



MUMMENSCHANZ

YOU & ME

PHILADELPHIA PREMIERE

Co-Founder, Artistic Director & Performer Floriana Frassetto

Performer Tess Burla

Performer Camille Denkinger

Performer David Labanca

Performer Oliver Pfulg

Technical Director Eric Sauge

There will be an intermission.

Sunday, February 16 @ 7 PM

Zellerbach Theatre

PROGRAM NOTES

MUMMENSCHANZ' new venture, *you & me*, invites you away from the everyday for a journey beyond the familiar and into your limitless imagination. The new MUMMENSCHANZ program was developed under the artistic direction of Floriana Frassetto, co-founder of MUMMENSCHANZ.

MUMMENSCHANZ' discoveries are often found by chance, through an accumulation of continuing observation, and by being open to the materials around us. They take the objects of our everyday lives and animate them, drawing out a hidden poetic life. "We are such stuff as dreams are made on." – Shakespeare

The company continues to be artisans of the imagination. With great challenge and curiosity, they embark upon a series of new discoveries to write their next chapter in their unique language. Various sequences and new shapes inhabited by characters will move on stage and meet the audience. MUMMENSCHANZ welcomes the world into this playful, interactive, surreal and one-of-a-kind performance.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

MUMMENSCHANZ

Since its three-year run on Broadway in the late 70s, Swiss-based theatre troupe MUMMENSCHANZ has pioneered a new form of visual theatre that has since spawned multiple new genres reclaiming their legacy. By creating a playful yet compelling experience through the inventive use of shadow, light and creative manipulation of objects, MUMMENSCHANZ offers timeless insight on the human condition. The result is a visually stunning spectacle that transcends cultural barriers and sparks the imagination.

Floriana Frassetto (Co-Founder, Artistic Director, Performer)

Frassetto studied at Academia Alessandro Fersen in Rome from 1967 to 1969. She completed her training as an actress by studying mime and acrobatics at Roy Bosier's Teatro Studio. She then worked with Bosier's company in several school productions that toured Italy. In late 1970, the idea for MUMMENSCHANZ resulted from meeting Andres Bossard and Bernie Schürch, two young, Swiss clowns called "Before and Lost" that performed a partially spoken show. Frassetto became the third member of the new company in 1972 and together they co-created the repertoire of MUMMENSCHANZ, converting the spoken numbers to masked visuals. Frassetto has performed on tour worldwide for the last 47 years. She feels she is an artisan of fantasy and has always been motivated to construct new shapes along with Schürch. Since Schürch's departure in 2012, she has been tormented by the challenge of creating a new show, which she has now done with plenty of fresh ideas. It was possible thanks to collaboration with Tina Kronis and Richard Alger. Among other experiences, Frassetto did the choreography and costumes for Giancarlo Sbragia's *Faust* and André Heller's musical, *Body and Soul*, and formed an artistic collaboration with Isabelle Baudet for the musical *Oliver Twist* in Lausanne, Switzerland. She is the artistic director of MUMMENSCHANZ.

Tess Burla (Performer)

Burla was born in 1981 and grew up in Murten, Switzerland. After completing her studies in psychomotor therapy, she trained as a dancer in Barcelona and Berlin. In 2009, she completed a master's in dance education at Zürich University of the Arts. She has been a member of Cie Chapeau (and formerly Paula fliegt) since 2015. She gained experience working with Marcel Leemann, and as part of Brigitta Schrepfer's SOMAFON, human kinetics movement arts, and Collectif de Marchepied. Burla works as a freelance dancer and is a founding member of cie deux plus. In addition to dance performances in collaboration with live musicians (Simone Abplanalp and Ursula Hofmann), she also made an appearance as part of the clown duo Nasva and Ravu in 2018. Her journey with MUMMENSCHANZ began in 2019.

Camille Denkinger (Performer)

Born in Geneva in 1992, Denkinger grew up in the world of circus performance. After completing her vocational training in graphic design, she decided to enroll at the Quebec Circus School in Canada when she was 18. She then applied her training in hand to hand acrobatics at the Parisian circus school École Nationale des Arts du Cirque and at the circus institution Centre National des Arts du Cirque in Châlons-en-Champagne. Denkinger made her way back to Switzerland in 2017 to delve deeper into the world of theatre and dance. In 2019, she completed a master's in theatre at The Manufacture performing arts school in Lausanne, with a focus on stage direction. She started working as a performer with MUMMENSCHANZ in 2019.

David Labanca (Performer)

Born in 1985, Labanca hails from Rome and has been living in Switzerland since 2001. After completing his Bachelor of Arts in physical theatre at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri in 2010, Labanca began working as an actor at the Compagnia Teatro Dimitri and as a dancer at the Compagnia Teatro Danza Tiziana Arnaboldi. In 2014, he landed his first role in a comedy directed by Fabrizio Pestilli at the Origen Festival in Grisons. Roles in further productions followed, including in *Die Weisse Schlange* (2014), *Tredeschin* (2016), *La vida es sueno* (2017) and *Maestro & Margherita* (2018). In 2016, he began working with PerpetuoMobileTeatro on a masked production called *Scrooge – es ist nie zu pat* (Scrooge – it's never too late). Labanca has been working as a choreographer at the Cirque Toamême (Fribourg, Switzerland) and at the Variété der Accademia Teatro Dimitri since 2019. He has been a member of MUMMENSCHANZ since 2019.

Oliver Pfulg (Performer)

Pfulg was born in 1985 and grew up near Zürich. After his initial education as a draughtsman, he attended Comart, the physical theatre school in Zürich for three years, from which he graduated in 2010. Since then, he has had different engagements (Opera House Zurich, flowingdancecompany, MärliMusicalTheater). Pfulg is also a founding member of the street theatre group, Paula fliegt. In 2015, he created the original play, *apropos*, with Lena Wälly. Pfulg has been a member of MUMMENSCHANZ since May 2015.

Eric Sauge (Technical Director)

With more than 10 years of experience in the entertainment business, Sauge now specializes in lighting and machinery effects. Employment by large organizations provided him with world-wide travel. With great experience and many trips abroad, he acquired solid knowledge in technical and team management. Back in Switzerland, he continued to train in the field of lighting for theatre and television through the roles of console operator and project manager. In 2014, he met MUMMENSCHANZ in Lausanne, and wishing to return to the theatre scene, he joined them as their Technical Director.