

# **ZAPFENSTREICH - Mother Europe**

## **Boys\* in Sync**

**The performance consists of three different reenactments of the military parade Zapfenstreich and its transmission, through narration, commentary, and physical demonstrations. The script will be repeated in three rounds, with moderations and disruptions.**

### **Prologue**

**One performer steps forward:**

- Now more than ever, security is a shared responsibility. Europe must stand together. Look at the Nordic countries. Once we were enemies. Now we are friends. There is nothing unethical about producing weapons to protect allies.

**The text is repeated three times.**

**During the 2nd repetition, it is supported by background humming from the other performers.**

**During the 3rd repetition, it is accompanied by more dramatic vocal harmonizations.**

### **1st round**

**The five performers gather around a teleprompter, taking turns to read aloud the description and commentary of the parade. There is an element of competition to have the chance to speak.**

**In the script, the performers fluidly switch between speaking as Melinda Crane and Phil Gale and providing commentary on the transmission. They also announce the name of the person speaking.**

- The ceremony begins.
- The audience can see a big parade ground at night. A group of journalists are standing at the side talking into a camera. They are broadcasting live.
- Phil Gale: This is Deutsche Welle News, live from Berlin. I'm Phil Gale. Welcome to the program. Tonight, Germany's outgoing Chancellor, Angela

Merkel, will be played out of office with a military ceremony, the so-called ZAPFENSTREICH. We'll bring the ceremony to you live...

- Loud music, the Deutsche Welle News Logo is flying through the picture.
- Phil Gail: Here to talk us through tonight's event is Deutsche Welle chief political correspondent Melinda Crane. Welcome, Melinda. So what can we expect from tonight's Zapfenstreich?
- Melinda Crane: Well, what we are about to see now is a traditional military honor. It has a very long history, involving torches. And it takes place at the parade ground in front of the Defense Ministry in Berlin, which actually is a site of great historical significance for Germany, since it is also the place where -
- She gets interrupted

**One performer moves the teleprompter to another place on the stage. The rest follows. From now on, the performers take turns breaking out of the commentary and reenacting the parade, more or less 1:1 with the description.**

- Phil Gail: You can see the soldiers marching in now
- Melinda Crane: Indeed, there we see it... As we know, Germany does not have an untroubled relationship to its army for historical reasons. So the Zapfenstreich - this ceremony that we are about to see - is not uncontroversial. But it is also an event of great historic and emotional significance for many people in Germany, and I have no doubt whatsoever that that will be the case this evening as well.
- While Melinda Crane is speaking, the audience can see a military band and soldiers marching in. The soldiers are carrying their rifles in their left hand, they are wearing black uniforms and black helmets and are carrying burning torches while marching across the dark yard.
- Phil Gail: The parade consists of more than 250 soldiers in total, they are wearing the ceremonial uniforms of the Navy and the Army. Two rifle platoons are involved, framed by a so-called "pearl necklace", which you can see here, is a line of torchbearers, the so called "Fackelträger" that are framing the other soldiers
- Let's talk about the setting. This parade takes place at the so called "Bendlerblock" here in Berlin, Melinda Crane, you say this is a building with historical resonance in Germany?

- Melinda Crane: Deep, deep historical resonance. This is the headquarters of Germany's military, but it was also the headquarters of Germany's military during the Second World War, in other words, of the Nazi ah ah, the Nazi, ah ah of the Nazi, the Nazi army...
- The rifle platoons are now about to reach Angela Merkel. Merkel and the audience are sitting on chairs. A loud voice is yelling into the night.
- The performers need to follow the (rifle related) commands.
- Loud voice: HALT! LINKS-UM!
- Loud drums start playing.
- Loud voice: GEWEHR AB. FACKELTRÄGER, HALT. FACKELTRÄGER, RECHTS UND LINKS UM. GROßER ZAPFENSTREICH, BRICHT AN!
- Guns start shooting, the picture gets blurry with every gun shot as if the vibration is making the cameras tremble.
- Loud voice: AUGEN GERADE AUS. DAS GEWEHR ÜBER. ACHTUNG: PRÄSENTIERT DAS GEWEHR. ZUR MELDUNG: AUGEN RECHTS.
- The man with the loud voice comes forward. He is standing in front of Angela Merkel now, saluting.
- Merkel is standing up from her chair, the camera films the scenery from behind her back.
- He starts talking in a softer voice, saying: "Frau Bundeskanzlerin, ich melde: Großer Zapfenstreich, zu Ihren Ehren: Angetreten."

