

HEIDELBERG – Culture and Festival Town 2016**Dance, theater, music – cultural scene takes the town’s stage**

In 2016 cultural enthusiasts can get to know the many faces of Heidelberg – it the cabaret and comedy festival “*Carambolage*”, the Enjoy Jazz Festival, the international music festival “*Heidelberger Frühling*”, the Heidelberg *Stückemarkt* or the famous *Schlossfestspiele* (Castle Festival) and much more. Heidelberg will continue to present itself as a festival town in 2016.

17 December 2015 - 10 April 2016

Dubuffet's List. A commentary on the Prinzhorn Collection 1950

On 11 and 12 September 1950, the French painter Jean Dubuffet (1901-1985) visited the Prinzhorn Collection in Heidelberg – just five years after he had coined the term "Art Brut" for a raw, unpolished, not academic form of art. In a list, he reported on and evaluated the works he saw – usually in a few words like “extremely interesting”, “pretty good” or “mediocre”. The exhibition reconstructs Dubuffet's view of the collection as comprehensively as possible.

Further information at: <http://prinzhorn.ukl-hd.de/index.php?id=9&L=1>

February 6 – March 23, 2016

Schöner Lügen (beautiful lies) – the Heidelberg Chanson Festival

In February and March, Heidelberg will become the home of the German Chanson for the 15th time. Anyone who is anyone on the scene can be expected to meet here in the metropolitan region for the weeks of the “schöner lügen” festival. You can access the program for Germany’s biggest modern German Chanson festival online at www.schoenerluegen.de

March 6 - June 12, 2016

Special exhibition: “Wanderlust” in the Kurpfälzischen Museum (Palatinate Museum)

The exhibition presents a variety of objects that spectacularly bear witness to the desire to travel throughout the centuries.

Further information at www.museum-heidelberg.de

April 2 - 30, 2016

International Music Festival Heidelberger Frühling (Heidelberg Spring)

It is the largest music festival in South Germany and ranks among the top international festivals for classical music: Heidelberger Frühling (Heidelberg Spring). 2016 it celebrates its 20th season with roughly 120 events. Every year the festival envelops the romantic German city in a four-week musical buzz, becoming a cultural beacon in one of the most beautiful regions in Germany. American star-baritone Thomas Hampson, French pianist Marc-André Hamelin and the Argentinean cellist Sol Gabetta are among the numerous renowned artists who are billed to perform.

Further information at www.heidelberger-fruehling.de

April 29 - May 8, 2016

33rd Heidelberger Stückemarkt (Play Market) – host country Belgium

A marathon week of contemporary theater in Spring – that's the Heidelberger Stückemarkt. The next edition of the famous festival once again presents new theater pieces and their writers, groundbreaking esthetic approaches, artists talks and discussions. With a language barrier that runs straight through the land, its colonial history, as well as the multicultural city of Brussels which serves as the capital of the European Union, Belgium is an exciting place to reflect on Europe's present and future society.

Further information at www.heidelberger-stueckemarkt.de

April 29 - May 14, 2016

Alternativer Frühling (Alternative Spring) – Festival for Music and Contemporary Culture

The Alternativer Frühling will add to the Heidelberg cultural landscape for the fifth time in 2016. The art and cultural spectacle is regarded as a platform for non-institutionalized forms of art and culture. The spectrum spans from concerts, workshops and parties to exhibitions and artistic performances.

Further information at www.halle02.de

May 16 – 30, 2016

8th Queer Festival Heidelberg

A broad range of concerts, club nights, films, exhibitions and talks surrounding the topics of queerness, homosexuality, gender equality and discrimination.

Further information at www.queer-festival.de

June 2 - 5, 2016

22nd Heidelberger Literaturtage (Heidelberg Literature Days)

The program made up of readings of international authors, author discussions and music has drawn attention across the country. The special atmosphere of an original Art Nouveau style tent provides room for up to 300 literature fans and hosts Heidelberg's diverse range of publishers, book stores, libraries and cultural institutions in its alcoves.

