



FREE ENTRY FOR REFUGEES

Refugees and their families who have arrived in Leipzig or have been living here for some time are warmly welcome in the TDJW (Theatre for Young Audiences Leipzig). We offer free tickets to selected performances.

More information: www.tdjw.de

EMIL AND THE DETECTIVES [8 plus]

The girl Pony and the boy Emil are friends. The very best of friends, in fact. The story of how they met was spectacular. It had to do with a real criminal case! When Pony tells about it, she has always to think of that film in which a man is dressed by himself. Everything happened so quickly and surprisingly. But how it started is something that Emil should tell to you.

Emil lives in Neustadt. It's a small town near the metropolis of Berlin. There's not much going on in Neustadt. You could almost say it's pretty boring there most of the time. Especially when you're Emil's age. That's when you start to get ideas. Like the time Emil and a friend spray-painted the town monument. They just managed to escape the police. But Emil's favourite person in Neustadt is his mum. She works as a hairdresser in her own salon. She has a lot to do. That's why she sends Emil to his grandmother in Berlin for the holidays. There the boy can experience something and take the 250 Euros with him that his mother wants to give to grandmother.

Mother and son say goodbye at the station. On the train, Emil notices one passenger in particular: a man in a chequered hat with the strange name „Grundeis“. He tells Emil how bizarre and dangerous life is in Berlin. It's better to take precautions, Emil thinks, so that no one can steal the 250 euros from him. He fastens the banknotes in the inside pocket of his jacket with a safety pin. And then Emil makes a mistake. He is too polite and takes the piece of chocolate that Grundeis offers him. Although every child knows: Don't take sweets from strangers. The journey drags on, the train rocks, Emil gets tired and falls asleep – and experiences the worst nightmare he has ever had. When he wakes up again, the compartment is empty, Grundeis is gone and the money? Damn it, the 250 Euros are gone too!

Without thinking twice, Emil pursues the thief. Across the big city of Berlin, he follows Grundeis to a park restaurant. There Emil waits. What to do now? But before Emil can answer this question, he makes the unexpected acquaintance of Pony. The tough Berlin girl is immediately ready to help Emil. Together they devise a plan to get the stolen money back. When Grundeis leaves the pub, the two children give chase. In a



taxi they follow him. Then in the evening they see the crook checking into a posh hotel. Now it is up to Pony to check the situation. Disguised as a hotel maid, she meets Grundeis and learns that he wants to stay the night. Time enough to make preparations.

The next morning, Pony and Emil get all the children to help them. Together they get Grundeis into trouble until he flees to a post office. There he wants to exchange Emil's money. Pony and Emil are able to prevent this at the last moment. They accuse Grundeis of theft. But the post office clerk is sceptical. And Grundeis denies everything. He claims that he doesn't know Emil, hasn't been on the train, even claims not to be called Grundeis at all. The children are desperate. How can they prove that the money belongs to Emil? That's when he has the saving idea. The safety pin! Exactly, it must have left traces in the banknotes. So, the thief is indeed convicted. What a triumph for justice.

Yes, that's how it was with Emil and his first trip to Berlin. He stayed there for the holidays until he returned to Neustadt. But he and Pony have remained friends ever since. The very best friends of all.