

MIT ZUM HUT

Neuburg an der Donau, Germany  
www.mutzumhut.de

BY PATRICIA ADLER, HAT DESIGNER FROM BERLIN, GERMANY (see THM Issue 70)

It was my first visit to the Mut zum Hut hat festival and I was very impressed. The surroundings of the castle in the upper old town of Neuburg on the Danube are breathtakingly beautiful. The people are very nice and polite. Everywhere you look, you can see the history of the city. In the historic inner courtyard of the Neuburg Castle you come across the first stalls of the hat makers. From there you are directly led into the surrounding rooms of the castle, where you can find more hatters, milliners, goldsmiths, tailors and designers on three levels. Around the historical castle are located the beautiful restaurants and cafes of the old town of Neuburg, where you can eat and drink during your visit. Only a few minutes' walk from the castle are the 'Marstall' and 'Boxenstall' exhibition rooms (former stables), where other craftsmen, designers and traders present their goods.

I was surprised by the great variety and the imagination of the exhibitors. A day is not enough to be able to see everything, especially when you visit the fashion show. One should plan at least two days for the visit and pack shoes that are suitable for cobblestones! The highlight was the large fashion show, introduced personally by organiser Ute Patel-Mißfeldt, who recounted anecdotes from her life as a hat wearer and from past years of the Mut zum Hut hat festival.

For the hat lover, it was an experience to savour. The entrance fees are very reasonably priced – €9 for a day ticket and €20 for the weekend ticket. You can buy elaborate haute couture creations, but for those on a small budget there are also affordable offers. In short, it was an event that should not be missed!

RUTH EBERZ, MILLINER AND EXHIBITOR FROM MÜLHEIM AN DER RUHR, GERMANY

This year the festival opened with the theme 'The Golden 20s' and so everyone took part and I wore my white dress and matching cloche hat. Last year I came as a visitor, and this year I had a small stand, and met many interesting clients including two American ladies that Ute had invited, and they were a big sensation at the fair! The first was J. Alyce (Cornyn-Selby), who



is Executive Director of the National Hat Museum of the USA, America's largest hat museum with over 1,300 hats. It features both men's and women's hats dating back over two centuries. The National Hat Museum, we learnt, is located in the historic Ladd-Reingold House in Portland, Oregon, and is an extensive collection of every decade, with international hats, hats from Hollywood movies and children's vintage hats. Alyce has also written 15 books, is a member of the Costume Society of America, provided 60 hats for the Workman Publishing 'Calendar of Hats' and much more. The other lady was LuAnn Trotebas, Assistant Director of the National Hat Museum, who is responsible for unique acquisitions at the museum. LuAnn has expertise in display work, and is passionate about all aspects of vintage

clothing. Both Alyce and LuAnn appeared in BBC's film 'The World's Most Famous Train' (The Orient Express).

LOUISE AND PIET DE WOLFF FROM VLISSINGEN IN THE NETHERLANDS

Louise and I have been attending Mut Zum Hut for ten years and have built up, during that time, a tremendous clientele. Our stand is in the main hall, where the opening show takes place on the Friday evening, and where Ute Patel (artist, comedian and avid hat wearer) welcomes everyone to the festival. This year the opening party was inspired by the 1920s and included a tango demonstration.

Saturday morning was busy with an open-air catwalk show in the courtyard, where a small musical ensemble, dressed



in period clothes, entertained the visitors. Two other historic buildings just along the road are also used for the festival, where they serve good coffee and superb cakes. At the afternoon fashion show Ute introduced two American ladies from the National Hat Museum in Portland (OR), who were very impressed with the event and the number of exhibitors at the show.

Sunday was even busier with a brass band concert; we were told almost 7,000 people attended over the weekend. On a sad note, we had to say a fond farewell to Wera Peeter, Ute's assistant, who we liked very much.

For us this year's interesting newcomers were Lana Semenova, a Russian woman from the Netherlands, whose silk painted flowers are superb - she's selling flowers over here and is doing workshops in

Holland ([www.zijdenbloem.nl](http://www.zijdenbloem.nl)); a very nice design student called Sandra Levycka, with nice little creations made mostly from random collected little items - good ideas for the future ([www.pinkflamehats.de](http://www.pinkflamehats.de)); and George and Irina Saradev from Bulgaria (I think you introduced them in your Caussade coverage in Issue 70) - nice people with fun knitwear and hats.

We drank beer with all our friends, laughed a lot, and had a great time... and sold even more than last year!

**FROM UTE AND VALLABH PATEL-MIßFELDT**

The hat show was a great success. The model (hat) shows were totally booked up some long time ago. Alyce Cornyn and her assistant came all the way from USA just to visit the hat show, and were very much

impressed. Therefore we thank all our visitors and our exhibitors for making the event such a big success, and look forward to seeing you again in 2017.

PHOTOS: 1. Patricia Adler wearing a hat from her collection entitled 'Drunhats' (right) with organiser Ute Patel-Mißfeldt; 2. The castle, which overlooks the River Danube; 3. This year's 'Hatqueen' Janine Halder crowned for 2016; 4. The open-air catwalk show; 5. Design student Sandra Levycka from Pink Flame Hats; 6. Alyce and LuAnn who run the National Hat Museum in America were special guests at the festival; 7. The inner courtyard, where the visitors could relax and listen to the musicians dressed in traditional (historic) clothing; 8. Ute conducts the fashion show; 9. Louise De Wolf with customers on her stand; 10. Thank you and farewell to Wera Peeter; 11. Lana Semenova and her silk painted flowers; 12. A young client in one of the halls in the castle wears a hat just purchased from Ruth Eberz