Further information at www.heidellittage.de

June 4, July 9 and September 3, 2016

Heidelberg Castle Illuminations with Firework

The legendary Castle Illuminations every year capture the imagination of thousands of people – hardly another city offers such magical nights every year in June, July and September. Bengali flares slowly bathe the Heidelberg Castle in a mysterious red firelight, as if the ruins were on fire once again in their long history. As the last times in 1689 and 1693, when the troops of the Sun King Louis XIV burnt down the castle, leaving behind the world-famous ruins. When the glowing Castle slowly dies down, the second part of the spectacle

begins – the brilliant fireworks over the Neckar. The Elector Friedrich V first had the fireworks staged in 1613, in order to provide a fitting welcome for his newly-betrothed wife Elizabeth Stuart. These fireworks laid the cornerstone for the later festivals of light held in the night sky over Heidelberg – celebrating its 400th Jubilee in the year 2013. The banks of the Neckar and the Philosophers' Walk around 10 pm are the best locations from which to admire the Castle Illuminations. Further information is available from
Further information at www.heidelberg-event.com

June 15 – July 31, 2016

Heidelberger Schlossfestspiele (Heidelberg Castle Festival)

Summer will see the reopening of the town's most beautiful stages at Heidelberg Castle. Among other things, spectators can look forward to the popular musical "Kiss Me Kate", the reproduction of the most beautiful romance in the world "Romeo and Juliet", the children's play "Freund Till, genannt Eulenspiegel" (Master Tyll Owlglass). And of course, the castle courtyard will once again be turned into a concert hall under the open sky for a whole series of stirring concerts.

Further information at www.heidelberger-schlossfestspiele.de

July 20 - 24, 2016

ARTORT016 mi(ee)ts Kunst

The UnterwegsTheater brings international dance and video performance art to places of art in Heidelberg – artists from around the world dance at museums, galleries, churches and squares. Afterwards, a bus takes ARTORT016 visitors to Hebel-Halle where they can see specific performances unfold on stage.

Further information at www.unterwegstheater.de or www.art-ort.net

July 21 - 28, 2016

Heidelberg Bach Week (Heidelberger Bachwoche)

The Heidelberg Bach Week is celebrated every year in the days leading up to the anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach's death. For 29 years, the anniversary has been devoted to a subject which sets Bach's works in relation to other areas of music, art or religion. In line with the theme "Bach and the World", interpretations of Bach's music from Africa, the Far East and South America can be heard this year.

The Bach Week ends with a nocturnal organ concert – a particularly stirring moment, when on the anniversary of Bach's death the last tone sounds out shortly after midnight in the Heiliggeistkirche.

Further information at www.studentenkantorei.de

September 24 + 25, 2016

47th Heidelberg Autumn (Heidelberger Herbst)

Live Music, the Craft Market, Flea Market, culture and stalls with regional specialties – Heidelberg's greatest city festival on the last weekend in September always sets great store on the cooperation of many associations, gastronomes, citizens and cultural organizers.

By the evening at the latest, the Old Town has then been transformed into a unique, huge open-air concert, offering something to suit every possible taste.

Further information at www.heidelberg-event.com

September 30 – October 3, 2016

20th Heidelberger KinderTheaterFestival (Heidelberg Children's Theater Festival)

The Heidelberg Children's Theater Festival with gamemobiles, workshops, game events and theater plays – Kulturfenster Heidelberg invites in three big theater tents on the Neckarwiese. Theater companies from across Germany will perform 13 theater plays over four days.

Further information at www.kulturfenster.de

October 2 - November 12, 2016

18th International Enjoy Jazz Festival

For around seven weeks long, the Festival offers varied events, with the focus on Jazz, but also allied genres such as classical, pop, rock, hip-hop or electro. At exclusive performance areas in Heidelberg, Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, Enjoy Jazz invites devotees to concert moments and master classes, matinees, symposia, parties and other exciting projects.

Further information at www.enjoyjazz.de

October 1 – November 27, 2016

Denke.schön – Cabaret Autumn

Those who are after profound thought, political gems and black humor will be in good hands during the weeks of Denke.schön (beautiful thoughts) Cabaret Autumn. A total of ten cabaret artists will take the audience with them on their satirical journeys on a variety of stages.

Further information at www.kulturfenster.de

October 14 – 28, 2016

11th Französische Woche Heidelberg (French Week)

French Week offers cultural enjoyment for all ages and interests, from cooking and language courses to scientific talks – embedded in an abundance of music, literature, theater, movie and art. It has a unique concept: public cultural institutions as well as private creative artists are represented within the framework of around 80 events.

