

PRESS RELEASE



53rd Moers Festival 2024: A Gesamtkunstwerk, Enchanting Soundscapes, and a Tribute to a Lower Rhine Legend

Preliminary Review of the 2024 Edition

(Moers, May 20, 2024) As the internationally renowned Moers Festival - a jazz festival for music, reflection, politics, superheroines, and: togetherness! - continued to present its program of fireworks until late Pentecost Monday evening on the final day, Artistic Director Tim Isfort and Jeanne-Marie Varain, Managing Director of Moers Kultur GmbH, provided a preliminary summary during a press conference at noon. The 53rd edition of the festival showcased around 220 musicians from 20 different countries in approximately 100 concerts and sessions, the music education project "Captain Niederrhein in the Rush of the Unimoersum," high profile discussions!, and the exhibition "stolen moments" over four days, featuring a program of unpredictable and diverse sounds. Under the laconic Lower Rhine motto "Nothing Intoxicating" - inspired by the style of Moers legend Hanns-Dieter Hüscher - Artistic Director Tim Isfort and his team once again invited audiences to intoxicating soundscapes and a summit of musical boundary-crossing from all genres, as well as to save the world.

Full Program, Stable Ticket Sales, High Economic Impact

According to Managing Director Jeanne-Marie Varain, ticket sales remained stable this year despite the variable weather, with an estimated 1,250 tickets sold for all four festival days. The venues, from the ENNI Event Hall to the open-air stage at the Rodelberg, the ANNEX, and locations in the city center, were highly attended. The program was presented in full without interruption despite heavy rain on Saturday, although visitor numbers at the free-access area dropped on Saturday afternoon. Total attendance this year was estimated at approximately 25,000 visitors (2023: 30,000). Additionally, around 60 stands were accredited at the market. For the artists, a total of 640 hotel nights were booked in Moers and neighboring communities during the festival, with 350 shuttle rides organized by the festival team. The overall picture also includes 300 tents at the Solimare campsite and the support of 95 volunteers, who participated in the "1 day of work, 1 day of celebration" program. About 100 accredited journalists from 10 countries reported on the festival.

The Radiance of Moers Once Again as a Gesamtkunstwerk

According to a festival survey, most visitors came to Moers because of the program, curiosity, and the unique atmosphere. Managing Director Jeanne-Marie Varain stated,

"We are delighted with this feedback, which confirms that the festival's appeal lies in its artistic quality and unique curation." The organizers also noted a significant increase in younger audiences.

Artistic Director Tim Isfort reflected on this year's program. In addition to well-known figures such as trombone legend Conny Bauer, harpist Zeena Parkins, and guitarists Arto Lindsay and Caspar Brötzmann, the program's radiance lay in the vibrant diversity of young, international acts. This unique mix was further enriched by contributions from the 2024 focus countries, Japan and Namibia - from speedy free-tech metal to traditional songs of the Ju'/Hoansi from Namibia and masterful Koto performances from Japan. The festival intends to continue its close relationship with Japan, dating back to its founding years, and to maintain the regular invitations to musicians from an African country, established in 2020, in 2025. This year, the Moers Improviser in Residence, saxophonist Virginia Genta, was also featured.

Amidst a program with political aspirations and an international artist community with diverse political backgrounds and positions, the organizers emphasized - both in the program booklet and on stage - that Moers is a "sensitive environment" where freedom of expression and exchange of ideas are paramount, yet antisemitic statements are not tolerated in any form.

The "Spirit of Moers" could also be experienced live on the VR in moersland and on the cultural radio station WDR 3, and can be revisited there.

The federally funded Moers Festival is a staple in the cultural calendar and regularly garners national and international attention. Allies of the 2024 Moers Festival include the Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media (BKM), the Ministry of Culture and Science of the State of North Rhine-Westphalia, the city of Moers, the Arts Foundation NRW, the Cultural Space Lower Rhine e.V., ENNI, the Volksbank Niederrhein eG, and other local and regional sponsors and supporters. Media partners are the cultural radio WDR3 and Kultur.West.

Royalty-free images of the festival can be accessed at this link:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lo55Uxj9AXe1yH-2Wgtm_RNPEHpRaz87, with credit to the named authors in the filenames requested.

Press Contact for Moers Festival:

Festival Office / Moers Kultur GmbH: Ostring 9, 47441 Moers, Tel: 02841 367 367 5