

Mesmerizing MUMMENSCHANZ back on S.A. stages in 2011

The extraordinary Swiss theatre troupe, Mummenschanz, who played to standing ovations in South Africa in 2008, returns for an extensive national tour which ends on 17 April. Theatre patrons in Pretoria, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Johannesburg can look forward to another spell of mesmerizing Mummenschanz magic.

These masters of make-believe and illusion wow audiences and critics wherever they perform. By using everyday objects and materials, such as cardboard boxes, rolls of toilet paper, masking tape, refuse bags, etc., they create ingenious costumes and expressive masks that transform into fascinating and funny creatures. Their groundbreaking and quirky creations guarantee laughter as they slink, slide, bounce, wriggle and wobble about on stage, portraying everyday situations. Mummenschanz's quirky humour and imaginative visual shows are appealing to audiences of all ages and cultures. With a track record of 35 years and performances in 60 countries, Mummenschanz offers perfect family entertainment. Once described by David Copperfield as "truly magical", Mummenschanz offers a unique theatre experience for everyone.

Mummenschanz will be performing at the PE Opera House (Port Elizabeth) from 29 March to 3 April, The Playhouse (Durban) from 6 to 10 April and the Joburg Theatre (Johannesburg) from 12 to 17 April. Bookings at Computicket. Ticket prices from R149 to R299.



For more info:
www.musesa.co.za

What The Critics Said About Their Sa Tour In 2008:

"...highly inventive, charming and an absolute pleasure – see it!" Christina Kennedy - Artslink.co.za

"Simple and absolutely astonishing."
Laetitia Pople, Die Burger

"Mummenschanz is a theatrical phenomenon not to be missed."

Brent Meersman, Mail and Guardian

"I was engrossed. Mummenschanz is a feast..."

Terri Dunbar-Curran, Cape Times

"For a theatre experience like no other, do not – I repeat, DO NOT – miss this..."

Christina Kennedy - Artslink.co.za

Performance days/times PORT ELIZABETH/JOHANNESBURG:
Tues – Sat 20h00. Matinees:
Sat 14h30 & Sun 15h00

Schools performances:
11h00 at participating theatres
Performance days/times DURBAN:

Wed – Sat: 20h00. Matinees:
Sat 14h30 & Sun 15h00

Schools performances:
11h00 at participating theatres.

Register as a Swiss voter and exercise your political voice

Every person of Swiss Nationality over the age of 18 who lives abroad and who is registered at a Swiss Consulate is eligible to exercise his or her political voice in Swiss referenda and elections. There are usually 4 referenda per annum and every four years there is a general election for the 200 seats in the National Council (Nationalrat) as well as the 46 seats in the Council of States (Ständerat). This year again, on October 23rd 2011, such a general election will be held.

As your delegates on the Auslandschweizererrat (ASR), Rolf Schudel and the undersigned urge all Swiss and dual Nationals registered at Swiss Consulates or Embassies throughout Southern Africa who have not yet registered to vote, to do so, and to exercise their political voice in the October elections and thereafter regularly in the quarterly referenda.

In order to do so, you need to contact your nearest Swiss Consulate and complete the relevant form. You need your Swiss ID (Passport or ID card or proof that you are a Swiss registered abroad), as well as knowledge of your Swiss Heimort or the city or town in Switzerland where you last lived before emigrating to Southern Africa. You will then in due course be entitled to vote by post through the Heimort or city or town where you last lived. You will get you postal ballot papers and supporting documents from your Heimort or town of last residence, and after

completion of the ballot, you post it back to the sender to reach there before the actual election day.

We have enjoyed this privilege for almost 20 years since 1992. On the 31.12.2009, just over 13 months ago, at the two South African registering Embassies/Consulates-Genereal, we had the following breakdown:

Swiss Abroad registered at **Pretoria:**
5316 includes, 594 Mauritius, 55 Botswana, 39 Swaziland, 9 Lesotho

Swiss Abroad registered at **Cape Town:**
3719 includes 328 Namibia Total for South Africa and 5 other countries: 9035

The age breakdown looks as follows:
Less than 18: 1520
18 to 65: 5801
More than 65: 1714

Entitled to register for voting in Swiss referenda and elections: 7515
Registered for voting: 1293

This makes a voting component of those eligible to vote of only 17%.

You are entitled to vote and participate. Make use of your privilege and register to vote. Let us try to double the voting quota of 17% at the end of 2009 and make it approximately 34% at the end of 2011!

