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City of Erlangen – Cultural Office
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Press release

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The language of images in turbulent times 22nd Erlangen International Comic Salon 4 to 7 June 2026

Festival programme

The Erlangen International Comics Festival takes place every two years; it is the largest festival for comic art and graphic literature in the German-speaking world and one of the most important in Europe. For four days, everything in the centre of this university town in Middle Franconia revolves around the Ninth Art. In and around the Erlangen's Schlossgarten, there are exhibition tents, displays, spaces for readings, lectures, talks, workshops and much more. With "Kinder lieben Comics", young readers have their own festival within the festival, whilst the prestigious Max and Moritz Award honours the best new publications of the past two years. The Erlangen International Comics Festival is being supported for the sixth time by its title sponsor, DATEV eG from Nuremberg. The Cultural Office of the City of Erlangen, which organises the event, expects over 25,000 visitors.

The **Comic Fair**, traditionally held in specially erected marquees in the city centre, forms the heart of the Erlangen International Comic Salon. Over 300 exhibitors – publishers, comic book retailers, university comic classes, independent small publishers, individual artists and self-publishers – present their work here. German avant-garde, international graphic novels, Franco-Belgian bandes dessinées, American superheroes and Japanese manga – numerous new releases will be presented to the public for the first time, and around 500 artists from all over the world can be seen at work drawing and signing their books. Well over 200 individual events, readings, lectures, talks and discussions accompany the fair and exhibition programme.

Two major **exhibitions** are opening even before the festival begins. Since 14 March, the Kunstpalais, in collaboration with the Comic-Salon, has been presenting "**Christoph Niemann**. To the point", a major retrospective of the work of Germany's best-known illustrator. From 3 May, the Stadtmuseum will be hosting "What's so funny about that? The comical art of **Walter Moers**", the first major retrospective of the illustrator and author in southern Germany will be on display at the Stadtmuseum, in collaboration with the Ludwiggalerie Schloss Oberhausen. During the festival, a retrospective at the Kunstmuseum Erlangen is dedicated to comic pioneer **Isabel Kreitz**, with a focus on comics without text – silent comics – and a celebration of The Simpsons. Things take a political turn with #iceoutcomics from the USA and "Stories from Undocumented People", whilst the scientific angle is covered by an aesthetic exploration of the world of quantum physics. Numerous other exhibitions, some in collaboration with comic publishers, showcase artists and their latest works.

A few days ago, a spacious new event centre, the **Kultur- und Bildungscampus (kubic)**, opened in Erlangen; alongside Schlossplatz and the Schlossgarten, this will be the second heart of the 22nd International Comic Salon. Covering a floor space of nearly 9,000 square metres, it will host the “Kinder lieben Comics” festival, parts of the trade fair, the Comic Solidarity presence and numerous events.

The **Max und Moritz Award** is the most important distinction for graphic literature in the German-speaking world. One of the highlights of the Salon is the Max und Moritz Gala (Friday, 5 June, 8:30 pm) at the Markgrafentheater. Twenty-five titles have been nominated for the awards, which are presented in various categories. Posy Simmonds has already been confirmed as the winner of the award for outstanding lifetime achievement.

In 2026, DATEV eG will be the title sponsor of the Erlangen International Comic Salon for the sixth time. As an IT service provider for tax consultants, auditors and lawyers as well as their clients, such as small and medium-sized enterprises, and local authorities, the cooperative is one of the largest employers in the Nuremberg metropolitan region and, at the same time, one of Europe’s leading software houses.

Exhibitions

What’s so funny about that? The comical art of Walter Moers

Stadtmuseum – 3 May to 13 September

Christoph Niemann. To the point

Kunstpalais – 14 March to 7 June

Isabel Kreitz – The pen is my sixth finger

Kunstmuseum – 4 June to 5 July

Silent Comics. How to say a lot without words

Kunstmuseum Kunstmuseum – 4 June to 5 July

#iceoutcomics – Taking up the pen against Trump and U.S. deportation policies

Ladengalerie Fahrstr. 10 – 4 to 7 June

Quantastic Comics. Journeys of discovery into the strange world of quantum physics

ZAM – Zentrum für Austausch und Machen – 4 to 14 June

The Simpsons – It doesn’t get any yellower than this!

Ladengalerien Altstadtmarkt – 4 to 7 June

Lisa Neun – The Dream Is Over, Charly P.

