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Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel

2015 was dominated by *L'Année Dürrenmatt – A la (re)découverte d'un Suisse universel* ((Re)discovering a Swiss figure of global importance), which marked the 25th anniversary of Friedrich Dürrenmatt's death and fifteen years of the Centre Dürrenmatt Neuchâtel (CDN). The CDN received 9387 visitors during the year.

An extensive programme at the CDN and other locations highlighted the various facets of Friedrich Dürrenmatt, the cosmopolitan Swiss writer and painter.

After an absence of one and a half years, the exhibition *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – écrivain et peintre* was reinstalled and complemented with some rarely shown works. *Friedrich Dürrenmatt à Neuchâtel* examined the links between the writer and painter and his adopted home town, in particular with a previously unpublished film of testimonies. It was followed by a contemporary art exhibition *Sebastien Verdon – Ciel* on the topic of the cosmos, a key theme in Dürrenmatt's work.

Celebrations were held in September to mark fifteen years of the CDN, in the presence of Mario Botta and featuring the première of the creation *Ad Astra* composed by Oliver Waespi and played by the *Nouvel ensemble contemporain*. December saw the commemoration of twenty-five years since Dürrenmatt's death with a concert by his daughter Ruth Dürrenmatt and the inauguration of the *Salon Dürrenmatt*.

Numerous events took place, notably including guided tours, a round table as part of the Printemps Culturel with Mahmoud Hosseini Zad, who has translated Friedrich Dürrenmatt into Persian, concerts, conferences in partnership with the Jardin Botanique and the Société neuchâteloise d'astronomie, a literary walk in the footsteps of Dürrenmatt in the Biel area and a small exhibition at the Musée d'art et d'histoire in Neuchâtel.

Another high point of the year was the collaboration between the CDN and the magazine *Du* on a lavishly illustrated edition devoted to Friedrich Dürrenmatt supported by the Charlotte Kerr Dürrenmatt-Stiftung.

The CDN also collaborated in various events at other venues, including a study day at the Fondation Bodmer in Cologne, a soirée entitled *Dürrenmatt l'africain* with the Université populaire africaine, previews of the film *Friedrich Dürrenmatt – une histoire d'amour* by Sabine Gisiger in Neuchâtel and La Chaux-de-Fonds, and a stage reading at the Theater(uri) in Altdorf. The events proved highly popular with audiences, demonstrating that Dürrenmatt's work remains as powerful as ever twenty-five years after his death. *L'Année Dürrenmatt* also received excellent coverage in the national media, and was reported in the Italian and German press.

The CDN received 9387 visitors, a good attendance for the year. Prominent among them were Federal Councillor Didier Burkhalter and his counterparts from Germany, Austria and Liechtenstein.

The year was one of taking stock for the CDN, but also of deliberations that have led to innovative new channels of development. They include a project which will provide a synoptic view of the biography, work and influence of Dürrenmatt around the world.



Friedrich Dürrenmatt in Neuchâtel, guided tour on International Museum Day, 17.5.2015, photo: Matthieu Schaffter



Sebastien Verdon – Ciel, 20.9.2015–28.2.2016



Ruth Dürrenmatt, 13.12.2015