

William Tell Open-Air Theatre, Interlaken

The William Tell Open-Air Theatre in Interlaken was founded in 1912. Since then it has become as much a symbol of this Swiss Alpine holiday destination as the snow-capped summits of the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau, the traditional Unspunnen folklore festival, and the region's celebrated grand hotels.

Following its closure during the war years, the theatre re-opened in 1947. Every summer since, it has staged some 20 open-air performances of Schiller's drama of the legendary Swiss national hero. The theatre - situated in the scenic location of the Rugen Wood - attracts 30'000 to 40'000 visitors from many countries every year. More than 200 local actors participate in the play (all of them amateurs) and some have already taken part in up to 800 performances. Horses, cows, goats and dogs also appear on the stage, enhancing the authenticity of the rural setting.

The theatre provides covered seating for up to 2200 people, and performances are staged from June to September regardless of the weather. Evening performances last from 20.00 to 22.30 hrs.

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