

BIOGRAPHY

ILJA GRZESKOWITZ

MAKING. CHANGE. HAPPEN.

Ilja Grzeskowitz is an economist, bestselling author, and globally sought-after keynote speaker for change. His mission: to show organisations that change isn't a threat, but the greatest opportunity of our time.

From Top Manager to Global Stages

Starting out as Germany's youngest managing director, Ilja led ten locations throughout the country for Karstadt, Hertie, Wertheim, and IKEA. He managed thousands of employees and was responsible for a sales volume of over 500 million euros. In times marked by permanent restructuring, threatened store closures, and massive staff cuts, he succeeded in developing motivated and committed teams across vastly different circumstances.

At the height of the department store crisis, he realized what really mattered: putting people at the center. Only with the right mindset can you take away the fear of change and create appetite for the future. With the learnings from that time, he now inspires and moves people all over the world.

Author. Thought Leader. Change Maker.

Ilja Grzeskowitz has published fourteen books in ten languages, including the SPIEGEL-Bestseller "Freedom starts in your mind". As a former guest lecturer at the Berlin School of Law and Economics, he combines academic expertise with practical execution power. The founder of the Change Leaders Academy develops concepts that aren't just understood, but lived.

His credo: Change doesn't need perfect plans, but people who start. That's why his name stands for one thing above all: lived change that creates the desire to take action. The press calls him "Germany's most successful change expert" (OÖ Nachrichten) and "Mr. Change."

Globally Sought-After, Locally Grounded

His clients include international brands, 3/4 of Germany's DAX companies, and the who's who of mid-sized enterprises. As a globally sought-after speaker, Ilja has already spoken in 27 countries across five continents.

His keynotes are marked by northern German humor, bold ideas, and contagious passion for what happens when we stop hesitating and start shaping. He makes complex connections tangible and sends his audiences home with practical impulses that work immediately.

The Person Behind the Brand

When Ilja isn't standing on a stage around the globe, he's passionate about playing golf (with varying success), rooting for HSV (despite everything), and enjoying his favorite drink, coffee (lots of it and always black). Some things simply never change.

Contact & Booking:

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