

# Moving Stories – free bus tour of Meidling (or your neighbourhood)

## CONCEPT

'8 Million Stories Out There', raps Jay-Z on the song *Empire State of Mind*, referring both to the total residents of New York City, and to colourful urban life. We each have a story to tell, but not enough of them are shared between us. All of Paul Auster's books are a celebration of the characters who live around him in his Brooklyn neighbourhood. Everyone loves a good story. And when you combine this with the boredom some people feel while riding on public transport, why not entertain passengers with stories on buses across the city?

We follow the route of Wiener Linien Bus 9A through the heart of Meidling, with four diverse locals talking on the bus, using a microphone. This will be a normal public bus on its normal run, with passengers surprised to find us there. We want great stories to bring the neighbourhood to life, with tales of romance, where they shop and socialise (and hate) and unusual elements from their lives. But also that the four commentators may not agree about everything and this tension will prove dramatic and productive for the 'listening audience'. In between stories from participants, we ask them questions.

We hope to bring communities together in laughter, recognition and the sense of a shared identity, a connection to their space and place.

## 4 LOCAL GUIDES

Our four participants are: a schoolgirl with Turkish heritage; a hip restaurant founder who is new in the district; a community organiser and an older person who has seen all the changes and can comment on the history of the district and its development – good and bad.

## WHEN

Friday 18 and Saturday 19 October 2013, at 11, 14 and 17:00. Duration: 90minutes.

## CONTEXT

The official walking tours of Vienna are very expensive (€14 for an adult) and old-fashioned – Vienna stops developing for them about 1910! Only two tours are about post-war reality: *Jewish Vienna past and present*, and the *Third Man* tour. They also focus on the central area of the city and we would like to open up the sense of where Vienna is. It exists beyond the Gurtel (Belt) also. Every neighbourhood needs stories to tell, legends and colourful local characters who make life more interesting, and bring communities together with an identity.

We want this idea to be copied all over Austria, for local people to identify those in their neighbourhood who enjoy telling stories, to come and speak about them on public buses and make the district come alive. Many people live atomised lives and it is good to come together to share what is local and worth celebrating.

We aim to move beyond the clichés to a new and exciting contemporary Vienna, and the real life lived here.

**WHERE:** Bus route 9A – join us at any stop!