EL ARTElier – 4 June to 17 July

Utopia | No Safety Net

39th and 40th International Comics Seminar 2025 and 2026

Ladengalerie Helmstr. 2A – 4 to 7 June

Erlangen Noir – Michael Jordan, TONTO & Friends

Kreativlabor – 4 to 28 June

Partner exhibitions

Carlsen presents: Roya Soraya – Wind in my headscarf

Ladengalerien Altstadtmarkt – 4 to 7 June

Reprodukt presents: Shadow Lives – Stories from Undocumented People

Ladengalerien Altstadtmarkt – 4 to 7 June

avant-verlag presents: Tine Steen – The Cooking Monkeys

Ladengalerien Friedrichstr. 33 – 4 to 7 June

Edition Moderne presents: Martin Oesch – Carnal Desire

Ladengalerie Friedrichstr. 41 – 4 to 7 June

Rotopol presents: Katharina Kulenkampff – How I Became a Grey Dog

Galerie Black – 4 to 7 June

Jaja Verlag presents: Troubled Times

Ladengalerien Friedrichstr. 33 – 4 to 7 June

Comicmuseum Erlangen e. V. presents: Ducks Escaping in Rockets – A Brief Anatomy of the Drawings and Stories by Florian Satzinger

Aktions- und Schauraum des Comicmuseum Erlangen e. V. – 4 June to 26 July

ComicFestival Munich presents: Defending Democracy

Stadtbibliothek – 7 May to 9 June

Max and Moritz Award

The Max und Moritz Award is presented by an independent expert jury appointed by the City of Erlangen and has contributed significantly to the artistic and social recognition of comics in Germany for over 40 years. The award honours the work of outstanding artists, recognises commendable publishing work, draws attention to emerging talent and promotes a critical engagement with graphic literature.

This year marks the 22nd edition of the Max and Moritz Award. Twenty-five titles have been nominated by the jury; seven of the eight award winners will not be announced until 5 June 2026 at the Max and Moritz Gala, hosted by Christian Gasser. The special award for an outstanding lifetime achievement going to Posy Simmonds has already been announced. At the Markgrafentheater in Erlangen, the winners will be honoured in the categories “Best German-language Comic”, “Best International Comic”, “Best Non-fiction Comic”, “Best Comic for Children” and “Best German-language Comic Debut”, as well as the “Best German-language Comic Artist”. In addition, an outstanding publication from the academic sector will be recognised with an invitation to the renowned International Comic Seminar in Erlangen. The jury’s special award will only be announced at the gala.

Panel

Current topics in the comics scene and the Salon’s key themes will be explored in depth over four days in more than 70 lectures, presentations and panel discussions in the Orangerie in the Schlossgarten, the University’s Kollegienhaus, the ZAM – Zentrum für Austausch und Machen, and the kubic. Speakers will include publishing representatives, specialist journalists, comic researchers, collectors and artists from the Salon. This year’s topics include the significance of AI for artists, for emerging comic creators and in translation, comics as political protest, queerness and diversity in comics, comic funding, organisational structures for comic creators, comics in academia, and much more. The Comic-Podium programme is complemented by lecture series from the web community Comic Solidarity and the Society for Comic Research (ComFor).

Children love comics

That’s why the 22nd Erlangen International Comic Salon is once again presenting a varied programme featuring more than 50 individual events for young readers! For four days, the newly opened Kultur- und Bildungscampus (kubic) will be turned upside down: with projections, sounds and music, comic artists will bring exciting stories for families, children and young people aged 4 to 16 to the stage and draw live in front of and with the audience, together or against each other. Through a wide range of workshops, open studios and various hands-on activities centred around contemporary comics, children can try their hand at different things, get creative, go on a journey of discovery and immerse themselves in the diverse world of comics. Admission to the “Kinder lieben Comics” events is free, but donations are welcome!

Comic Film Fest

Over four days, the Lamm-Lichtspiele cinema and the Kulturzentrum E-Werk in Erlangen will offer a varied programme of animated films, comic book adaptations and documentaries: Lesbian Space Princess, AU 2025 | Without a Cape, DE 2025 | One Minute Movies, CH 2025 | Scarlet, JP 2025 | Das kostbarste aller Güter, FR/BE 2024 | Flow, LV/BE/FR 2024 | Hola Frida, FR/CA 2024 | Mary Anning, CH/BE 2025 | Best of Fantoche, CH 2025 | Prinzessin Mononoke, JP 1997 | Kleines Arschloch – Der Film, DE 1997 | Das kleine Arschloch und der alte Sack – Sterben ist Scheiße, DE 2006 | Käpt'n Blaubär – Der Film, DE 1999 | Arco, FR 2025 | Gemma Boverly – Ein Sommer mit Flaubert, FR/GB 2014 | Die kleine Amélie oder der Charakter des Regens – Preview, FR/BE 2025 | A New Dawn, JP/FR 2025 | Death Does Not Exist, CA/FR 2025 | The Colors Within, JP 2024 | A Story about Fire, CN 2025 | Student Film Night

