

“The group has to be seen—and sometimes touched—to be believed. But if you imagine the Muppets heavily influenced by French surrealism and a few psychotropics, you will have some idea” (The New York Times).

MUMMENSCHANZ: 50 Years

The imaginative Swiss troupe returns to The Soraya with a program celebrating 50 years of wonderfully inventive, and totally silent, visual storytelling

Saturday, Nov 2 at 3pm; *Tickets start at \$43 and are now available at TheSoraya.org.*

(Los Angeles, CA) October 17, 2024 —For over 50 years, MUMMENSCHANZ has enchanted audiences around the world with their groundbreaking visual theatre. The Swiss based troupe, famous for the innovative use of shadow, light, and creatively manipulated everyday objects, brings their unique, wordless storytelling to live in a way that transcends language and culture.

On Nov. 2, 2024, the troupe returns to The Soraya for its third visit, this time celebrating a milestone 50th anniversary with a spectacular show that revisits their greatest hits while introducing new audiences to their mesmerizing performances.

“We have some new sketches — one with a viola and violin that have a love fight, misunderstandings but full of poetry. Some new novelties, very extreme from what we had before because I had to give it a try to make some different things,” co-founder Florianna Frassetto said in an [interview](#) with Thor Steingraber, Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director.

“And there is another one which is kind of a criticism on the new communication with the (cell) phones where everyone never looks at one another...sitting in front of one another (but) communicating by phone.”

MUMMENSCHANZ brings physical performance and entertainment together entirely without words, something that many new and younger audience members might not be accustomed to. When asked if this has been a challenge for the troupe over its five decades performing, Frassetto said it was a difficult choice to leave words out of the mix — but that they also started in Switzerland, where many languages are spoken.

"(When we) started touring, people were a bit astonished," she said. "No music, no words...but the emotions were so strong that (audiences) could feel the rhythm and the sound of the emotions...and sometimes you have people ask, 'What music did I hear?' ... but there wasn't any! The "rhythm" (that they hear) is ours and that of the audience. It's never the same show 100%, which keeps it alive and young."

Fifty-two years is a long time, but Frassetto said the commitment to the craft has never dwindled as performers and creators have come and gone. She said the "very highly talented, passionate people" who she will perform with on Nov. 2 have constructed sketches together that she is proud to bring to audience members in the San Fernando Valley and surrounding cities.

For story development and interview requests, please contact:

- The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada (marie.estrada@csun.edu) or PR Consultant Gary Murphy (Garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com).
- **Click [HERE](#) to access your press kit.**
- Click [HERE](#) to watch " Director Selects: Floriana Frassetto, 52 years of Mummenschanz," an interview with Frassetto ahead of the troupe's Nov. 2 performance

About MUMMENSCHANZ: 50 Years

For its anniversary production – aptly titled "50 Years" – MUMMENSCHANZ will be taking audiences on a journey filled with imagination and poetry, putting on the most beloved sketches from the foundation's repertoire over the past five decades. To mark the anniversary, co-founder Floriana Frassetto 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 back at the most popular, most successful productions of years gone by, featuring legendary characters such as the Clay Masks and the Toilet Paper Faces. The show 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. The production will also include sketches featuring surprising new forms and characters that capture the signature MUMMENSCHANZ spirit. This fantastic journey through the world of MUMMENSCHANZ is lively, humorous, full of affection and brimming with imagination. For more biographical information on MUMMENSCHANZ please visit [MUMMENSCHANZ](#) website.

About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre designed and built by HGA Architects and Engineers and opened in January 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian, the venue was renamed The Soraya in 2017. Vibrant programming has served to establish The Soraya as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley and its 1.8 million residents and as one of the top arts and culture venues in Southern California. Since its inaugural season, The Soraya has presented over 500 artists and companies across the genres of music, dance, theater, and film and is a highly in-demand location for filming and rental events.

The Soraya's 2024-25 Season boldly advances the expansive sound of orchestras both traditional and contemporary; the freestyle vibe of jazz; an array of dance luminaries, and a cultural bounty drawn from the musical well of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to innovating, excelling, and amplifying access by offering a wide variety of performances that reflect Los Angeles' many distinctive

communities and featuring new and original work and artists from the local region as well as nationally and around the world.

Located on the vibrant campus of California State University Northridge (CSUN), The Soraya and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication share an integral link that enhances student access and opportunities in the arts and performing arts. A \$5 million contribution from record producer and former California Lieutenant Governor Mike Curb was pivotal in ensuring the completion and opening of The Soraya in 2011. For his founding support and in acknowledgment of the integral relationship between the Mike Curb College and The Soraya, Mike Curb is recognized as one of The Soraya's Cornerstone Benefactors. This partnership fosters academic and artistic excellence, elevating the talents and the future growth of CSUN's students through master classes, student tickets, concerts of student ensembles, and students appearing alongside renowned artists such as Wynton Marsalis, Aida Cuevas, and Martha Graham Dance Company.

Calendar Listing:

What: MUMMENSCHANZ: 50 Years

For its anniversary production – aptly titled “50 Years” – MUMMENSCHANZ will be taking audiences on a journey filled with imagination and poetry

When: Sat, Nov 2 at 3 p.m.

Where: Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

Website: www.TheSoraya.org

Ticket Price: \$43-\$95

Ticket Office: 818-677-3000

Soraya Press Contacts

Marie Estrada, Communications Associate, The Soraya
P: 818-677-6691 | E: marie.estrada@csun.edu

Gary W. Murphy, Consultant
P: 213-700-9645 | E: gmurphypr@gmail.com

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