

florschütz & döhnert (Berlin) proudly presents:

BIG BOX

& small orchestra

On stage there is a big box: like a huge package, a phone booth, a work shop, an elevator, a spaceship...? There are street lights growing out of the box. A tiny conductor slides across the stage and gives the beat. A couple is dancing. The box turns over and decides to be a table... What kind of powers are these that are putting things in motion? Let's follow the stories that are being moved by the objects! Between manipulation and autonomy everything on stage starts to play with each other: the light, the music, the people and the objects. Through the power of imagination a box can be much more than just a box...

Theatre with objects and live music without words
For children aged 4+
Recommended for children between 4 - 8 years old,
in pre-school and primary school classes 1 - 4

Duration: 40 minutes
Premiere:
11. September 2021 Schaubude Berlin

www.florschuetz-doehnert.de

Please watch the trailer:
<https://vimeo.com/652063095>



BIG BOX

& small orchestra

Credits

Production: florschütz & döhnert

Coproduction: Association Nova Villa – Festival Méli'môme,
Escher Theater, Rotondes Luxembourg, T-Werk, TAK Theater Liechtenstein,
Très Tôt Théâtre, scène conventionnée Art Enfance Jeunesse – Quimper.
Funded by: Hauptstadtkulturfonds and Bezirksamt Pankow of Berlin
Support: Brotfabrik Bonn, SCHAUBUDE Berlin

Idea: Michael Döhnert and Melanie Florschütz
Scenography, objects, play: Michael Döhnert and Melanie Florschütz
Artistic collaboration and light: Joachim Fleischer
Live music and composition: Michael Döhnert
Costume designer: Adelheid Wieser

florschütz & döhnert

Melanie Florschütz studied puppet theater arts at the HMDK Stuttgart, Michael Döhnert is a composer, guitarist and singer. The duo, which has been working together since 1996, tours worldwide at international festivals with their mobile productions. The way florschütz & döhnert deal with things and objects, interweaving music and light, is amazingly immediate and surprisingly poetic. Playfully they change the meanings of things and open up a new perspective.

BIG BOX & small orchestra is the fourth artistic collaboration with the light artist Joachim Fleischer.



Unusual and absurd ideas, sound and rhythm let objects dance

The Theatre "Schaubude Berlin" has opened its new season with the Festival »Berliner Schaufenster (Berlin Window) 2021 – Touch & Move - Theatre and dance for the very young«. Finally back in the theatre - listening, seeing and marvelling together!

The stage is empty and dark. The play starts with soft sounds. A crackle here, a rattle there. Where does it come from? All the senses are waking up. A big box is slowly moving towards the centre of the stage. Two spotlights arise from within it, putting the ceiling, the walls and the floor in bright light and then they disappear again. While they are sinking back into the box, a little orchestra starts a rhythmic commotion all by itself. How does that work? Who is playing the instruments? It is no recording. It's definitely live. Two drumsticks are dancing to the beat. The stage light makes all the objects visible but the room itself remains in darkness. In the centre there is a big box. When the two players Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert appear in their blue craftsmen outfits, a simple move of Döhnert's hand is enough to bring back silence. The two of them look around to see, what's to be done. Little objects on the floor move forward all by themselves. How does that work? A little stick sets the pace like a conductor. A drumstick shoots through the air without any echo. When Döhnert puts a drum next to it, a percussion solo begins. But Florschütz interferes with her own action, a machine-like noise that drowns out everything else. He pulls her plug, she puts it back in. Back and forth. She keeps the upper hand. That's it. The children are enthusiastic about this power play without words.

Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert have a fine sense of playing with unusual and absurd ideas. The kids know that they are cheating. They see how he gets into the big box. But they see what they want to see and they extremely enjoy it when the big box starts moving on its own on stage and Melanie Florschütz tries to push against it or redirect it with lots of gestures. How much strength do you need to move the box? Is she able to do that on her own? Or do you need two people for that? The box constantly provides new cause for irritation. Who gets in there? Who looks out on top of it? And what is in there? Almost always the answers are different from what you might think. When the door of the box opens after some infernal noises and you would expect Florschütz to come out with a sawn tree trunk, she actually steps out holding a floating black balloon. She puts the balloon on a speaker tower like a cupola. So now, when the sounds make the membranes swing, we can actually see the sounds: the balloon is vibrating. Trying to tip over the box turns out to be a bigger effort. That's where the winch and lifting bags come in. Next, the box becomes a vehicle that you can slide under to see what's going on. Finally, however, through some sort of magnetic force, the box gets legs and becomes a table. A shaky thing, constantly providing new surprising and funny moments. The children are always the first to laugh and they infect everyone else. The scenes get their ease and dynamics and also their cohesion through music and sounds. The little orchestra comes to life by the objects' own sounds like the clacking on the metal sheet, the squawking of the megaphone, the sound of the speaker's membrane, the drum, the cymbal, the base drum, the string instruments and a couple of other things. We hear them on their own, with their own rhythms or we hear them sounding together. The climax is kept for the finale, when the box starts to dance on the tip of its toes to some powerful melodies and Melanie Florschütz runs around it with a spotlight to light it up nicely.

Bravo! The applause lasts for a long time. And once again the collaboration of florschütz & döhnert with the award-winning light artist Joachim Fleischer and the costume designer has proven its worth. After the show, children and adults get on stage, ask questions and look at a tiny box with glimmering multi-colored lamps and wires. „This is no decoration,“ says Michael Döhnert, „you just have to know how to put it together. This is the block with the relays. This is the audio line and that is the impulse line. The impulses come from electromagnets.“ When and where he presses which button remains his secret.

DIE AKTUELLE KRITIK, www.fidena.de, 27.09.2021

BIG BOX

& small orchestra

Tour dates

28 - 29 January 2022

21 November 2021

13 February 2022

15 February 2022

1 - 4, 6 March 2022

9 - 14 March 2022

19, 21 - 23 March 2022

26 - 28 March 2022

10 - 11 April 2022

3 - 4 Mai 2022

6 - 8 Mai 2022

21 - 23, 25 - 26 June 2022

29 - 30 June 2022

Festival MOMIX, Kingersheim (FR)

Brotfabrik Bonn (DE)

Festival IMAGINALE Mannheim (DE) – reported to 2023!

Kulturzentrum Das Haus, Ludwigshafen (DE)

Escher Theater (LU), Luxembourg (LU)

Rotondes Luxemburg (LU)

gz buchegg, Zürich (CH)

Festival MÉLI'MÔME Reims (FR)

TAK Theater Liechtenstein (LI)

Festival NOOB Pont-Audemer (FR)

Passages Transfestival Metz (FR)

SCHAUBUDE Berlin (DE)

Festival Spleen, Graz (AT) with an open-air version

Contact production: Melanie Florschütz

post@melaniefloerschuetz.de, 0049. 163. 45 27 285

florschuetz-doehnert.de

