



## *Hare Moon Hare Night*

A poetical play for children of the age 2+

### **The moon is round and makes his circles.**

the waxening moon, the full moon,  
the moon is on the wane, the new moon.  
The moon is there, is gone away and comes back.  
Like a ball, a lantern, or a piece of cake.  
And if you are looking at him very careful,  
in special nights you can see the hare  
jumping through the full moon.  
The full moon is jumping through the night.  
A magic, musical journey through the night  
in the sign of the hare.

The moon and his continually change, his appearance and disappearance, the experience of the darkness can be shared of every child. For ages the moon has fascinated the human beings. Like a friendly playmate the moon seems to be handy, but he has his own will. In his lunar orbit the moon appears and disappears, he is a never ending change. And how the moon is growing and passing away, his development is like the existence of the human being. Of all that our play is telling in images rich of poetic and atmosphere. Melanie Florschütz leads like a moon catcher through the play, accompanied by Michael Döhnert, who is singing and arranging the surrounding with his smooth flexible voice.



Theatre company florschütz & döhnert is based in Berlin, Germany, and tours around the world. Artists Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert have been working together since 1996: Melanie studied the art of puppetry in Stuttgart, Germany; while Michael Döhnert is a composer, guitarist and singer.

At the centre of florschütz & döhnert's productions is the idea of the actor as author. In their numerous productions for children they always seek a synthesis of the music, the various means of expression of puppet theatre, and human acting. The subject of the play determines the theatrical form it will take, always aiming for poetry and diversity.

Shows for children aged 2+

**Ssst !** (2012)

**Mr & Mrs Sommerflügel** (2010)

**Rawums (:)** (2007)

Winner of the IKARUS Award 2008 for an extraordinary play for young audiences in Berlin and invited to the festival 10. AugenblickMal! as one of ten best shows of the year 2009 in whole Germany

**Hare Moon Hare Night** (2004)

New show for children aged 4+

**A hole in the air and everywhere** (2015)



## Recommendation

With her theatre projects for very young children, Melanie Florschütz is one of the leading protagonists in this still developing field of children's theatre in Germany.

With her first production for that audience, *Hase Hase Mond Hase Nacht* (Hare Hare Moon Hare Night), she already set some aesthetic standards that are groundbreaking for the development of theatre for the very young in Germany. In contrast to the practice of theatres in other European countries, she deliberately sticks to a certain distance between stage and audience but she always keeps the important connection of communication between the two spheres. Melanie Florschütz and her partner Michael Döhnert are creating this communication by using a very poetic way of storytelling, playing with words, gestures, movements, sounds and objects. This playful and associative way of (inter-)acting opens a connection to the thoughts and feelings of the audience (children aged 2 and older).

The two actors function like clowns without the typical red nose. Their status as clowns is being established through their play and their way of dealing with things. At the same time funny and exciting is the playing with the light when a spot light depicts the moon that is sometimes there and sometimes not and that can even fall into a hole in the back wall of the stage. The clowns act with monologues often clearly directed towards the audience. There are also dialogues that rather consist of words being connected with each other than of real discourse. That way, the children get many possibilities of understanding, rediscovering and picking up words and concepts. Consequently, in accordance to the abilities of reception of the very young audience, there is no linear story being told – but the hare in the moon constitutes the centre of that exceptionally poetic production.

The music of that production is extremely remarkable. The electronically modified a-capella live singing of the two actors seems at first hardly noticeable but then intensifies and impressively seems to be filling the whole room.

*Dr. Gerd Taube, Director of the German Center for Children's and Youth Theatre, 26. Juli 2006*

## Hares high of full moon

Hase Hase Mond Hase Nacht – a play for young children at Die Schaubude Berlin

In the beginning it is a little dark, the background noise a little strange. Reason enough for the youngest visitors of Die Schaubude, to snuggle up to mam and pa or just wanting to go home. But there climbs already a hand with white gloves by waving out of the big round hole of the stuffed wall. The hand is followed by a man with two big teeth like a hare. He counts on the fingers of his hands in which things the moon is in it: in the moonface, the flight of the moon, the moon landing, moonstone... but also in the half moon, a quarter of the moon, or even the eighth of the moon. When the man then sits behind the light projector and lets appear the round yellow ball at the stuffed wall, and when then his partner begins to catch the moon- even the children who were nervous in the beginning shed all restraint. They laugh, they ask questions and comment loud the event.

