

Press conference of the Bundestheater-Holding, 16 February 2024

Back to normality?

Successful annual financial statements despite inflation and the energy crisis

The 2022/23 financial year was characterised by a positive annual financial statement with a pleasing income situation despite significantly rising operating costs, especially in the energy sector. A successful result was achieved thanks to income exceeding the budgeted figures and the renewed increase in basic compensation from the federal government in autumn 2022.

At today's press conference, the Managing Director of Bundestheater-Holding, Christian Kircher, published the annual report for the 2022/23 season. The season was characterised by a return to normality. The Vienna State Opera and the Volksoper Vienna were able to the successes of the pre-corona period with seat occupancy rates of 97.8% and 78% respectively. In the spoken theatre, sick leave, performance cancellations and casting changes continued to pose major challenges. Despite these difficulties, the Burgtheater is among the leaders internationally in terms of audience numbers. In total, the Austrian Federal Theatres welcomed 1,202,505 visitors (previous year: 890,539) to 1,549 performances (previous year: 1,354).

The revenue situation at the stage companies is also on the way to normalisation. Sales revenues for the entire Bundestheater Group totalled EUR 76.9 million in the reporting year (previous year: EUR 54.6 million). The Wiener Staatsoper's own contribution margin rose to 43.5% (previous year: 30.3%), that of the Vienna Volksoper to 19.1% (previous year: 14.3%) and that of the Burgtheater to 21.2% (previous year: 20 %).

The attendance figures for the current 2023/24 season match or exceed the successful times before coronavirus. The occupancy rate for the current season (until 31 January 2024) is 99.16% at the Vienna State Opera, 84.34% at the Volksoper Wien and 67.2% at the Burgtheater.

In the reporting year, there was an increased focus on the compliance issues of "abuse of power" and "child welfare". The newly created "Data Protection & Compliance" unit organised group-wide training courses for employees and completely revised the Compliance Code.

The "Human Resources" position at Bundestheater-Holding has implemented and continues to implement measures together with the companies to combat the shortage of skilled workers and promote apprentices. A group-wide employee survey was conducted for the first time in the 2022/23 season.

Several construction projects under the leadership of Bundestheater-Holding were realised with an investment and maintenance volume of around EUR 6.5 million. For the current season, Bundestheater-

Holding and Burgtheater GmbH are planning to re-seat the Akademietheater, which is why it will be closed for renovation work at the beginning of June 2024.

The continuation of the Austrian Federal Theatres' successful energy management has reduced total energy consumption by 24% over the past eight years.

Many measures at the Austrian Federal Theatres are focussed on sustainability, and not just in preparation for the upcoming mandatory ESG reporting. In line with this endeavour, this annual report has been produced in a climate-friendly "cradle to cradle" manner for the first time.

Following the successful certification of the Burgtheater with the Austrian Ecolabel in autumn 2023, the Vienna State Opera and the Volksoper Wien are aiming to obtain this quality label in the current calendar year.