**One performer goes to the front and salutes. From the front of the stage, they say:**

- Loud Voice in a softer voice: Frau Bundeskanzlerin, ich melde: Großer Zapfenstreich, zu Ihren Ehren. Angetreten.

**The performer stops saluting. From the group of narrators by the teleprompter:**

- The soldiers throw their rifle stocks on the ground which produces a sharp sound flying through the Bendlerblock.
- The man with the loud voice is yelling again. With his command, he starts the musical part of the Zapfenstreich: Großer Zapfenstreich... rührt. Serenade.
- Loud Voice: GROßER ZAPFENSTREICH... RÜHRT! SERENADE.

- The soldiers look down on the floor, making little shuffle steps to adjust their position in the formation.
- Phil Gail: What you can see and hear now is the so-called Serenade, a variable part of the Zapfenstreich, in which up to three songs requested by the honoree are played.
- Melinda Crane: Here you can see the conductor of this military band; Reinhard Kiauka, conducting the three musical choices.

**One performer moves to the front. Everyone is watching them, as they are mimicking a conductor. Another performer attempts to copy their movements while improvising a description of what they are doing.**

**Then the script continues:**

- He gazes upon the musicians. Will they make it this time? Will the signal horns keep in key? Has the drummer's wrist injury truly healed? He raises his arms back up, this is the cue for the horns to start playing. He flicks his baton towards the trombones and the drums as well. As we can see now, the conductor smiles with his teeth. The smile is growing bigger and bigger.

**(small pause)**

- He is peaking. Reinhard Kiauka is peaking. This might very well be the highlight of his career. His smile melts into a grotesque grin as he contemplates his next step.

**(small pause)**

- Reinhard Kiauka is nodding to himself. He is nodding to the band. He sees the peace in peoples faces when they hear the music. He sees how their shoulders relax and their concerned frowns smoothen out. If this was it, Reinhard Kiauka thinks, then it was good. The song is over. It is over.

**Now all the performers are standing around the conductor. They mimic taking down their helmets.**

**One performer steps forward to the one who has acted as the conductor and tells an improvised, sad story from their personal friendship.**

## 2nd round

- The ceremony begins.

### **The performers put on their helmets again and join the narrators group.**

- The audience can see a big parade ground at night. A group of journalists are standing at the side talking into a camera. They are broadcasting live.
- Phil Gail: This is Deutsche Welle News, live from Berlin. I'm Phil Gail. Welcome to the program. Tonight, Germany's outgoing chancellor, Angela Merkel, will be played out of office with a military ceremony. We'll bring the ceremony to you live.
- Loud music, the Deutsche Welle News Logo is flying through the picture.
- Phil Gail: Here to talk us through tonight's event is Deutsche Welle News' correspondent Melinda Crane. Welcome, Melinda. So what can we expect from tonight's Zapfenstreich?
- Melinda Crane: Well, what we are about to see now is around about 250 soldiers performing a marching parade. It takes place at the parade ground in front of the Defense Ministry in Berlin, which actually is a site of great historical significance for Germany, since it is also the place where -
- She gets interrupted
- Phil Gail: You can see the parade ground right here.
- Melinda Crane: Indeed, there we see it, the so-called Bendlerblock, the site of today's German military, but also the place where the German resistance fighters against Hitler were executed on the night of July 21, 1944.
- While Melinda Crane is speaking, the audience can see a military band and soldiers marching in. The soldiers are carrying their rifles in the left arm. They are wearing black uniforms and black helmets and are carrying burning torches while marching across the dark yard.
- Phil Gail: As we know, Germany does not have an untroubled relationship to its army for historical reasons. So the Zapfenstreich is not uncontroversial, but it is also very much accepted?
- Melinda Crane: Indeed. This is the headquarters of Germany's military, but it was also the headquarters of Germany's military during the Second World War, in other words, of the Nazi ah ah, the Nazi army...