NEW: Free admission to all films at the Lamm-Lichtspiele and the E-Werk Kino with a Salon-Ticket – upon presentation of the Salon-Ticket (season ticket/day ticket), one free cinema ticket per film is available at the relevant box office during opening hours on the day of the respective screening. If films are sold out, there is no entitlement to a seat. The Salon-Ticket and cinema ticket must be shown on entry. The right to a seat expires once the announced screening time has begun. Without a Salon-Ticket, the standard admission prices of 11,- / concessions 9,- Euro apply.

Stage

Comics have long since conquered the stage too. The performance programme of the 22nd International Comic Salon 2026 comprises around 40 individual events: readings with projections, live drawing events, comic battles, comic concerts, a cosplay competition and much more. With “Der Letzte löscht das Licht”, **schauspiel erlangen**, in co-production with the International Comic Salon, presents the world premiere of Tobias Aeschbacher’s graphic novel as a live listening play on 4, 6 and 7 June at the Theater in der Garage. Most of the Salon’s stage events are freely accessible with a Salon-Ticket; exceptions are marked. The DATEV Stage in the Schlossgarten, the kubic, the Kulturzentrum E-Werk, as well as the Theater in der Garage and the Markgrafentheater are the main venues for the stage programme.

Workshops

It’s not just children taking part in “Kinder lieben Comics” who have the chance to get creative; the programme also features numerous events for everyone else, where you can learn from the pros: whether it’s new techniques, manga drawing and translation, tips and tricks for cosplay photography, seeing the city through fresh eyes on sketchcrawls with experienced urban sketchers, or having Disney artists explain the perfect Mickey Mouse.

Young Forum

For the twelfth time, the Young Forum offers a platform for colleges, academies and universities specialising in comics, design, illustration and animation, as well as for young artists from the student community, to present their work and projects. This year, 25 higher education institutions will be presenting themselves with their own stands at the International Comic Salon fair.

Comic macht Schule

In comic workshops under the motto “Expanding Reality”, children and young people have explored their lived reality and their wishes both conceptually and through drawing, translating them into the language of comics. On paper, familiar ways of seeing can be set aside and new perspectives created. Transforming oneself into a comic character can open up new avenues to one’s own talents and needs – superpowers aren’t just for comic heroes! Expressing themselves, looking inward through storytelling and exploring through drawing what life in this world means to them – 125 children and young people from various educational institutions in Erlangen have been taking part in workshops with well-known comic artists since the Easter holidays. Numerous works – ranging from drawing exercises and new comic heroes to entire

comic stories – have been created in the workshops. A selection of these will be on display during the Comic Salon.

As of 28 April 2026
Subject to change!

Further information

The full programme will be available from the second week of May at www.comic-salon.de. The “My Salon” feature will also be available there, allowing you to put together your own personalised festival programme. A free programme booklet will be published in mid-May.

Main venues

Exhibition halls on Schlossplatz and in the Schlossgarten, Kultur- und Bildungscampus (kubic), Palais Stutterheim, Stadtmuseum and numerous other venues in the city centre

Trade fair and exhibition opening hours

Thursday, 4 June 2026: 12:00 to 19:00
Friday and Saturday, 5 June and 6 June 2026: 10:00 am to 7:00 pm
Sunday, 7 June 2026: 10:00 am to 5:00 pm

Admission prices

Day ticket: 15,- / con. 7.50 Euro
Festival pass: 40,- / con. 20,- Euro
Concessions for children and young people aged 6 to 14 (inclusive), holders of the ErlangenPass and the Aktiv-Card, and people with disabilities (with a disability rating of 50% or more). Free admission for carers accompanying people with disabilities who have a ‘B’ mark on their ID card.
Children under 6: free admission!

Tickets

Advance booking at www.comic-salon.de and www.reservix.de, at the usual advance booking offices in the Erlangen, Nuremberg, Fürth and Bamberg areas, and at ReserviX advance booking offices throughout Germany (advance booking fees apply). Box offices on the event days 4 to 7 June at Schlossplatz as well as in the Redoutensaal, kubic, Kunstpalais, Stadtmuseum and Kunstmuseum.

Organiser

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