

DEUTSCHER LEBENSTIL UND DEUTSCHE KULTUR (Austrian Lifestyle and Culture)

How Austrians learned to stop worrying and love “The Sound of Music”



The Original Sound of Music tour bus.

Dismissed in Austria

Residents of Salzburg were far less familiar with the musical. It was widely dismissed as kitschy. Carl Philip von Maldeghem, the current artistic director of the Salzburg State Theatre, spent a year abroad in the United States in the 1980s and was surprised to see *The Sound of Music* on television there. He recently made it his mission to finally stage the musical in Salzburg.

As an American projection of Austrian history, the idea of a stage production in Salzburg was not popular with local politicians and the theatre's subscribers. But von Maldeghem persevered. Hundreds of local children in *dirndls* and *lederhosen* turned up to audition for the