Barth, one of Germany’s best producers of Champagne-method sparkling wines. “Each estate is selected for their exacting standards and strict quality controls,” explains Damon. “Our tasting panel only selects wines that we would serve friends and family over a holiday meal.”

Considering the small variety and low quality of German wines found in the supermarkets or liquor stores across the nation, Truly Fine Wine finally brings high quality German wines at very affordable prices to the U.S.

This will save many people like me the trouble of sneaking a few of my favorite German wines in my suitcase whenever returning from a trip to Germany. And now German World readers may try Truly Fine Wine’s full spectrum of German wines available in the United States at 25 percent off all items. Na, dann ... zum Wohl!

- gw/Petra Schuermann

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# Frühlingszeit – Spargelzeit

## The White Asparagus Season is here



The hype about the coveted white vegetable starts up again in Germany at the end of April. By the end of the season, on June 26, approximately 55,000 tons of the vegetable will have been harvested. With a total value of 175 million euros, the slender stalks have become Germany's most important cultivated product over the years.

Although white asparagus from Mexico or California is available in the US almost throughout the year, its taste and texture does not reach the quality and aroma of its counterpart from Germany or France. White asparagus needs a specific combination of soil, temperature and rain in order to develop the perfect taste and has a long tradition of being grown in Baden-Württemberg, Hesse or Alsace. More and more chefs in North America therefore import German, Austrian or French white asparagus during "Spargelzeit". ■

### How should white asparagus be cooked?

The best way is to cook it in boiling water for 15 to 20 minutes with some salt, sugar, and butter. Lemon juice preserves the white color. Strong spices and too much lemon juice in the stock spoil the fine asparagus aroma.

### How can you tell if the asparagus is still fresh?

By the closed heads. The color of the root vegetable should be white and without any brownish discolorations. The ends of the stalks should be juicy when you squeeze them. The asparagus stalks should be firm and stocky, and the thinner the skin, the higher the value of the asparagus.

### Which Wine to Serve with White Asparagus?

A delicious and tender spring dish, white asparagus can be a difficult to pair with wine. The natural bitter notes in asparagus make many wines taste vegetal and green. We recommend a Blanc de Noir which complements asparagus perfectly due to its moderate acidity and excellent fruit structure. Try the Barth Blanc de Noir (\$18.95) from the Rheingau or the Gutzler Blanc de Noir (\$18.95) from Rheinhessen. ► Available at [www.trulyfinewine.com](http://www.trulyfinewine.com).



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► Available in the US in selected liquor stores. For a store near you visit [www.aperolusa.com](http://www.aperolusa.com)

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# Grand Opening of the German-American Heritage Center in D.C.

## A 3-DAY-CELEBRATION ATTRACTED MORE THAN 500 VISITORS FROM ALL OVER THE US

The opening of the German-American Heritage Center in D.C. kicked off on March 19, 2010 at 4PM with the official ribbon-cutting ceremony in attendance of German Ambassador Dr. Klaus Scharioth, US-Senator Richard G. Lugar (R) (5, l.), and GAHF-President Bern Deichmann (1, l.) with his wife Joan (1, 2nd f.l.). More than 100 invited guests — among them Bertram von Moltke, German Embassy, Dr. Münchow-Pohl of the German Information Center, Ulrich Braess, Goethe Institut, Aline Weber of the German National Tourist Office and Lars Halter (5, r.), Chairman of the Steuben Parade from New York, Walter Lehmann and Thomas Siebenbuehl (3, f.r.t.l.), GAH board members Heinz Paletzki (7, l.) and Horst Stabenow (4, 2nd f.l.), and many other sponsors were in attendance. The ribbon-cutting event was followed by a gala dinner for invited guests at D.C.'s elegant members-only Cosmos Club thanks to Margrit Krewson (2, 2nd f.l.), a member of the club and the GAHF. Supporters of the Heritage Center Initiative had come from as far as California, among them Hank Stoffel (6, l.) from the Sacramento Turnverein und one of the most active GAHF officers, as well as Maria Brand (7, r.) Maria Hoffmann (7, 2nd f.r.), Ellen Neu (6, r.) and Resi Lengsfeld, representing the German-American League (DAV) of Southern California. The DAV had contributed \$25,000 to the center by collecting donations from DAV member clubs and individuals residing in the West Coast State. The German-American community of the Midwest was prominently represented by D.A.N.K. President Bill Fuchs (4, 2nd.f.r.) and his lovely wife Darlene (4, r.), editor of D.A.N.K.'s own German-American Journal.

