

# Mut zum Hut

## The 17th German Hat Festival

A report from Ruth Eberz

Each year, at the end of September, painter, artist, authoress and hat lover Mrs Ute Patel-Missfeldt, together with her family and enthusiastic team, presents the largest and most successful hat festival in Germany.

The festival takes place within a Renaissance castle in Neuburg an der Donau, a lovely, historic town 85km north of Munich on the banks of the River Donau (Danube). Visitors arrive from all over Germany and neighbouring countries to enjoy the many events, and to view and select a winter hat or a cocktail hat from the vast range of hats and headwear presented by the 62 milliners and hat makers. From small designers to large international companies, from simple hand-made felt hats to exquisite fur felt fedoras, there is a lot to see.

The festival begins on Friday afternoon in the main hall in front of a packed audience. This year the mayor of Neuburg, Dr. Bernhard Gmehling, officially announced the festival 'open', after which the audience was entertained with a performance from the Indian 'Monalisa Gosh-Ensemble' and an Indian sari show. The stands were then officially open and buying could begin! This year the selection included 22 jewellery designers and 22 artists and accessory designers.

Visitors had a choice of two runways for the daily fashion shows, the large show inside, presented by Ute Patel-Missfeldt, and a smaller event outside in the open air, presented by her assistant Wera Peters. A well-known brass band from Neuburg spread good vibes in the main courtyard. And of course the special cafés and restaurants were set up with handmade cakes and regional specialities. There was, all over the castle grounds, a colourful and lively program!

PHOTOS: 1. Singing duo 'Sole Mio' entertain visitors throughout the weekend; 2. The event is located within the Renaissance castle, set on the banks of the river Danube; 3. A daily hat and fashion event was shown in the courtyard; 4. Ute Patel-Missfeldt (left) enjoying 'the moment' with our reporter Ruth Eberz; 5. One of the large halls, where 'Buttons Budke' were offering a wide selection of vintage buttons





Photographs courtesy of Ruth Eberz



12.



13.



14.



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16.



17.



18.

PHOTOS: 1. Gisela Hähnle opened her store and atelier in 1953 in Schechingen, near Stuttgart. Her granddaughter Juliane Fischer, also a 'Modisten-Meisterin', continues the tradition with this 1950s inspired collection; 2. Pepa Tocados (centre) travelled from Spain, bringing hats with a Bavarian influence to the festival. Last year she won one of the prizes at the competition in Caussade; 3. Beate studied fashion-design and has created fashion and hats since 1984, under her label Beate Bonk-Dornberg. She worked initially in Berlin before moving to Ingolstadt; 4. Louise de Wolff has designed hats for 15 years in Vlissingen/Netherlands. She specialises in cocktail hats, which are very popular and much sought after at this festival; 5. Stefan Róka works as a metalsmith and has made

and sold his own caps for the past four years; 6. Nicole Basien with her collection of colourful handmade toques; 7. Cheppi Traute Hoyer showed a small collection of felts and small feminine hats; 8. Birgit Roßdeutscher with her collection of felts, under the Der Hutladen label; 9. Anneliese Hartung has fifty years experience as a milliner and has enjoyed the festival for many years. Anneliese (second left) with her husband and team from Der Hutsalon am Dom; 10. Kathryn Lacampo on the Christy's of London stand just before purchasing a hat! 11. Helena Sihombing, Sandra Kho and Tien Kho have been producing flower and feather mounts since 1972, and are proud to have provided the flowers for Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall's wedding hat in 2005; 12. Susanne Schneider showed a collection

of colourful Bavarian hats, with the traditional feathers and flowers; 13. Elena K. and Stephen Lochner, from Hutgalerie in Berlin, with a full range of blocked felts and soft caps; 14. Dennis Plooiij from H.P. Tex in the Netherlands brought a comprehensive range of hats and materials, including copies of The HAT Magazine – well done! 15. Julia Gröger showed a collection of head wraps and felt flowers; 16. Der Hutkönig have a position in the main hall each year, where Andrea Nuslan demonstrates hand steaming and blocking; 17. Newcomer Gerlinde Daems, originally from Antwerp in Belgium, showed a collection of small hats and cloches; 18. Angelika Löbering is based in Hamburg and has been making hats for twenty years. She showed a collection of feminine felts trimmed with flowers