

MEDIA RELEASE // approx. 5'000 characters

The Curtain Rises on the Temporary Theater Cube

Hüttwilen, March 10, 2016 // **Theater lovers in Bern are being offered something very special. The performances for the 2016 season will take place, not in the usual venerable municipal theater, but in the middle of Bern's Old Town. NUSSLI installed a temporary theater cube with a historical look in record time on Waisenhausplatz. And the program managers made just the right choice for this provisional arrangement. They will open the season with *Improvisorium* on March 19 and present a program that thoroughly involves the theater cube and features delightfully exciting, impassioned and fascinating performances until October 2016.**

"If the restoration work at the municipal theater is delayed again, we can easily leave the cube standing for another season during the winter or even adjust the building to changing needs at a later date," says NUSSLI Project Manager, Christian Frei. For him, the cube is much more than a temporary hall with theater infrastructure. Frei is the developer of the new NUSSLI modular hall system, and the theater cube is like his first "baby." For a year and a half, he and his team worked on the development of the system with which the halls can be constructed within a very short time, even at the most unusual locations, in any size and with column-free spans of up to 40 meters.

Efficient and Easy to Build

Christian Frei was often on site during construction on Waisenhausplatz and lent a hand time and again, because the assembly of the modular hall system is almost as thrilling as its unlimited applications. At the very beginning, the assembly crew installs the external structure with the flexible NUSSLI construction system. Then, they completely assemble the roof structure, including the sound and lighting fixtures, on the ground at a comfortable working height within the designated construction area. Finally, the entire roof structure is moved to its final height. This construction method reduces the required installation space to a minimum and enables installation even on sensitive ground while increasing the safety of the crew. All the streets around the cube on Bern's Waisenhausplatz were able to remain open to traffic throughout the construction, and the crane-free assembly did not stress the underlying parking garage structure in any way.

Central Location Opens up Possibilities

The idea of bringing the theater cube to the audience instead of bringing the audience to an existing provisional arrangement opens up new possibilities for the Bern Theater. The program was therefore put together with a conscious effort to include events which reflect the central position in the public square and appeal to various interests. So, a tango milonga, a public viewing of the European Soccer Championship and a James Bond evening are scheduled in addition to ballet, opera and drama. The modular hall system offers some important advantages, especially for construction projects in public places, on sensitive ground, or with limited access. The construction system requires no foundations, there is significantly less point loading than with construction using conventional steel supports, and the total load is evenly distributed over the entire ground surface. Because Waisenhausplatz sits directly atop a parking garage which is subject to special static requirements, there were no problems for the theater cube despite its 1000-square meter size and 200-ton weight. No heavy crane equipment is needed, especially for assembly work in modular hall system. "We could have set the theater cube up on the Pilatus or on a golf course," laughs Project Manager Frei. "That would work."

Plan Today, Build Tomorrow

The planning of the Bern Theatre cube with 480 seats, catering, backstage and technical areas as well as a cloakroom took less than a year. "A month after the first truck rolled out with its material, the cube was already cladded, equipped, and ready to go," recounts Christian Frei. He is looking forward to the reactions after the first performance, but adds quite calmly: "If the theater organization still wants modifications, it can be quickly and easily adjusted. The walls of the cube are also made of system material. They have just the exact thickness so that the entire installation can be accommodated in them and still remain easily accessible."

Plans for the next projects with the modular hall system are already underway. Besides other theater constructions, NUSSLI is planning a double-decker bridge for the IndyCar race in Boston in September. A bridge that has it all, because it crosses over the racetrack to the South Boston waterfront and will be equipped as a VIP lounge. The sophisticated structure consists entirely of system material. Therefore, it is possible to start construction one day after approval of the construction concept on the part of the client or the authorities - which is unparalleled!

Photo material can be find in the current news entry:

http://www.nussli.us/press-news/news-details/news/a-temporary-theater-cube-with-a-historical-look-3147/514.html?no_cache=1

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About NUSSLI

With its temporary event structures, NUSSLI ensures that sport, cultural and business events held throughout the world leave a lasting impression. Our product line includes temporary grandstands, stages, event structures, event halls, pavilions as well as exhibition and museum structures. Since the founding of the Swiss company in 1941, NUSSLI has been developing technologically advanced and proven construction systems which form the structural framework for all types and sizes. Every day, 450 specialized professionals in 20 locations throughout the world bring their in-depth know-how, innovative approaches and flexibility to the table as they go to work on multifaceted design and construction projects. Each year, NUSSLI designs and builds approximately 2,000 exceptional event structures throughout the world, on time, with a reliable standard of quality, and precisely tailored to clients' requirements. For more information, please visit www.nussli.com