

Friday, November 27, 2015, 2pm
Saturday, November 28, 2015, 2pm
Sunday, November 29, 2015, 3pm
Zellerbach Hall

Mummenschanz



Cal Performances' 2015–2016 season is sponsored by Wells Fargo.

Mummenschanz



Artistic Director
Floriana Frassetto

Performers
Floriana Frassetto
Sara Francesca Hermann
Oliver Pfulg
Giovanni Colombo

Technical Directors
Eric Sauge
Dino "Chico" De Maio



FORMED IN PARIS in 1972 by Andres Bossard, Floriana Frassetto, and Bernie Schürch, the Swiss mask-theater troupe **Mummenschanz** pioneered a new form of visual theater that has inspired generations of theater-goers across five continents over more than four decades. The “stories” told are unique in that they have no sound or music; but the language of Mummenschanz is universal.

In the wordless world of Mummenschanz, the ordinary becomes extraordinary, when common materials, everyday objects (like toilet paper), and colorful abstract shapes and forms—like the famous “Clay Masks,” “Slinky Man,” and “Giant Hands”—spring to life.

By creating a playful yet compelling experience through the inventive use of shadow and light and the creative manipulation of objects, Mummenschanz offers timeless insights on the human condition. The result is a visually stunning spectacle of that transcends cultural barriers and sparks the imagination.

Floriana Frassetto (*Artistic Director, performer*) studied at Alessandro Fersen’s theater academy in Rome from 1967 to 1969 and completed her actor’s training by attending a comprehensive course in mime, acrobatics, and dance at Roy Bosier’s theater studio. In 1969–1970, she worked in Rome in several pantomime and theater productions. The idea of founding Mummenschanz resulted from meeting, in 1972, Andres Bossard and Bernie Schürch—two young Swiss clowns called “Before” and “Lost.” She has since co-invented the repertoire of Mummenschanz and played in each performance.

The creation of costumes; the choreography of Giancarlo Sbragia’s *Faust* performed in the Roman amphitheater of Taormina, Sicily; the staging of Mummenschanz scenes for André Heller’s musical *Body and Soul*; and an artistic collaboration with Isabelle Baudet for the children’s musical *Oliver Twist* in Lausanne, Switzerland, rank among her finest individual achievements.

Sara Francesca Hermann (*performer*) was born in 1985 in Samedan, Switzerland, and grew up trilingual, speaking Romansh, German, and Italian. She trained as a primary school teacher and later completed a three-year course at the School of Physical Theater in Zurich. Since 2010, she has worked as a freelance theater artist in various productions. She is co-founder of the “Paula fliegt” street-theater troupe, which has produced several theater and music projects in Switzerland and abroad. Ms. Hermann joined Mummenschanz in May 2015.

Oliver Pfulg (*performer*) grew up in Hombrechtikon, Switzerland. After his education as a draftsman, he studied for three years at the School of Physical Theater in Zurich. He played in the Gastspieltheater Zurich and at the Märlimusicaltheater in several fairytale productions. Mr. Pfulg undertook further training in dance and was hired for several projects as a dancer. He is co-founder of the street-theater troupe “Paula fliegt.” Mr. Pfulg joined Mummenschanz in May 2015.

Giovanni Colombo (*performer*) began his career as a theater performer working with Teatro di Ventura in 1980. After finishing his acting studies at Centro Sperimentale di Cinematografia in Rome in 1985, he worked on various film productions. In 1986, he joined Mummenschanz during its production of *Faust* by Giancarlo Sbragia. He performed for several years with Mummenschanz in various productions at the Casino Estoril in Portugal. Starting in 2000, Ms. Colombo worked as an assistant director in movie and television productions. He is now happy to be back performing with Mummenschanz.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Eric Sauge (*technical director*) started working in theaters as machinist, for major operas as well as for small venues. In 2011, he was hired as chief machinist for an international dance company. After touring two years throughout Europe and Asia, Mr. Sauge returned to Switzerland to improve his knowledge in the lighting field. He learned various lighting styles, ranging from theater to variety show, experimenting with television and on various events. He then worked as a lighting operator, passing from one event to another, until he joined Mummenschanz in early 2014.

Dino “Chico” De Maio (*technical director*) studied music, acting, and stage techniques for scenery and lighting. He started working as technical director for Mummenschanz in 1981, touring worldwide until 1986. During his break from touring with Mummenschanz, Mr. De Maio worked as studio assistant in the Italian television industry and performed as a percussionist in several bands and progressive rock groups. He is also a studio musician, often asked to participate in acoustic musical projects. Mr. De Maio re-joined Mummenschanz in 2013.