
Märkische Allgemeine

Locals > Potsdam > With spiders to success

Potsdam / The first Science-Show in "Night Boulevard"

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With spiders to success

Sensor-actuator molecules, IPv6, MRSA? Railway station! Scientists are specialists, and it can be the biggest challenge to explain one's own subject to a layman.

He often knows neither the terms nor the basics of the discipline, but he usually has enormous interest in this. If one puts the scientist under time pressure during his presentation, one has already understood the idea of the science slam. On Wednesday evening, six scientists presented themselves to the public at the first "Potsdam Science Show" in the night boulevard of the Hans-Otto-Theater, which at the end was to decide by decibel meter (technical term: "Applause-O-Meter"), whose research would be the most comprehensible and entertaining. The "Potsdam Graduate School" of the University of Potsdam had already done its homework as an organizer: the indoor riding hall was sold out to the last seat.

Researchers from the local university, from the Fraunhofer Institute for Biomedical Engineering, from the Hasso Plattner Institute, the Institute for Climate Impact Research and the Berlin Natural History Museum presented themselves. In the first category "in progress" one had to present own results in 200 seconds. Roland Schröder tried to present his expedition to Hawaii and the behavioral research on a dragonfly not just looking like a holiday. However, the competitor Artavazd Badalyan won with his presentation in English language on his contribution to the research project "Lab-on-hankie". He managed to explain entertainingly how his biosensors recognize viruses.

In the category "slam" you had three times as much time with ten minutes, but these minutes glide in front of a copious PowerPoint presentation. The veterans simply had advantages over the brave ones who gave their first talks on the evening stage. Luís Costa drew attention in verse to the dangers of global warming. It was enough for the second place.

The English zoologist and paleontologist Jason Dunlop made the impossible possible with his spirit of inquiry and inspired the audience with a talk on giant spiders, known as camel or roller spiders in the Arabian desert. His talk with a charming English accent initially calmed the audience. The animals were at most 15 inches tall and did not gash the camels' bellies,

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although a third of their body consists of biting tools. If you can believe Mr. Dunlop, maybe the camels are luckier than we are, because the climate change, so he joked, the roller spiders could become local in the Märkische sand. (By Peter Degener)

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