

## 7. International Sand Sculpture Festival / 2. USF World Solo Championship June 7<sup>th</sup> – August 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof (central station)

### PRESS RELEASE

#### **SANDSATION 2009: The “City of Future” comes into being at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof**

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, the international sand sculpture festival opens its gates at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof for the seventh time. Each year, the city's biggest open air gallery fascinates up to 120,000 visitors from all over the world with its gigantic sand art works.

What will it look like, the city of the future? This motto, “City of Future”, will inspire the elite amongst the international sand artists. Twelve sculptures of up to 4.5 metres in height, each one constructed as an imaginary urban world, will enter the competition for the world champion title in sand sculpture construction. With an 8 metres high show piece the artists will also take a joint look into the future – “Berlin in the year 2222” is the theme for this collectively created sculpture.

On the opening day, SANDSATION will initially look back into the eventful past of the roughly 5,000 square metres large festival site since the altogether 18 sculptures are placed on historic grounds near the former checkpoint at Invalidenstraße. The Humboldthafen is one of the official scenes of the theme year celebrating “20 Jahre Mauerfall – 20 Jahre Stadt im Wandel”, the anniversary of the fall of the Berlin wall along with the transitions the city has gone through since. SANDSATION makes this transition at the specific location of the festival appreciable.

Wolfgang Thelen of the Deutsches Technikmuseum knows how to tell exciting stories about the harbour's past, starting with the very early beginnings of a sand pit with a sand tankard and a sand bridge, to then move on to the time of the border and when the wall came down until today. The accompanying photo exhibition gives the visitors the opportunity to see SANDSATION's transition at the Hauptbahnhof throughout the years.

On Sunday June 7<sup>th</sup>, the **Small Opening** will give the starting signal for the competition for the world champion title in sand sculpture construction. Twelve international solo artists will enter the competition for the 2. USF (United Sand Festivals) World Solo Championship. Will last year's winner of the category 'double', Sudarsan Pattnaik from India, be able to defend the title in the 'solo' category against first class carvers from e.g. the USA, Russia or Japan?

Over a period of one week the die-hard sand sculpture fans can watch the artists make filigree sand sculpture art from rough sand pyramids. As part of the **Grand Opening ceremony on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>**, the winner of the 2. USF World Solo Championship will be awarded. A jury of sophisticated, prominent people will award the winners. Among the members of the jury will be Eckhardt Barthel, chairman of the Neuköllner Oper. The adults' favourite sculptures will be chosen between June 29<sup>th</sup> and July 12<sup>th</sup>.

#### **The sandy “Animal Park” for children**

For the first time, SANDSATION presents an extra space just for children: The “Animal Park” – a sand sculpture zoo with five up to three and a half metres high animal sculptures. One of the first members of SANDSATION, Lena Tempich, together with her team invites everyone to come together and take a look at their favourite animals built gigantically high using nothing but sand. Of course, the kids can also grab a shovel and have fun on their own little sand hill. Between July 15<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> all children can vote for their favourite sculptures. Special note to all young sand artists: The **SANDSATION Family Day** on August 2<sup>nd</sup> will be when the best young carver gets awarded!

#### **Supporting Programme**

Enjoy food and drinks at the beach bar, sit in deck chairs at the river Spree and come to see a varied programme amongst the fascinating sand art; SANDSATION invites to linger in an outstanding atmosphere. A huge circus tent gives you a break from the sun or shelter from rain. Every Friday and Saturday the sculptures shine in different lights. Torches, colourful lighting and some chilled out music in the background magically create an enchanted dream-like world, best to be enjoyed with a cocktail in a deck chair. Queer nights, Salsa courses, fashion shows, photo exhibitions, it's a tradition at SANDSATION that you will get a widely mixed programme around the impressive sand sculptures. For starters, there's the Fête de la Musique on the European Music Day on June 21<sup>st</sup>. From 6p.m. four bands from different musical backgrounds will play live music. More information on the parties and concerts at the SANDSATION festival can be found on [www.sandsation.de](http://www.sandsation.de).

#### **Free workshops and guided tours**

There's more to do at SANDSATION than to just watch and marvel. SANDSATION invites you to participate and with the help of professional instructions you can fully express your creativity. Berlin sand artist give their fans insights into the fascinating world of carving. During the **Free Carving Workshops for the entire family** every Saturday and Sunday from June 13 between 2p.m. and 6p.m. they pass on some of their extraordinary skills. Free guided tours are given on Sundays at 3p.m., starting on June 14<sup>th</sup>.

Enjoy art and fun or just relax right in the centre of Berlin at Humboldthafen – come to SANDSATION.

#### **PR Contact:**

text+pr, Contrescarpe 8, 28203 Bremen

Lisa Schmees and Dorothee Klages, Phone: 0049 (0) 421-56 517 - 28, [press@sandsation.de](mailto:press@sandsation.de)

Find the current programme, information and visual material on [www.sandsation.de](http://www.sandsation.de)

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June 7<sup>th</sup> until August 30<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Berlin Hauptbahnhof (central station)**

**Dates and Facts**

**Dates** Festival: Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> until Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup>

Small Opening: Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 9a.m

Grand Opening: Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 9a.m.

Ceremony 2. USF World Solo Championship Award:

Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 4p.m.

**Times** Sundays to Fridays 9a.m.-8p.m.

(except special events)

Fridays and Saturdays 9a.m.-11p.m., from nightfall with illuminations and chill out music

last admission to sculpture exhibition: half an hour before closing time

**Venue** Berlin Hauptbahnhof (central station) / Humboldthafen (exit Europaplatz)

Entrance Invalidenstraße (opposite "Hamburger Bahnhof" museum)

**How to get there** using public transport

*Bus S-Bahn*

to Hauptbahnhof: M41 / M85 / TXL to Hauptbahnhof: S5 / S7 / S75 / S9

to Invalidenpark: 120 /147; 240 / 245

*U-Bahn Tram*

to Zinnowitzer Str.: U6 to Zinnowitzer Str.: M6 / M8 /12

RE-route: 1 to 5

*ICE-route:* to Hamburg, Dresden, Leipzig, Hanover, Frankfurt, Munich or Cologne stopping at „Hauptbahnhof“

**Admission** Adults from the age of 16 EURO 6,-

concessions\* EURO 5,-

children and teenagers (4-15 years) EURO 3,-

children (under 4 years) EURO 1,-

Family Pass (up to 2 adults and 4 children) EURO 15,-

Group Pass (from 10 persons),

per adult EURO 5,-

NEW: Early Bird for adults (9a.m.-10a.m.) EURO 3,-

\*Pupils, students, apprentices, retirees, persons with disabilities, unemployed with a valid form of proof

**Organiser:** SANDSATION GmbH, Bahnhofstr. 11, 26122 Oldenburg

Info Hotline: 0049 (0) 176-96886279

**PR Contact:**

**text+pr,** Contrescarpe 8, 28203 Bremen

Lisa Schmees and Dorothee Klages, Phone: 0049 (0) 421-56 517 - 28, [press@sandsation.de](mailto:press@sandsation.de)