- The marching soldiers have now reached Angela Merkel. Merkel and the audience are sitting on chairs, filmed from behind. The rifle platoons have almost reached the audience.
- A loud voice is yelling into the night.
- Loud Voice: HALT! LINKS-UM!
- Loud drums start playing.
- Loud Voice: GEWEHR AB. GROßER ZAPFENSTREICH, BRICHT AN!
- The man with the loud voice comes forward. He is standing in front of Angela Merkel and the audience, saluting. He says, in a softer voice: Frau Bundeskanzlerin, ich melde: Großer Zapfenstreich, zu Ihren Ehren: Angetreten.
- Loud voice in a softer voice: Frau Bundeskanzlerin, ich melde: Großer Zapfenstreich, zu Ihren Ehren: Angetreten.
- The soldiers throw their rifle stocks on the ground which produces a sharp sound flying through the Bendlerblock. The man with the loud voice is yelling again. With his command, he starts the musical part of the Zapfenstreich: Großer Zapfenstreich... rührt. Serenade.
- Loud Voice: GROßER ZAPFENSTREICH... RÜHRT! SERENADE.

**One performer is acting as the conductor, another one is watching them.**

- Phil Gail: What you can see and hear now is the so-called Serenade, a variable part of the Zapfenstreich, in which up to three songs requested by the honoree are played.
- Melinda Crane: Here you can see the conductor of this military band; Reinhard Kiauka, conducting the three musical choices. It's his 131st Zapfenstreich, so we can imagine, he has seen a lot of states people come and go.
- He nods and blinks with his eyes. His gaze is brushing the musicians' faces. He raises his baton back up, with a gentle swish the horns start playing. The conductor smiles with his teeth. His smile is growing wider and wider.
- He is peaking. Right now, Reinhard Kiauka is peaking. This might very well be the highlight of his career. He remembers the beginning: The freezing winter of 1990. His first ceremony was outdoors, it lasted for two hours, the sound

of the clarinets crumbled in the cold. It was a nightmare. But when they offered him a steady position, Reinhard Kiauka said yes. Reinhard Kiauka had always pictured himself behind a note stand inside a cozy concert hall in a black and white suit, with a metropolitan audience, slightly too intellectual. He had dreamed of a life in service to the arts. In the 80s, Reinhard Kiauka had been what you'd call a new wave hippie. He denied military service. He wanted the cold war to end and he knew it could only happen through peace. Now, Reinhard Kiauka is conducting for state funerals and departing ministers. He has arranged Star Wars medleys for European Space Agency conferences and Amazing Grace covers for various new memorial sites of old war crimes.

Serving the deutsche Bundeswehr was... not a disappointment exactly...

Reinhard Kiauka is nodding to himself. He remembers the relief on peoples faces as they heard the music. If this was it, Reinhard Kiauka thinks, then it was good. It is over.

### **3rd Round**

- The ceremony begins.

**Song: “Für mich solls rote rosen regnen.”**

**The performer who has been conducting initiates the song and the other performers join in a choir, singing in german.**

**Electronic music starts as the choir song fades. It is ominous and with a deep bass.**

- This is Deutsche Welle News, live from Berlin. Welcome to the program. Tonight, Germany's outgoing Chancellor, Angela Merkel, will be played out of office with the so-called Zapfenstreich.
- As we know, Germany does not have an untroubled relationship to its army for historical reasons. So the Zapfenstreich - this ceremony that we are about to see - is not uncontroversial.
- Now, the conductor has started the Locken sequence, performed by the flutes and drums.
- The three signals of the lock are calling upon the soldiers to gather for the final part of the ceremony. As they progress, they will become more and more melancholic.

- We are now hearing a song entitled: *Für mich solls rote rosen regnen*. Translated: let it rain red roses on me. Uncharacteristically romantic, you might say. But I think there's more than a trace of humor in tonight's musical choices.
- Phil Gail: Let's jump back to the chancellor, over 16 years, that is a long time. Melinda Crane, you've examined her closely. Are you going to miss her?
- Melinda Crane: I have to say I will miss her. And I have to say, the first time actually I got to go with her on her official plane. There's a small briefing room, and she was sitting there in a cardigan, and she looked basically like a middle aged woman in a cardigan. I thought, oh, wow, it's Angela Merkel and she's sitting here in a cardigan. It was a bit unusual because she'd already created this brand of stability politics of hers.
- Phil Gail: Thank you so much for your insights across this evening
- The audience can see flashback pictures from the ceremony, the Deutsche Welle News Logo appears and flies through the picture. The show is over.