

Zimmermann & de Perrot

ÖPER ÖPIS

For Öper Öpis Zimmermann & de Perrot invited five exceptional circus artists and dancers to join them.

The action takes place on an unstable stage that can tilt in response to movements made by the protagonists. It constitutes the uncertain basis on which the characters, alone or in pairs, display themselves – thereby risking life and limb. The encounters are soft, fleeting, spectacular and daring, and more often than not result in a decline. As the characters untiringly seek new challenges in their relationships with the others, they upset the balance and are thereby in danger of losing the ground under their feet. Everyday situations unravel into absurdity.

With compassion and humour, Öper Öpis is about the impossibility of finding in others what one is really looking for: oneself.

More information: www.zimmermanndeperrot.com

Zimmermann & de Perrot

ÖPER ÖPIS

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| Concept, direction and stage design: | Zimmermann & de Perrot |
| Composition: | Dimitri de Perrot |
| Choreography: | Martin Zimmermann |
| Dramaturgy: | Sabine Geistlich |
| Light: | Christa Wenger |
| Sound: | Andy Neresheimer |
| Construction Decor: | Ingo Groher und Schauspielhaus Zürich |
| Costumes: | Franziska Born |
| Costume assistant: | Carola Bachmann |
| Light direction: | Pierre Villard / Cathrine Rutishauser |
| Sound direction: | Franck Bourgoïn / Andy Neresheimer |
| Stage Manager: | Marcello Pirrone |
| Stage direction: | Pavel Dagorov |
| Oeil extérieur: | Fritz Bisenz |
| Technical director: | Ursula Degen |
| Administration and tourmanagement: | Alain Vuignier |
| International producer: | Claire Béjanin |
| Created with the acrobats, dancers and the DJ: | Blancaluz Capella, Victor Cathala, Rafael Moraes, Dimitri de Perrot Pikkarainen, Eugénie Rebetez, Martin Zimmermann |
| Coproduction: | Schauspielhaus Zürich Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne Théâtre de la Ville, Paris Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg Migros culture percentage La Filature, scène nationale - Mulhouse Le Merlan, scène nationale à Marseille Le-Maillon, Théâtre de Strasbourg - Scène européenne La Ferme du Buisson scène nationale de Marne-la-Vallée Equinoxe, scène nationale de Châteauroux Opéra Dijon Theater Chur London International Mime Festival Zimmermann & de Perrot |
| With support from: | City of Zurich – department of cultural affaires Canton of Zurich – service of cultural affaires Pro Helvetia – swiss arts council Ernst Göhner Foundation Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation Sophie und Karl Binding Foundation SSA – swiss society of authors |

Zimmermann & de Perrot are backed by a cooperative contract of support between the city of Zurich's department of cultural affaires, the cultural affairs service of Canton Zurich and Pro Helvetia, Swiss Arts Council.

Since 2006 Zimmermann & de Perrot have enjoyed the support of Foundation BNP Paribas for development of their projects.

Final rehearsals at Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, premiere on October 29th 2008

Zimmermann & de Perrot

The theater of Zimmermann & de Perrot is based on precise observation, humorous repetition, distortion, and the artistically accomplished transformation of everyday interactions, giving the little things in life a big platform. Using bodies, objects and music Zimmermann & de Perrot compose funny, unconventional theatre pieces within a changing scenography. At the centre of their work is the human being – with all its human fragility and contradictions. Their characters are driven to make the impossible possible. They are very physical and possess a marvelous artistry as performers. Their wordless theater is full of absurd humor and a deep love of detail. Objects are living beings. People are things. It's not always obvious what it's about, so you are compelled to think in unaccustomed ways.

The magic world of the directing team Zimmermann & de Perrot has performed over the years in renowned theaters and festivals across Europe and around the world: Théâtre de la Ville Paris, Festival d'Avignon, Barbican London, Sydney Opera House, Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne, Grec Festival Barcelona, Schauspielhaus Zürich, Grand Théâtre de Luxembourg, Usine C Montréal, Hong Kong Cultural Center, De Singel Antwerpen, Greek Festival Athens, among others.

The two artists tour and create in a very intense rhythm; they have several shows on tour at the same time, performing in most of them.

