

# MUT ZUM HUT 2013

*Germany's Hat Extravaganza*

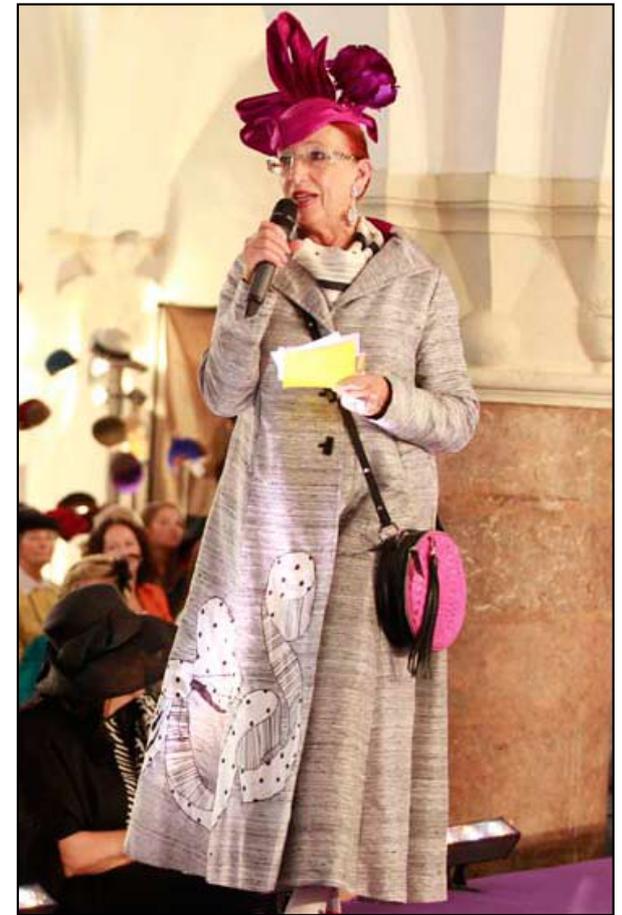


**At the end of September, thousands of tourists descended on the Renaissance town of Neuburg an der Donau in Germany with their hats on.**

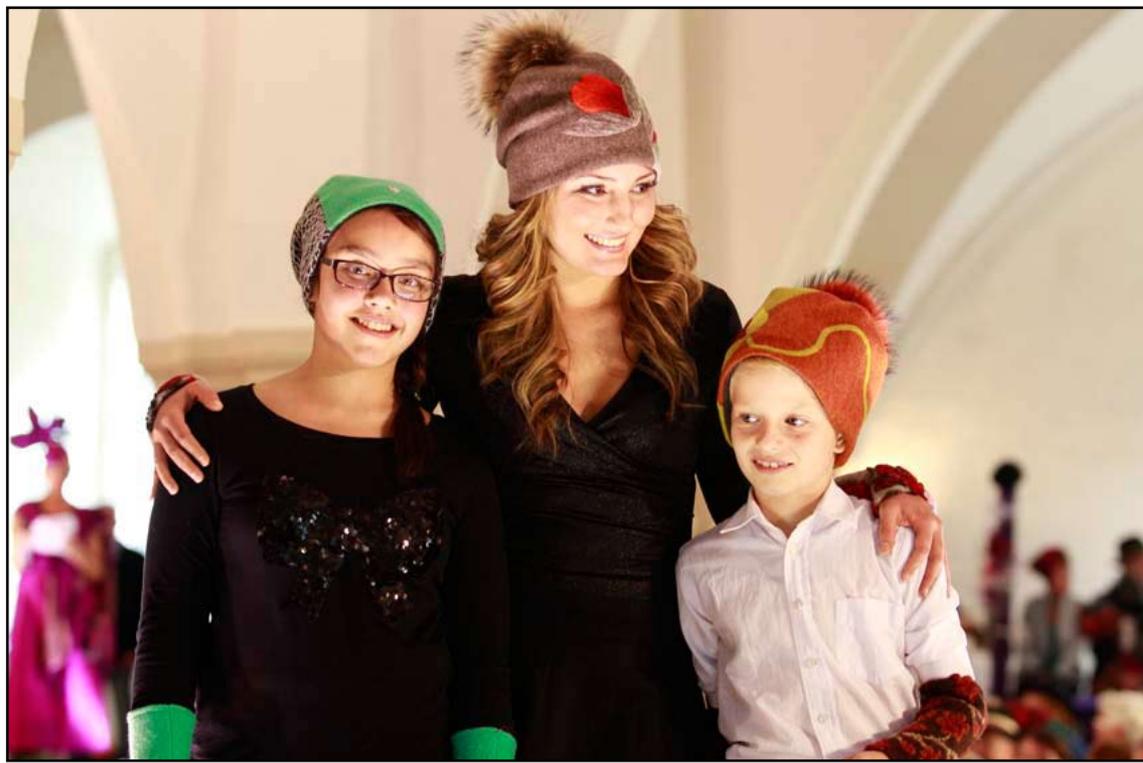
The crowds gathered to attend Mut Zum Hut, one of Europe's largest hat festivals, which was held in Neuburg's stunning Castle on the banks of the Donau River. For one weekend, the 16<sup>th</sup> century Palace was taken over by hat enthusiasts. With soft waltz music playing in the background, guests watched catwalk shows and hat demonstrations while searching for the perfect hat.