“Hase Hase Mond Hase Nacht”, the newest production of florschütz & döhnert in coproduction with the Theater o.N. and the Schaubude for children at the age of two is brilliant at his very poetical images. And with unusual, but extrem pleasant sounds and noises. Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert create themselves this background music for their own play, for example with a long thin pipe or with a rope, which ones end is fixed in a bucket. Directed by Andrea Kilian they want to offer the little ones more than a simple light story.

It do work out. Even the youngest spectators are not bored a minute. And that the adults feel integrated, Florschütz plays for example with a tiny white flag in her hand the landing on the moon. Also moon remoulade or moon serenade are rather terms which are less adressed to the two- or three-year-old ones.

They enjoy much more the try, to catch the at once little light ball and to dance with him. Or they clap when the moonball change once again his form from the round into the square. 30 minutes are fast over, the mystery, why the performance has such a long unusual title, get solved. The mathematics play there an essential part. Hares get added, even the root extraction of numbers comes into play. The adults are laughing, the children are watching.

*Nino Ketschagmadse, Neues Deutschland, 13. Mai `04*

## Play with images

STAGE Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert demonstrated at the Festival „first steps“ how carefully the small children can be introduced to theatre. Completely carefully accustom the theater company its visitors to the special atmosphere of theatre: Melanie Florschütz in their colourful dress expects the guests

starting from two years already in the entrance hall of the culture station, in order to lead them personally to the place of the happening. „hare moon hare night“ is called the halfhour production, which was shown yesterday in the context of the festival „first steps-theatres for the small children“.

The fact that somewhat completely different is here than outside notices the visitors also to the fact that they are asked to take their shoes off. Inside the reason becomes fast clearly: The seat rows are occupied with one dull ski towards cover, on which they can snuggle up to their parents.

On the dark stage soil Michael Döhnert draws a circle from white chalk – circular like the moon, which he illuminates by a headlight on the curtains limiting the stage area. Also the auditorium is not darkened completely, in order not to even let anxieties arise. What follows, is just a poetic as varied play with images, which quite already provides the youngest spectators for laughter. The few words, which are spoken, correspond surely to the vocabulary of two-year ones. But the words are less important than this opulent language of images. In the sense of Dramatic the loud-pictorial articulated rhythms are more important, in order to keep the attention upright. The moon becomes the toy - times round, as one knows it, and times angularly. In the end half and full moon unite to a boat, which uses the actrice accordingly. Between them not disappears the (new-) moon in the „non-existence“, a black hole in the curtain. There is a catch play, at which also the small ones have their fun, or Florschütz in slow motion moves like an astronaut breathing by the area, in order to land, hissing a flag on the moon, which is projected on the soil now. The infants cannot recognize the latter as moon-landing, but at the pantomime kind of the representation also adults have their fun.

*Gisbert Sander, Westfälischer Anzeiger, 20. Sept. 2005*

## With two ripely for the theatre play of moon and hare inspired

BOENEN – They will probably see the moon in the future with other eyes, the small visitors, who yesterday saw two conceptions of Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert from Berlin in the old mill. „hare moon hare night“ read the title of the well halfhour play, which fascinated on the morning and on the afternoon the small children and their parents.

With large eyes, sitting on the grandstand covered with soft coat, the two to five-year-olds watched how before them everything turned around the moon and/or the moon drew its circles.

The actors Melanie Florschuetz and Michael Döhnert did not need many words, in order to keep their public

a half hour – otherwise a small eternity for this age – They were fascinated, how the moon in form of a light projection off and again increases, how sometimes it draws its courses and completely disappears. For laughter provided the merry ball play, which played Melanie Florschuetz with the circular form. And then was there still the hare, which addressed the children. Which is here by us the man in the moon, is in other countries and cultures the hare, which shows up in the earth satellite. And also after it the children will now look out at clear nights. In the connection the small visitors took the stage more near in inspection. First cautious, then they dared nevertheless. The theater company showed: It does not have to be Slapstick, in order to bind children. And with gentle poetry also two-year one is quite already ripe for the theatre.

