



The History of Schlosspark Theater, Berlin

The history of this renowned Berlin theatre goes back to the year 1804 when the Gutshaus (Manor House) Steglitz was built in neo-classical style, including a small theatre.

Ca. 1885, a rich tradesman had a building constructed on the premises next to the Gutshaus that served as a ballroom and restaurant at the time. In 1921, this building was remodelled and reopened under the name of Schlosspark Theater with 440 seats.

Shortly after the end of World War II, in 1945, the famous German theatre director Boleslaw Barlog took over as artistic director of Schlosspark Theater, where he produced more than 100 plays until 1972. Due to his good reputation, he managed to assemble a number of distinguished artists in his theatre: Celebrated actors like Klaus Kinski, Martin Held and Bernhard Minetti were part of the company, Sir Peter Ustinov produced and premiered some of his plays, Hildegard Knef debuted at the Steglitz theatre, and so on.

Especially in the post-war period, a couple of plays written by famous international, contemporary dramatists had their German-language premiere at Schlosspark Theatre, e.g. "En attendant Godot" by Samuel Beckett in 1953.

In 1950, Schlosspark Theater was appointed "Staatstheater" along with the bigger West-Berlin Schillertheater, with Boleslaw Barlog as general manager of both theatres until 1972, followed by Hans Lietzau and Boy Gobert.

After the end of the Berlin National Theatres in 1993, Schlosspark Theater was run as a private theatre with public subsidies, but in spite of an ambitious repertoire, manager Heribert Sasse did not succeed economically and had to close down in 2002.

From 2004 to 2006, the entertainment corporation Stage Entertainment (running Theater des Westens and Theater am Potsdamer Platz in Berlin) was a financially strong partner to Schlosspark Theater, managed by creative director Andreas Gergen. But even with a repertoire of musical theatre and operettas, the booking rate was not up to the level expected and so, Schlosspark Theater shut down again in summer 2006.

In December 2008, the famous German actor and theatre manager Dieter Hallervorden took over Schlosspark Theater in order to present straight theatre plays without a constant company. After substantial renovations, the 473-seated theatre was reopened on 1st September, 2009, in order to become the cultural centre of the south of Berlin once more.

The repertoire puts an emphasis on straight theater, but it also covers musical theatre, readings, concerts and "Kleinkunst".

The slogan of Schlosspark Theater represents its programme under the management of Dieter Hallervorden: **Wit and humour!**