The event got underway on Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup> with a 'pre-opening' evening fashion show and then was officially opened at a ceremony on the following evening where Gisela Scholtmann wowed the audience with a catwalk show of her statement hats made from recycled materials. To add to the festive atmosphere, the shops in Neuburg opened until 11:00pm on the Friday evening, giving visitors a rare opportunity for late night shopping in the illuminated town. For the rest of the weekend, eventgoers had free run of the castle and grounds, where over 100 milliners and accessory designers had set up their stalls and over 15,000 hats were on display.





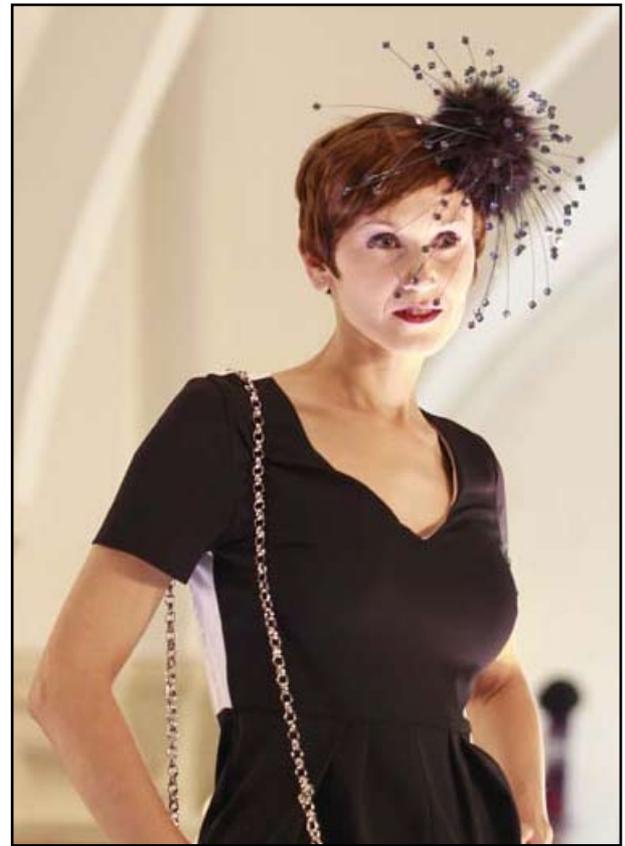
The founder and driving force of Mut Zum Hut is the indomitable Mrs Ute Patel-Mißfeldt. Always standing out from the crowd with her gregarious personality and eclectic wardrobe, Mrs Patel-Mißfeldt has made it her personal mission to raise the profile of millinery in Germany and beyond. She has been fully involved in every aspect of the planning and running of Mut Zum Hut since its inception in 1999 and loves to moderate the various fashion shows. This year, she was joined by German actress Michaela May (right), patron of the event.



Although she has held hat competitions in previous years, Mrs Patel-Mißfeldt decided to forego this part of the proceedings this time around. Rather than looking for the best hats, she says that she is “following another goal. That women and men should try to look beautiful.”

With the aim of getting people to wear hats more and to recognise the power that hats have to complete any style, headwear of every shape, size and description was sported on Mut Zum Hut’s runways. Some of the hats, like those pictured here, provided a unique take on classic winter styles. Turn the page to see some of the more formal pieces that were showcased...







Here are a selection of Gisela Scholtmann's upcycled creations, which were shown on the opening night. As you can see, Donau's Castle provided an impressive backdrop for showing off hats of every kind.

Mut Zum Hut continues to draw hat lovers from across the globe and this year a South Korean television crew even came to make a film of the event. "There are so many thankful women (and some men also) who send mail to me, even from Nepal, Thailand, Venezuela, etc," says Mrs Patel-Mißfeldt. "They say that this was the most beautiful event of the year for them."

Learn more at [www.mutzumhut.de](http://www.mutzumhut.de).