The festivities continued throughout the weekend attracting more than 500 visitors. For once, the German-American community had come together from near and far demonstrating that this new German-American Center is not a local affair but a representation of German-Americans from all parts of the US. –gw/ps

# Glitz and Glamour at the 2010 **Viennese Opera Ball** in New York City

On Friday, February 5, 2010, onlookers at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York watched as, so it seemed, the cream of society arrived at the 55th Viennese Opera Ball held at the Waldorf=Astoria that night. Following the Viennese tradition of the original opera ball, the white-tie affair was opened by the procession of the dignitaries, followed by the "debutantes" who — in their beautiful white, long gowns accompanied by their suitors and led by Heinz Heidenreich (1), Artistic Director at the Vienna City Ballet. This presentation ceremony created a scene from a bygone era of Old World glamour. The reveling guests enjoyed performance by dancers and singers of the Metropolitan Opera and music by the Peter Duchin Orchestra. A real-horse led carriage added to the fairy-tale atmosphere in the middle of Manhattan. Among the notable guests were the following: Tony Award winner Geoffrey Holder (4), dance legend the sleek Carmen de Lavallade, "Dancing with the Stars" Maksim Chmerkovskiy, posing here with Miss USA (3), American Idol matinee star Constantine Maroulis, Austrian Ambassador to the UN — Thomas Mayr Harting, Consul General of Austria — Ernst Peter Brezovsky, and high ranking business people like Dr. Beintrexler (2) of the Raiffeisen Zentralbank Austria, one of the long-time supporters of the ball. Beintrexler was accompanied by his daughter Inge (2) and his assistant Silvia Frieser who had been part of the fundraising committee.

German-World also had a chance to talk to some true "Viennese Opera Ball Chasers," people who travel around the world in the search for the most beautiful "Viennese Opera Ball." Mel and Leena Sturman (6) and a befriended couple (7) came all the way from Seattle in Washington State to attend the ball. The ladies — both in gowns by a Seattle designer — were among the most exquisitely dressed patrons that evening. GW also hooked up with Chiu-Ti Jansen, in address by Oscar de la Renta (5). She told GW that the Viennese Opera Ball is also very popular in China. - gw/ps





## Max Raabe & Palast Orchester toured the US

The inimitable Max Raabe & Palast Orchester embody the music, style and decadence of Weimar-era Berlin. Raabe (1) and his stellar 12-member band returned to the US with a brand new program, "A Night in Berlin," celebrating the musical glory of the 1920s and '30s. Travel back to the roaring 20s with a brassy big band celebration the New York Daily News calls, "one of the smoothest treasures ever to hit Carnegie Hall." Raabe toured the US with his orchestra from February 18 to March 8, 2010, with a performance at Los Angeles' Royce Hall on February 19. Burkhard Kieker (3) of Berlin Marketing GmbH who had come from Berlin for several presentations to American travel writers, invited the media and some prominent guests to a private reception backstage to meet the artist — among them the widow of composer Walter Jurmann, Yvonne Jurmann, the Consul General Dr. Proidl of Austria, Austrian Trade Commissioner Rudolf Thaler (2), Consul General Wolfgang Drautz (4), Kirsten Schmidt (4) and Raabe-fan Toni Brent (1). — gw/ps

### MEMBER OF THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT HANS-JOSEF FELL SPEAKS ABOUT THE SECTOR OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN LOS ANGELES

Vice Consul General Dietmar Bock and his wife Monika hosted a reception honoring Hans-Josef Fell, member of the German Parliament and the Green Party (Bündnis 90/die Grünen), who stopped by on his way to the Verdexchange Conference 2010 (VX 2010) to which he had been invited as one of the keynote speakers. The conference VX 2010 is a unique platform for latest global developments on the technology and green energy sector. Fell who is considered the "father" of the German Federal Renewable Energy Law was an ideal choice to speak at the conference. — gw/km/ps



Consul General Drautz & his wife Sabine, Hans-Josef Fell & the hosts, Monika & Dietmar Bock. (f.l.t.r.)

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## ELLEN NEU — NEW PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN LEAGUE IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

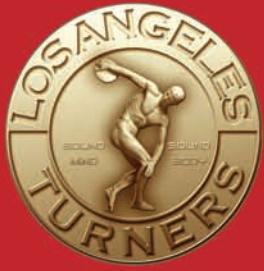
On February 19, 2010, the saying “Nomen est Omen” became true for Ellen Neu (German for “new”), when she was elected the new president of the German-American League in Southern California (DAV) at the annual membership meeting in Torrance. She is the successor of Resi Lengsfeld who has served the DAV for many years as its president and was just recently honored with the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany for her efforts to preserve German culture in the Southland. Lengsfeld remains on the DAV-Board as 1st Vice President. The photo shows all newly elected 2010 Board Officers (f.l.t.r.): Marion Breckner (Treasurer), Carole Kulzer Brennan (Corporate Secretary), Resi Lengsfeld, Theresa Volland (Recording Secretary), Ellen Neu, Erika Ross (2nd Vice President), Fred Volland (Property Manager).



Eric Braeden celebrating with Amelia Heinle, who place his daughter on "Y&R" & Thad Luckinbill in Beverly Hills.