*Oz Hellweg Anzeiger gemeinde Bönen, 21.09. 2005*

### **Large theatre for small ones: Poetic journey to the moon**

That was large theatre for the small ones: Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert carried girls and boys at the age of two to five years forward on a (poetic) journey to the earth satellite. In the play „hare moon hare night“, in co-operation with the Theater o.N. and the Schaubude Berlin, was located the mysterious moon in the center. A hare goes on discovery route, wants absolutely to reach the bright disk in the night sky. Why calculated a hare? That is fast avowed: The „man in the moon“ is interpreted actual in countries such as Italy or Spain as a hare. The south Europeans recognize in the full moon jumping hare. For many of the Children was the attendance of yesterday in the city theatre surely the first experience with the exciting world of the stage. They were amazed to watch how the moon gets a large ball, then again a little point. Finally the „Mooncatcher“ landed like once Neil Armstrong on the earth satellite and set up there a flag. At the end of the play the spectators were allowed to conquer the stage.

*-CP- Herforder Kreisblatt vom 08.11.2005*

### **From moon cakes and full moon chocolate**

child theatre shows „hare moon hare night“

The moon is round and it turns its rounds. Or is it nevertheless angular? No, he is round and he appears as quarterly moon, as half moon and as full moon. But the most important is that he shines.

The play „hare moon hare night“ used exactly this aspect. It played clever with light and shade, in order to light up thereby the moon as leading actor in different facets. „the moon occurs everywhere: In the full moon chocolate, moon cake and much more“ explained Michael Döhnert to its small spectators.

For the most of the two to five-year-olds was it the first theatre visit. With keen interest they listened to the quiet tones in the background and called excited where the moon hid itself to help the actress Melanie Florschütz. They were jubilant with it, when she shot a gate in the soccer game with the moon. The two actors developed the play together and since more than one year are they on tour on Germany stages.

The journey by the night in the sign of moon and hare makes the children familiar with the theatre. That seems to have succeeded on past Sunday, because also after the play the interest of the small spectators in the stage, the stage setting and the props was large. Thus some looked into the hole where the moon had disappeared, being astonished,.

*(fee), Neue Westfälische, Ausgabe Herford vom 08.11.2005*

### **A journey of fantasy led to the Moon**

Theatre for children inspired recent audience Approximately 100 small spectators in the age between two and five years brought much enthusiasm for the moon in the performance „hare moon hare night“. At 15 o'clock opened finally the curtain in the particularly decorated, to a stage re-designed Senator Puetter hall. In the following three-quarter hour parents had not rarely trouble to hold their inspired small children on their four legs. Because the temptation to catch the moon together with the „mooncatcher“ was large. But so simply should not make it the hare and the „mooncatcher“. And in such a way it became not boringly for the numerous first visitors over the entire duration of the play. Completely besides the children learned over the ways of the moon, responding spoken, in poetic pimage language. The „mooncatcher“ played Melanie Florschütz, the musical company contributed Michael Döhnert by under-painting the fantasy journey for the children in such a way with a particularly magic note.

*(CH) ,Iserlohner Kreiszeitung, 02.11.05*



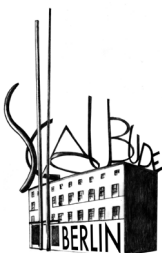


## *Hare Moon Hare Night*

A poetical play for children of the age 2+

Directed by: Andrea Kilian  
Concept, design, play, music:  
Michael Döhnert and Melanie Florschütz  
Costume: Adelheid Wieser

Production: döhnert & florschütz  
Coproduction: Schaubude Berlin and Theater o.N./Zin-  
nober, basis support of the Berliner Senat  
Supported by Fonds Darstellende Künste e.V.



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