RENO\V\ED SWISS THEATRICAL TROUPE, MUMMENSCHANZ, BRINGS FAMILY FRIENDLY PERFORMANCE TO JORGENSEN

Fri, Jan 22, 2016 at 8:00 pm

The renowned Swiss theatrical troupe, Mummenschanz, comes to UConn’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts on Friday evening, January 22nd to enchant audiences of all ages with a night of whimsical and witty silent skits starring a surreal parade of wonderfully weird creatures and seemingly sentient everyday objects. The highly skilled ensemble of mimes and puppeteers brings their fantastical cast to life through the inventive use of lighting, props, masks, and motion, manipulating the characters to silently interact with one another to sketch wordless vignettes that transcend language and culture and offer timeless insights on the human condition. Doors open at 7:30 pm and show begins at 8:00 pm.

Originally conceived in 1972 as a new form of theatrical non-verbal expression by its three founders, Andres Bossard, Bernie Schurch, and Floriana Frassetto, Mummenschanz enjoyed an unprecedented three-year run on Broadway in the 70s. In the four decades since, the talented ensemble continues to captivate audiences of all ages around the world with its delightful performances that are wonderfully playful, and yet deeply poignant.

Since its Broadway debut, the troupe has toured in sixty countries on five continents. Wherever they perform, the troupe attempts to transform the stage into a magical universe where anything can happen in front of their audience. Although the three founders of Mummenschanz may have had different backgrounds, they always shared one common goal: to develop a non-verbal theatre language, transcending the traditional boundaries of nationality and culture.

“As young performers coming from mime schools and theater school, we wanted to change the world,” says Frassetto, the troupe’s Italian-born co-founder. “Using different materials of everyday life, whether a carton, fabric, foam rubber, balloons, or rolls of toilet paper, we wanted to convey vignettes which were poetic and ironic and critical. We wanted to tell stories of change and evolution... stories of the difficulty of communication between man and woman or between two men... stories about misunderstanding, about love, about hate, and about the competition that we all experience in our lives.”

Mummenschanz’s Jorgensen performance will feature classic audience favorites, such as the Giant Hands, which often wander off stage to interact with audience members, the Slinky Man, and the amazingly expressive Clay Masks, as well as brilliant new creations seen for the first time.

More than forty years after forming, Mummenschanz is still telling stories about the human condition using an art form that transcends cultural barriers and sparks the imagination.

“We really believe that less is more. We aim for the essence of communication, so that everyone can identify with our work very easily,” says Frassetto. “We don’t change anyone’s life, but we help you to let go for a couple of hours, with a lot of love and a lot of passion.”

– MORE –
MUMMENSCHANZ, continued

For more information about the world famous Mummenschanz theatrical troupe please visit www.mummenschanz.com.

This year the University of Connecticut’s Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts proudly celebrates its 60th anniversary. Established in December of 1955, Jorgensen has grown to become the largest college-based presenting program in New England. Each season Jorgensen enriches the lives of students, faculty, staff, and area residents with 30 to 35 diverse performances from nationally and internationally acclaimed artists and ensembles ranging from classical music to world music and dance, classical ballet and contemporary dance, comedy, family programming, and contemporary entertainment. Dedicated to University of Connecticut president Albert N. Jorgensen, Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts continues to follow his vision of the University as the state’s educational and cultural leader.

Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts is located at 2132 Hillside Road on the UConn campus in Storrs. Tickets are available now online. Prices are: Floor seats - $36, Mezzanine - $32.

For tickets and information, call the Box Office at 860.486.4226, Monday through Friday, 10 am - 5 pm, and 90 minutes prior to events, or order online at jorgensen.uconn.edu. Convenient $5 event parking is available in the North Garage. Free parking is available in Lots 9, F, and L. For a detailed parking map, go to park.uconn.edu.

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