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**MUMMENSCHANZ**  
**SWITZERLAND'S MAGICAL AND INNOVATIVE PANTOMIME**  
**TROUPE RETURNS TO CAL PERFORMANCES WITH ITS**  
**WHOLLY ORIGINAL THEATRICAL FORM IN**  
***3x11* FRIDAY–SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26–28**

**A Thanksgiving treat for the entire family; tickets for children 16 and under half-price  
for all performances**

**SchoolTime: Special one-hour performance for students Monday, November 29 at 11:00 a.m.**

**BERKELEY, October 26, 2010**—“The true theater of illusion” (*The Irish Times*), **Mummenschanz** makes its way back to Cal Performances’ **Zellerbach Hall** with its retrospective, ***3x11*, Friday–Sunday, November 26–28**. In the surreal and comic universe of Switzerland’s Mummenschanz, founded by **Bernie Schüch, Floriana Frassetto** and the late **Andres Bossard**, the ordinary becomes extraordinary when common materials and everyday objects—wires, tubes, boxes and even toilet paper—spring to life in the creation of fantastical characters. Mummenschanz took New York City by storm when it arrived on the theatrical scene in the 1970’s, capturing the imaginations of young and old alike. *3x11*, first performed in 2006, celebrates the troupe’s first 33 years with highlights of their most memorable creatures. Mummenschanz’s world reflects human connections and relationships that can be understood by any audience crossing all linguistic, cultural and age limitations. “Although unrecognizable as people, they powerfully engage the emotions with their silly, earnest and very human activities, supply revealing universal truths through simple interactions and transformation.” (*The New York Times*)

Mummenschanz will give a *SchoolTime* performance for Bay Area students Monday, November 29, at 11:00 a.m. in Zellerbach Hall. Tickets available in advance only.

Schüch, Frassetto and Bossard founded Mummenschanz (roughly meaning masquerade) in 1972 and were united by a common goal: to create a nonverbal theatrical language that would

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transcend the traditional barriers of nationality and culture. The company was successful right from the beginning with a major success at the 1972 Avignon Festival. For almost four decades, the group has toured the world, including Eastern Europe, North and South America, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The troupe spent three years on Broadway from 1977 - 1980 with a production that contained no words or music. The company has created a vast number of well-loved figures and fantasy creatures in the shape of versatile face, half-body and whole-body masks, and three-dimensional sculptural heads. “Mummenschanz has always had a strong connection with American audiences, which really respond to the visual humor, playfulness and imagination in our performances” says Schüch, who, with Frassetto, still performs in the company along with **Pietro Montandon**, **Raffaella Mattioli** and technical director **Jan Maria Lukas**.

Schüch and Frassetto are architects and purveyors of an art form they continue to perfect refining performing techniques, developing new ideas and discovering novel materials from which to build expressive shapes and un-dreamt-of characters. The death of founder Bossard in 1992 was a great loss for Mummenschanz. In his memory, Frassetto and Schüch established the Mummenschanz Foundation with the aim of helping new nonverbal theaters.

### **TICKET INFORMATION**

Tickets for **Mummenschanz** on **Friday, November 26** at **2:00 p.m.**; **Saturday, November 27** at **2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**; and **Sunday, November 28** at **3:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$22.00, \$30.00, \$38.00, \$46.00, and \$52.00**. This is a **Family Fare** event; ages 16 and under save 50% on single-ticket prices for all performances. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org).

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced two hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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Cal Performances' 2010/11 Season is sponsored by Wells Fargo

KDFC is media sponsor of the 2010/11 Season

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**CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:**

**CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS**

**Friday, November 26, 2:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, November 27, 2:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 28, 3:00 p.m.**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**

Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*World Stage*

*3x11*

**Mummenschanz**

**Bernie Schüch** and **Floriana Frassetto**, directors

**Jan Maria Lukas**, technical director

**Pietro Montandon** and **Raffaella Mattioli**, actors

**Program:** The world-renowned Swiss pantomime troupe, Mummenschanz, returns with *3x11*, a retrospective on the company's 33 years of original theater.

**Tickets: \$22.00, \$30.00, \$38.00, \$46.00 and \$52.00**, available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at [www.calperformances.org](http://www.calperformances.org); and at the door. This performance is part of Cal Performances' Family Fare series; ages 16 and under save 50% on single-ticket prices for all performances.

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**Monday, November 29 at 11:00 a.m.**  
**SCHOOLTIME PERFORMANCE**

**Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus**  
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

*World Stage*

**Mummenschanz**

**Program:** Mummenschanz presents a special one-hour performance for school children.

**Tickets:** \$5.00 per student or adult chaperone, available in advance only through Cal Performances at (510) 642-1082. *SchoolTime* performances are open to students in kindergarten through grade 12 in Bay Area public and private schools. Supplemental study guides for the classroom are provided. For more information about the *SchoolTime* program, contact the *SchoolTime* coordinator at Cal Performances by email at [eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu](mailto:eduprograms@calperfs.berkeley.edu) or by phone at (510) 642-0212.

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