

Meeting Lise Meitner

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Photo: Reinhard Werner

Life and work of the Austrian-Swedish nuclear physicist Lise Meitner (1878-1968) are in the center of the monologue "Meeting Lise Meitner". Anita Zieher plays Lise Meitner and talks vividly about incidents of her life, achievements and impediments as well as the contents of her research and the passion for her work.

The monologue is part of the theatre play "Curie_Meitner_Lamarr_indivisible", produced by the Viennese association portraittheater directed by Sandra Schüddekopf, with Anita Zieher impersonating the three women. The play was a great success in Austria and had already been invited e.g. to Australia, Germany, Iran, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, United Kingdom and to the United States.

Text: Sandra Schüddekopf and Anita Zieher with original quotes of Lise Meitner and Otto Hahn; Stage concept: Eva-Maria Schwenkel; Photos: © Reinhard Werner;

„Zieher delivers a brilliant performance in the roles... it is a theatre evening with many claims: it should be informative, amusing and encouraging – the team of portraittheater indeed succeeded in all of that.“ (European Cultural News)

Lise Meitner (1878-1968) was born in Vienna. After obtaining her doctoral degree in physics, she moved to Berlin to work with Max Planck. She started to work with radiochemist Otto Hahn, who would become her close research partner for the next thirty years. 1938 she could escape from Germany and moved to Sweden. Meitner and her nephew Otto Robert Frisch delivered the first theoretical explanation for nuclear fission, which was discovered by Otto Hahn and Fritz Straßmann. While Otto Hahn received the Nobel price for this work, Lise Meitner was left with the unwelcome attribution „mother of the atomic bomb“.

portraittheater

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Anita Zieher, actress, chairwoman of portraittheater, born in Salzburg, lives in Vienna. After studying politics and communication in Salzburg she attended the acting school in Vienna. In the productions of portraittheater she played Lise Meitner, Marie Curie, Hedy Lamarr, Emmy Noether, Caroline Herschel, Hannah Arendt, Simone de Beauvoir, Bertha von Suttner, Rosa Luxemburg, etc. In addition, she won many prizes as an improvplayer and comedian.
www.anitazieher.at

Sandra Schüddekopf, director, born in Hannover, lives in Vienna. Over the period from 2001-2005 she worked as an assistant director at Burgtheater, Vienna. Since 2005 she has worked as a freelance director at Schauspielhaus Graz, Theater Drachengasse, Munich Kammerspiele, Schauspielhaus Vienna and at the Mainz State Theatre, where she won the director's prize in 2009. Since 2008 she heads the renowned Retzhofer Dramapreis.

Portraittheater Vienna: The Viennese theatre group focuses on extraordinary persons, especially women, and brings their life and work to the stage. Various programmes (since 2006) about e.g. Lise Meitner, Marie Curie, Caroline Herschel, Hedy Lamarr, Rosa Luxemburg, Lise Meitner, Emmy Noether, Sally Ride, Bertha von Suttner, Hannah Arendt, Simone de Beauvoir. Portraittheater made tours in Europe, the United States, Iran and Australia. www.portraittheater.net