

# Circus & Clown Museum Vienna's first Theatre of Magic

Text by Robert Kaldy-Karo  
and Michael Swatosch



The entry of the Circus & Clown Museum Vienna

For many years now, the names **Robert Kaldy-Karo** and **Michael Swatosch-Doré** stand for extraordinary activities within the magical realm.

Within their new domicile, a dedicated group of passionate artists established a lovely museum and theatre, in which they bring magic to life. The program stretches from shows for children, variété performances, to cabaret and talk-shows. All of this is happening within their museum of circus and clowns, amidst meticulously collected artefacts and props. I was in the lucky position to visit their museum and was truly impressed. I can only recommend a visit, especially to those of you who love vaudeville-style shows and the circus. It was in 1983, that Karo and Doré started their co-operation with the – back then called – **Circus and Clown Museum Vienna**. It is situated in Ilgplatz 7, 1020 Vienna, just around the corner from Wiener Prater.

In January 2005, Robert Kaldy-Karo and Michael Swatosch-Doré took over as directors, with Andreas Swatosch "Slotini" as custodian for the art of magic.

Through the years, they hosted many special exhibitions about the art of magic:

- 120 years of Viennese Magic Theatre
- Kalanag
- The Art of Magic and Movies
- The Art of Magic and Comics
- Döbler – Genius of Biedermeier
- The art of magic in Vienna
- Women and the art of magic

Many famous magicians, such as **David Copperfield**, have already visited the museum.

Further information: [www.circus-clownmuseum.at](http://www.circus-clownmuseum.at)

## INSTITUT KADOTHEUM

To facilitate and ease searching through the archives, they established Institut Kadotheum (Ka as in Karo, Do as in Doré). They chose that name as a resemblance to the so-called "chambers of wonder", the Habsburgian predecessor of modern day's museums. The institute is dedicated to the research and documentation of all matters concerning the art of magic. Karo & Doré collect everything concerning the history of the art of magic since nearly 40 years now. Next to props produced by famous European manufacturers – especially props produced by the Viennese company "Zauberkringel" – you can find over 2,500 posters, 30,000 newspaper clips (from 1820 up until today), books, magic tables, illusions, props once used by famous magicians, playing cards (on from the 19<sup>th</sup> century), thousands of photographs, programmes and many more artefacts.

They have figurines, videos, audio files, memorabilia and original props once used by or concerning **Joseph Fröhlich**, **Ludwig Döbler**, **J. N. Hofzinser**, **Kalanag**, **Marvelli**, **Houdini**, **Ottokar Fischer**, **Cortini**, **Kassner**, **Anton Kratky-Baschik**, **Hanussen** just to name a few. Many of these artefacts once can see at the Circus and Clown Museum in Vienna.

## A SELECTION OF EVENTS

### "ZOOM MAGIC" TABLE MAGIC THEATRE

The art of magic up close in an intimate setting, presented by respected and famous members of the magical scene.

### PRATER-VARIÉTÉ

Under the motto "only the most extraordinary for our audience", **Amanda von Öser** and director **Karo** host a variety of singers, magicians, belly dancers, jugglers, and many other artists.