Further information at www.franzoesische-woche.de

October 20 – 30, 2016

19th Heidelberg Theater Days 2016

In autumn 2016 Heidelberg will be fully occupied with the Free Theater: The "Freie Theaterverein Heidelberg" in cooperation with the "Kulturhaus Karlstorbahnhof e. V." and the "Theater im Romanischen Keller" invites guests to the Heidelberg Theater Days of the "Free Group". During the course of this Festival, the Heidelberg Theater Prize will be awarded for the 19th time. The prize is awarded to free voice theater productions which provide new impetus and ideas for the free theater. One main interest of the "Theater Days" is the exchange and the networking between the different branches of the theater.

Further information is available from www.karlstorbahnhof.de

November 4 – 19, 2016

65th Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival

The Mannheim-Heidelberg International Film Festival offers talented film-makers an inspiring environment of the like-minded, and every year presents still unknown directors. From over 1,000 entries, the jury annually selects only 40 to 50 films by new authors – as genuine premiers. Throughout the year, the Selection Committee and the scouts scour the world for these unusual works, which they recognize as the most interesting and individual. Every film presented in Mannheim-Heidelberg therefore attracts the attention of

around 1,000 representatives of the sector and the press, and equally the 60,000 or so visitors to the Festival. Further information is available from www.iffmh.de

November 21 – December 22, 2016

Heidelberg Christmas Market

The aroma of roasted almonds, cinnamon and hot chestnuts wafts through the winding alleyways of the Old Town. It is Christmas time in Heidelberg – the Heidelberg Old Town radiates in Christmas magic. Hardly have the six squares in the Old Town and “Germany’s most beautiful ice-rink” opened against the impressive setting of the Castle, when the market is quickly filled by the people of Heidelberg and regional and international guests. The atmosphere is unique – the stalls nestle idyllically amongst the historic squares of the Old Town, offering a warming glow of light along one of the longest pedestrian zones in Europe. Something else very special is also the Christmas Market in the “Kloster Stift Neuburg”, which is held on all four Advent weekends. Further information is available from www.heidelberg-event.com

November 21, 2016 – start of January 2017

Heidelberg Ice-Skating Rink and the “Winterwäldchen” (Winter Woods)

During the Christmas Market and on into January, “Germany’s most beautiful ice-rink” on the Karlsplatz is available for skating (till January 8). Against the romantic backdrop of the Heidelberg Castle and to the accompaniment of Christmas music, Heidelberg’s guests glide over the ice. The fairy-tale winter woods at the “Kornmarkt” also continue to work their magic on into the 1st of January. Further information is available from www.heidelbergevent.com

December 1 to 13, 2016

Heidelberg Castle Christmas

The Heidelberg Castle Christmas will cast its spell again this year with a blaze of lights in the famous Castle’s Stückgarten. Whether up the castle steps on foot or via the funicular, a detour from the Heidelberg Christmas Market up to the Castle is an absolute must.

Festively decorated pagoda tents will feature regional artists offering their handicrafts made of felt, wool, glass, wood, ceramic and leather. The Castle towering majestically over the Old Town – the epitome of German romanticism for tourists from across the world since the 19th Century – will be festively lit to make it truly eye-catching. Kids can craft away to their hearts’ content with great participatory events – and there is plenty for the bon vivant too: whether gingerbread biscuits, crêpes or hearty sausages, there’s plenty to nibble and feast on. Of course the divine Heidelberg mulled wine is not to be missed either.

Further information is available from www.schloss-heidelberg.de

January 26 - 29, 2017

13th Streichquartettfest Heidelberg (String Quartet Festival)

A festival for the supreme discipline of chamber music: The Streichquartettfest 2017 features concerts as well as workshops and rounds of discussion. An enthusiastic audience will have access to four days of various quartettes making music, holding discussions, experimenting and sampling.

You can find additional information at www.streichquartettfest.de

February 25, 2017

Ball der Vampire (Vampire’s Ball) at the Kongresshaus Stadthalle Heidelberg

Sharp – Sharper – the Vampire’s Ball! There’s absolutely nothing more iconic than this event of unusual masks at the Stadthalle Heidelberg (Convention Center) for which costume rental shops spend many sleepless nights

preparing. This ball with bite is no place for the boring or the faint-hearted, and certainly not the place to turn up wearing sailor suit.

You can find additional information at <http://www.heidelberg-marketing.de/events/highlights/ball-der-vampire.html>

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Image material for downloading:

<https://ww2.heidelberg.de/owncloud/index.php/s/H5okVOV4u4s0AuW>