

Sunday
NOV 17
7:30 pm

MUMMENSCHANZ

LES MUSICIENS DU SILENCE



Imaginative and pioneering visual performance art

There will be no intermission during this performance.

Artistic Director

Floriana Frassetto

Cast

Floriana Frassetto

Tess Burla

Christa Barrett

Oliver Pfulg

Samuel Müller

Tour Manager

Kelly Irwin

Technical Director & Lighting Designer

Eric Sauge

Madison Kielczewsk (additional technician)



About MUMMENSCHANZ

A poetic journey into a world of silence

MUMMENSCHANZ takes its “50 Years” anniversary production on tour through the United States! Since it was founded in 1972, MUMMENSCHANZ has delighted audiences and electrified theaters all over the world. For its anniversary production, aptly titled “50 Years,” the Swiss multi-award-winning troupe will be taking audiences on a journey of imagination and poetry, showcasing the most beloved sketches from the foundation’s repertoire over the past half-century.

Since it was founded in Paris in 1972, MUMMENSCHANZ has been a global touchstone for contemporary mask-based theatre that transcends cultures and linguistic boundaries. The company’s three founders, Floriana Frassetto, Andres Bossard and Bernie Schürch, conquered the world without saying a single word, but using a purely visual language of unsupported masks against a black background. As MUMMENSCHANZ, they carved out a new niche in the performing arts.

With Andres Bossard’s passing in 1992 and Bernie Schürch’s retirement in 2012, Floriana Frassetto remains as the main artistic driving force behind the multi-award-winning troupe. The foundation has put on a host of full-length productions over the past 50 years. The masks, performance techniques and repertoire have all evolved over the course of more than 100 productions, and MUMMENSCHANZ has used them to great effect on every continent. A half-century after it was founded, the troupe continues to be one of the most popular theater attractions worldwide and is adored by critics and audiences alike.

To mark the foundation’s anniversary, Floriana Frassetto—the poet of silence—has devised a production that will take the public on a 50-year journey through the fascinating world of MUMMENSCHANZ. It will take a look at the most popular, successful productions of years gone by, featuring legendary characters such as the Clay Masks and the Toilet Paper Faces. “50 Years” will also see appearances by the delicate, air-filled Giants, the Pipe Creature and plenty of other bizarre objects and shapes brought to life by the troupe’s five performers. The production will also include sketches featuring surprising new forms and characters that capture the signature MUMMENSCHANZ spirit.

This is an anniversary production without words or music. An imaginative, poetic journey that needs no subtitles. “50 Years” takes audiences on a magical, captivating journey through the infinite, yet familiar, world of imagination conjured by MUMMENSCHANZ.

Fifty years on from its formation, the “musicians of silence” are continuing to practice their craft. As curious and ready for a challenge as ever, MUMMENSCHANZ takes everyday objects and gives them a new lease on life. With its “50 Years” production, MUMMENSCHANZ is taking a look back at its history, while writing the next chapter in its story of inimitable, non-verbal language. “50 Years” is a playful, interactive experience and a poetic production for all generations.

This fantastic journey through the world of MUMMENSCHANZ is lively, humorous, full of affection and brimming with imagination.

2024 U.S. TOUR CAST

Floriana Frassetto (Swiss) studied at Academia Alessandro Fersen in Rome from 1967 to 1969. She completed her training as an actress while attending a school for mime and acrobatics at Roy Bosier’s Teatro Studio. She then worked with the company of Roy Bosier in several school productions that toured Italy. The idea of founding MUMMENSCHANZ resulted from meeting, in late 1970, Andres Bossard and Bernie Schürch—two young Swiss clowns called “Before and Lost,” who performed a partially spoken show. Floriana 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. Floriana has toured worldwide for the last 47 years. She feels herself an artisan of fantasy and has always been motivated to construct new shapes along with Bernie. Since Bernie’s departure in 2012, she has been tormented by the challenge of creating a new show, which she has now done with plenty of new ideas. That has been possible thanks to the collaboration with Tina Kronis and Richard Alger. Other notable experiences include the choreography and the costumes for Giancarlo Sbragia’s *Faust*; André Heller’s musical, *Body and Soul*; and an artistic collaboration with Isabelle Baudet for the children’s musical *Oliver Twist* in Lausanne (Switzerland). She is the artistic director of MUMMENSCHANZ

Tess 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 Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK). 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 movements arts, and Collectif de Marchepied. Tess 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.

Christa Barrett (Swiss), was born in Fribourg in 1990. At the age of 17, she joined the Zirkus Chnopf and the Cirque de Loin for three years. Following this, she entered the Accademia Teatro Dimitri in Verscio, Switzerland. During her studies, she won the physical theatre studentship award from Migros Kulturprozent twice. In 2014, she received her bachelor's in physical theatre. Since then, Christa has worked with different theatre companies, including Poyo Furioso directed by Hermes Gaido, Fiorenza Ensemble directed by Eveline Ratering, and the Commedia Origen Festival directed by Fabrizio Pestilli. Christa has been a member of the MUMMENSCHANZ company since 2016.

Oliver Pfulg grew up in Hombrechtikon/ZH, and after his initial education as a draughtsman, he attended the physical theatre school Comart in Zürich for three years, where he graduated in 2010. Since then, he has had different engagements (Opera House Zürich, flowingdancecompany, MärliMusicalTheater). Oliver is also a founding member of the street theatre group Paula fliegt. Oliver has been a member of the MUMMENSCHANZ company since 2015.

Samuel Müller was born in 1986 and grew up in Ticino and in Bern. From 2004 to 2007, he obtained a bachelor's in physical theatre at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri SUPSI in Verscio. In 2010, he started his master's at the Accademia Teatro Dimitri, which he finished with his master thesis "Backwoodsman." In 2014, he showed his play at the International Theatre Festival of Theatre Schools in Rome, winning the 'Gemini d'oro' for best performer. Since 2014, he has been touring with the family project "Dimitrigenerations" with Famiglia Dimitri. He performed in various theatre and opera productions in Italy and abroad. Samuel has been a member of MUMMENSCHANZ since 2023.

Eric Sauge (Swiss) is the technical director of the company. With more than 10 years of experience in the entertainment business, he now specializes in lighting and machinery effects. Employment by large organizations provided him with worldwide travel. Through his 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 events such as theatre and television, in which he mainly occupied 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.