## AFTER LEAVING THE CBS-SHOW “THE YOUNG AND THE RESTLESS” FOR A SHORT WHILE, GERMAN TV STAR ERIC BRAEDEN CELEBRATED HIS 30TH ANNIVERSARY AS “VICTOR NEWMAN”

On February 3, 2010, cast members of CBS' #1 daytime show, “The Young and the Restless,” as well as friends and family members gathered at Eric Braeden's favorite Italian restaurant in Beverly Hills in order to celebrate his 30th anniversary on the show as “Victor Newman.” After a tough fight about the renewal of his contract with Sony Management in October 2009 — which actually led to Braeden leaving the show for a short time — the popular TV actor was able to settle the differences with Sony and sign a new 3-year contract on October 23, 2009. An outpouring of protest about Eric Braeden leaving the show from fans around the world certainly had an impact in Sony's willingness to renegotiate. Speaking to EW.com last fall, Braeden said he and Sony settled the deal amicably. “All's well that ends well,” Braeden said. “Both sides were reasonable. We were both satisfied with the outcome. This business is tough.” Y&R Head writer Maria Arena Bell issued a statement saying: “We are thrilled to have Eric Braeden continue as the one and only Victor Newman. ...We are delighted that Eric will continue his extraordinary work on The Young and the Restless.”



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## Pre-Oscar Buzz at Villa Aurora

March 6, 2010, when the German and Austrian community came together in order to celebrate the Oscar nominations of Austrian actor Christoph Waltz (1) ("Inglourious Basterds"), director Michael Haneke ("Das Weisse Band") and cast members, cinematographer Christian Berger (Best Camera for "Das Weisse Band"), director Michael Hoffmann ("The Last Station"), Bartek Konopka and Piotr Rosolowski ("Rabbit A La Berlin"). The reception was hosted by "German Films", Villa Aurora, the Consulate General and the Goethe Institut in Los Angeles and supported by Audi, the Medienboard Berlin-Brandenburg GmbH, and others. Among the guests who were welcomed by "German Films" Oliver Mahrdt (2), were Doris Doerrle (2), Yaron Shani, director the Israeli Oscar contender "Ajami", co-produced by Studio Babelsberg. "It was a very pleasant experience," Yaron Shani (8) told German World, "to work with the team of Studio Babelsberg. It was great to have such a strong and experienced partner." Brought up to the villa by a shiny, white Audi TDI Diesel fleet were more than 400 guests, among them Austrian Consul General Dr. Proidl and Austrian Trade Commissioner Rudolf Thaler (1), film producer Bernd Eichinger and his wife (7), the German actors Moritz Bleibtreu ("The Baader Meinhof Komplex") and Clemens Schick ("Casino Royale"; 3), Juergen Prochnow ("Das Boot"), winner of "Germany's Next Top Model" Sara Nuru (4), ProSieben presenter Annemarie Warnkross ('taff'; 6) and last year's Oscar winner Jochen Sebastian Freydank (6) who is producing a movie for Senator Film in Germany right now. - gw/ps



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# Trauer um die deutsche TV-Moderatorin **Petra Schürmann**

## Mourning for the German TV-Announcer Petra Schürmann

By PIA REUTTER

In January the former Miss World and popular TV anchor Petra Schuermann died at age 74. She was never able to overcome the tragic death of her daughter Alexandra.

Petra Schuermann was born in Moenchengladbach on September 15. In 1956, at age 21, she became Miss World — the first German to win after the war. Despite her victory she continued to study philosophy until TV called. The Bayerische Rundfunk hired her as an announcer for shows such as "Wir in Bayern" and "Das Verkehrsgericht." She also landed roles in movies and plays. She wrote and painted on the side.

In 2001 her daughter Alexandra, born in 1967, was killed in a tragic car accident. Petra Schuermann never coped with the sudden loss and even lost her ability to speak. She ended her career, completely withdrew from public life, and retired to Lake Starnberg where she lived until her death. ■



I. Petra Schuermann with her husband.  
II. Petra Schuermann after her Miss World victory in 1957.





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## In Memoriam

### Gabriele Hövel-Heidenreich

\* October 27, 1956  
in Unna, Germany  
† November 23, 2009  
in Cologne, Germany

It is with great sadness  
that we have to announce  
the sudden passing of two very dear friends:

Gabriele Hövel-Heidenreich,  
GERMAN-WORLD'S web designer  
from January 2008 to August 2009  
& Richard Leland Martin, Jr.,  
GERMAN-WORLD'S account manager  
at Southwest Offset Printing in Gardena, CA.  
Both were a tremendous support  
in developing  
GERMAN WORLD Magazine further.  
They will never be forgotten.

**Our deepest sympathy  
to their loved ones and friends.**

Petra Schürmann  
& The GERMAN WORLD Team

### Richard Leland Martin, Jr.

\* May 20, 1956  
† December 25, 2009  
in Fountain Valley, CA



### Walter Brethauer † January 31, 2010

Walter Brethauer,  
who served as the  
president of the Phoenix  
Club in Anaheim, CA,  
for many years and was  
one of the most prominent  
members of the German  
community in Southern  
California, died very  
unexpectedly on January  
31, 2010 in California.  
He will be missed.

Our sincerest condolences  
go to his wife Marianne,  
his family and friends.

Petra Schürmann  
& The GERMAN WORLD Team

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