

The "Theater in der Josefstadt" is one of Austria's most renowned theatres and one of the most popular ones. It is more than a theatre - according to its rich history it can also be understood to be an institution.

It was founded in 1788 and is therefore the oldest performing theatre in Vienna. Colloquially it is often referred to as simply *Die Josefstadt*.

The history of the theatre is tied to major figures in musical and theatrical history. Ludwig van Beethoven and Richard Wagner conducted there, Johann Nestroy and Ferdinand Raimund were connected to the theatre as actors and poets, and Johann Strauss I performed in its ballrooms named "Sträußelsäle".

Today The Josefstadt offers high-quality theatre entertainment, its programme focuses on classical Austrian literature - Johann Nestroy, Ferdinand Raimund, Arthur Schnitzler - as well as contemporary dramas.

The highly intimate architecture (609 seats, 26 boxes, 3 galleries) allows a direct way of acting. The intensive relationship between actors and audience, result of the near distance, has created a special style of playing.

In 1924 the famous director Max Reinhardt allowed the theatre to be renovated: in red damask, golden stucco, shimmering chandeliers, expressing the famous old fashioned Austrian Emperor Style.

The Josefstadt is one of the most successful theatres in Vienna, attracting 330.000 visitors per season, producing 720 performances per year (together with the sister theatre "Kammerspiele der Josefstadt" in Vienna's 1st district). High quality and vivid tradition. charming staging makes the Josefstadt a very special place to enjoy a festive evening.