



Folke Tegetthoff

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Writer and Storyteller

Christmas. The Christmas tree is burning. And soon the whole living room. A young boy rescues a book out of the ashes: The Collected Tales of Hans Christian Andersen. The little boy is Folke Tegetthoff.

How the fairytale finds him:

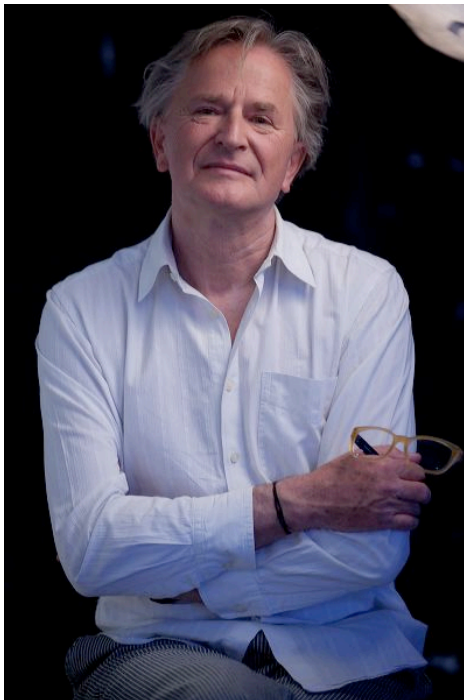


Photo: Christian Jungwirth

He feels instinctively that this book has a meaning for him, but what exactly he only deciphers when he is 22 years old and has to write a fairytale as his first assignment for a radio play. At home he looks for a book of fairytales. And there on one of his nephew's shelf he finds the book by Hans Christian Andersen that was almost burned years ago. At that moment the fairytales find him. Folke Tegetthoff sits down and writes his first book - it's a fairytale.

That's how good stories begin. And so do artistic careers obviously. Since then Folke Tegetthoff has published 36 books that have been translated in 12 languages and have sold 1.4 million copies. Among his "classics" are his collection of fairytales about herbs and fairytales about love, as well as recent works such as "Die Bewunderung der Welt. Eine Verzauberung" or „Was ich alles kann, sagt die Kuh“.

Why fairytales?

Folke Tegetthoff has taken the fairytale - often sentimentalized and trivialized – out of children's rooms and into the living room for adults as well. Today he is considered the founder of a new art of storytelling which combines the classic elements of fantasy literature with contemporary language and symbolism.

Today it's less about fairies, dragons and princesses - even though these heroes of fairytale literature are still allowed to drop in on Folke Tegetthoff's work from time to time - but rather it's about attracting attention to the miracle of life.

Folke Tegetthoff's fairytales are more than just a literary genre, they are rather a way of life, which opens up new dimensions and takes us deeper, as he himself says: "Fairytales are a living organism that evolves, a mirror of our soul, a look into our collective subconscious. "



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World tour and world success

At the age of only 28, Folke Tegetthoff embarked on a world storytelling tour and traveled to a total of 28 countries on all continents in 22 months (1982-1984) - a narrative project that remains unparalleled in such dimensions.

But that's not all, Folke Tegetthoff soon set out to create what is now the world's largest storytelling festival, characterized by the highest quality standards not only of his artists and performers, but also of its employees and organizational structure.

His success story begins with "The Long Night of the Storyteller" (1988-1996) in all state capitals of Austria and continued with "Tales of Graz," (1997-2006). Since 2007 he has been enchanting the province of Lower Austria with the "fabelhaft NIEDERÖSTERREICH" festival ("fabulous LOWER AUSTRIA!") which takes place at four venues in Bad Schönaun, St. Pölten, Baden und in the Schallaburg Castle.

International Lego Prize

In 1994 Folke Tegetthoff becomes the first Austrian and next to Astrid Lindgren the second writer to receive the \$100,000 International Lego which is awarded to people who are committed to improving the living conditions of children.

In 1986 the Murray State University (Kentucky) establishes the world's first archive of his work, which is at the same time the only archive of a living German language author at a state university in the United States.

Write and tell. Tell and listen.



Photo: Arnold Morascher

Folke Tegetthoff sees himself from the start as a writer and storyteller. To write alone is not enough for him, he wants even more to make a story come really alive by telling it!

Folke Tegetthoff has been thinking about this approach for several years and has added the next logical step to his writing and storytelling projects: listening.

In his 100-minute narrative presentation of **"A Story of Success ... From the School of Listening"** - in India, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the United States in English and performed of course in German in Austria - Folke Tegetthoff connects theory with practice: he tells us amazing facts about the ear, and with his stories steals his audience into a wonderful world of listening. What makes this program special: It is aimed at all age groups and people from all walks of life and conveys the idea that people want nothing more than to find someone who will listen!



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READING-INITIATIVE

Reading and listening are also the goals of an Austrian-wide initiative, the center of which is the Story Box (geschichtenbox.com) – yet another one of Folke Tegetthoff's pioneering projects. The geschichtenbox.com is the world's first search engine for stories on the Internet and a perfect tool for those who want to find relevant stories for their children.



Photo: Christian Jungwirth

On the **geschichtenbox.com** website you specify a child's age, whether a boy or girl, how long the story should be, and whether it is needed for a certain occasion, and the program then produces all relevant stories. There are already 3,000 stories in German and English, and all come from reputable and popular children's book authors, and writers!

And what's to come?

There are many different sides to Folke Tegetthoff. Writer and narrator, conceptualist and consultant, festival founder and organizer. And he is a world thinker and visionary who knows no boundaries, but takes us out of everyday life into a world of fantasy.

Everything is possible - everything is a fairytale!

On the next page you'll find a short **biography** of Folke Tegetthoff .

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More infos can be found under: www.tegetthoff.at



Folke Tegetthoff

Folke Tegetthoff Biography



Foto: Christian Jungwirth

Born **13. Februar 1954 in Graz**

Studied Medicine und Educational Theory

1977-78: Residence in Spain

1978-79: Residence in Hamburg

On 13. Februar 1979, on his 25th birthday, Folke Tegetthoff presents his first book „Der schöne Drache“ (The Beautiful Dragon) in the Graz City Museum.

1982-1984: **World Storytelling Tour**

1986: Murray State University (Kentucky) opens the first archive worldwide of Folke Tegetthoff's work.

1994: **Folke Tegetthoff receives the \$100.000 International Lego Prize**

2000: Four month stay in the USA

Since 1988: Storytelling festivals in all Austrian provinces as well as the Tales of Graz Festival in Styria.

Since 2007: **fabelhaft! NIEDERÖSTERREICH** – The International Festival of Storytelling Arts in Lower Austria (at four locations: Bad Schönau, St. Pölten, Baden and at the Schallaburg Castle)

Folke Tegetthoff has been married to the Dutch-born psychologist Astrid Tegetthoff since 1982. They have four children: Tessa, Sophie, Kira and Floris, and live in a former monastery in southern Styria.