They are being talked about in the international press – magazines, journals and newspapers like the New York Times, Neue Zürcher Zeitung, El País, Libération, Les Inrockuptibles, ELLE, Télrama, The Guardian... In „Le Nouvel Observateur“ Raphaël de Gubernatis celebrated their work as “poetic extravagance – dreamlike and acutely intelligent”. Thomas Hahn of the German magazine “Ballettanz” writes that every Zimmermann & de Perrot piece “breaks through all aesthetic boundaries, including the limits of tradition. Splendid!” And Rosita Boisseau of “Le Monde” says that just as the style of Pina Bausch (German choreographer) became known as “Tanz-Theater”, a new term could be invented for Zimmermann & de Perrot: “Theater-Circus”.

Zimmermann & de Perrot have won several awards, including the Swiss Choreography Prize (2009), the Cultural Advancement Prize of Canton Zurich (2010), the Swiss Design Prize (2008 and 2010 in the category of set design), the Swiss Innovation Prize (2008), among others.

Their team – on and off stage – presently includes about 40 acrobats, dancers, actors, technicians and many others; they also run their own production company. Zimmermann & de Perrot are independent and are not bound to any institution.

Our World

We build our pieces from little things, everyday things, things that happen when a person feels unobserved – we hunt them out and gather them together. And that's where we go to discover characters, spaces, sounds – a small gasp, a moment of distractedness, a constriction of the heart.

For our pieces we use everything that comes our way, and let it work its way through the meat grinder.

We call it theatre because we haven't found a better word.

We like distortion, we turn everything upside down.

We seek the possible in the impossible. We risk and we fail.

We like little things.

For us, objects are living beings.

We are little wannabe greats who are suddenly in over our heads.

We fool around at the edge of the abyss.

We laugh our heads off and are deadly serious.

We ride roughshod over physical pain.

We are extremely diligent and quite painstaking.

We let it rip.

Sweat and tears, good luck and bad.

Zimmermann & de Perrot – Zurich 2010

Biographys

Dimitri de Perrot

Dimitri de Perrot was born in 1976 in Neuchatel, Switzerland. After matriculating from the Kunstgymnasium in Zurich he developed further as a self-taught musician and composer. In 1998 he turned his attention to the theater, and began to work as a director.

Martin Zimmermann

Martin Zimmermann was born in 1970 in Winterthur, Switzerland. After an apprenticeship as a set designer, he graduated, with honors, from the Centre National des Arts du Cirque (C.N.A.C.) in France. Following his return to Zurich in 1998 he began to work as a choreographer and director.

Zimmermann & de Perrot

The two created the pieces GOPF (1999), HOI (2001) and JANEI (2004) in the collective MZdP; and ANATOMIE ANOMALIE (2005, Direction and Set Design: Zimmermann / Music: de Perrot) for the Compagnie Anomalie. As Zimmermann & de Perrot they staged GAFF AFF (2006), ÖPER ÖPIS (2008) and CHOUF OUCHOUF (2009, interpreted by the Groupe acrobatique de Tanger).

Awards

2010

- Promotion prize 2010 by the Canton of Zurich
- Federal Award for design 2010 for the stage design of ÖPER ÖPIS

2009

- Swiss dance and choreography award “Pro Tanz” 2009, ÖPER ÖPIS

2008

- Swiss innovation award of KTV (assoc. of artists, theater, and programmers), GAFF AFF
- Federal Award for design 2008 for the stage design of GAFF AFF
- Award for choreographical work, SSA (swiss association of authors), ÖPER ÖPIS
- Award for the composition of stage music, SSA, ÖPER ÖPIS

2007

- Mimos Award, 25th international festival of mime, Périgueux/France, GAFF AFF

2006

- Audience award, Beo Festival, Valladolid Spain, ANATOMIE ANOMALIE
- Award for the composition of stage music, SSA, GAFF AFF

2005

- Creation year of the city of Zurich, Dimitri de Perrot
- Award for the composition of stage music, SSA, ANATOMIE ANOMALIE

2004

- Award for the composition of stage music, SSA, JANEI
- Prize of the city of Zurich for dance, Cie MZdP
- Award for interdisciplinary creation, SSA, ANATOMIE ANOMALIE

2002

- Award for best stage design, Kontakt Festival, Torun/Poland, HOI
- Award for best music, Kontakt Festival, Torun/Poland, HOI

2001

- Award for the composition of stage music, SSA, HOI

2000

- Audience award, Bitef – Belgrad International Theater Festival, Belgrade/Serbia, GOPF
- Award for best stage design, Kontakt Festival, Torun/Poland, GOPF
- Award for best music, Kontakt Festival, Torun/Poland, GOPF

1999

- Award for a choreographical composition, SSA, GOPF