

Zeitschrift: Swiss express : the Swiss Railways Society journal
Herausgeber: Swiss Railways Society
Band: - (2017)
Heft: 129

Artikel: Welcome to Seelisberg 'English Lady'! : Mario Gavazzi reports on the unique 'Theaterbahn 2016' production at the TSB
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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-853865>

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Welcome to Seelisberg 'English Lady'!

Mario Gavazzi reports on the unique 'Theaterbahn 2016' production at the TSB

In the September 2016 edition of *Swiss Express* I reported on the Centenary of the Treib-Seelisberg-Bahn funicular. To commemorate this landmark event the TSB's manager created numerous ideas with the intention to have a special 'Highlight' event each month during the anniversary year. One of these was a production in August of 'Theaterbahn 2016', that presented the history of the line in the form of a play, which also went on to give a future view of the line in 2066 – its 150th anniversary. Näpflin wrote the text and many local people, including TSB employees, took part in the entertainment with one playing the 'English Lady'. This role noted that the first tourists to Switzerland were from Great Britain, and those who wished to climb from the Vierwaldstättersee up to Seelisberg before the opening of the line, were transported sitting in special chairs carried by local porters. As much of Europe was engulfed in war in 1916 the line got off to a shaky start and it was only in 1932 when sufficient tourists had returned to the area that an all-year service was able to operate. The event was very well organized with the sunny and warm weather helping to make the evenings unforgettable happenings. 



TOP: The 'English Lady' (Tanya Schläpfer) was the symbol for the first tourists in Switzerland who came from Great Britain. Her two porters were Guido Inderbitzin and Ruedi Landolt.

ABOVE LEFT: Christoph Näpflin, TSB-manager and author, presents H. H. Peter (Paul Truttmann) the engineer of the TSB project.

ABOVE RIGHT: Young Priska Truttmann provided the music.

BELOW LEFT: The audience gathers at Seelisberg on a sunny evening with the Mythen in the background.

BELOW RIGHT: The cast take its bow after the finale inside Treib Station.