In the light of the general election on 23rd October 2011, this year's Congress of the Swiss Abroad will be held in Lugano in the sunny Canton Ticino from 26 to 28th August with the Theme: Direct Democracy in the international context. On Friday the 26th the Summer Session of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizererrat) will take place and will be attended by your two delegates. All congress participants are also invited to attend. On Saturday 27th August, the Congress itself takes place in the Lugano Congress Centre, while on Sunday the 28th, the very popular excursions in and around Lugano take place.

Continued overleaf/...



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Register as a Swiss Voter (contd)

We urge you to schedule a visit to Switzerland around the end of August and combine your visit with a participation at the 3 day Congress in Lugano. You will find it interesting both at the Congress as well as enjoying the sunny pleasures of Switzerland's southernmost canton. Registration can be effected under www.aso.ch or by contacting ASO at Alpenstrasse 26, CH-3006 Bern, Switzerland. Tel : +41 31 3566100 Fax: +41 31 3566101 or info@aso.ch

Just after you receive this issue, your delegates will be attending the Spring Session of the Council of the Swiss Abroad (Auslandschweizererrat) which will be held at Brunnen on Friday 8th April followed by the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the Auslandschweizerplatz situated on the Waterfront at Brunnen on Saturday 9th April. Again, you are invited to attend should you be in or near Switzerland. Should you be interested, again contact ASO or the undersigned at sargro@bluewin.ch or Tel: +41 62 8932906 Fax: +41 62 8932907. The Auslands-

schweizerplatz is beautifully situated next to the four-star Waldstätterhof Hotel on the Brunnen Waterfront. It is a constituent part of the "Weg der Schweiz" which also includes the Rütli Meadow on the other side of the Lake of Uri. It was acquired after a world-wide collection amongst Auslandschweizer in the years leading up to 1991 when the Swiss Confederation celebrated its 700th Anniversary. The "Platz" is governed by a Swiss Foundation located in Brunnen and its Board represents the various stake-holders involved: the Swiss Confederation, the Canton of Schwyz, the Town of Brunnen-Ingebohl and the Auslandschweizer. At present the Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz (FHNW) based in Olten is conducting a study for the Foundation to find ways and means of marketing the "Platz" both world-wide and locally. We urge you to visit the "Platz" on your next visit to Switzerland, and should you have any ideas or suggestions, do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

We look forward to feedback from you. Rolf Schudel and I are your delegates at the Auslandschweizererrat (ASR) and we look forward to being of service to you.

Peter Muller

Your two important websites as a Swiss in Southern Africa

Since its introduction as the "Platform for the Swiss Abroad" at the last Congress of the Swiss Abroad held in St Gallen last August, the website

www.swisscommunity.org has grown phenomenally. To illustrate this, here are a few indicators: In the 6 months ended 28th February 2011, close to 6000 Auslandschweizer world-wide have registered themselves as regular participants on the site. Of these 6000, some 142 come from the 11 countries making up Southern Africa, while 131 are from the 5 countries and South Africa, whose Auslandschweizer are registered at the Swiss Embassy/Consulate-General either in Pretoria or Cape Town. The detail is as follows:

- South Africa : 108,
 - Mauritius: 17, Namibia: 5,
 - Lesotho: 1, Botswana: 0,
 - Swaziland: 0 ... 131,
 - Zambia: 5, Zimbabwe: 2,
 - Angola: 2, Malawi: 1,
 - Mozambique: 1 ... 11
- TOTAL: 142**
Southern African

www.swisscommunity.org participants

This website was created by our own organisation, the Auslandschweizer Organisation (ASO) as a way to strengthen the link between the Swiss Abroad and Switzerland. It is a free, high-quality platform exclusively serving the Swiss who have been, are, or will be resident abroad. You may ask yourself why you should become a member? Here you have a number of really good reasons:

1. It is free, yet a high-quality platform aimed specifically at you as a Swiss National abroad.
2. You can establish contacts with other Swiss Nationals abroad world-wide.

3. You can stay in contact with your family, friends and colleagues.

4. You can exchange information, advice and experiences with other Swiss world-wide.

5. Keep in touch with what is happening in Switzerland.

6. Maintain a strong link with your home canton in particular.

7. Participate in events organised by members of the community or publicise your own events.

8. Benefit from future discounts and special offers provided by community partners and sponsors.

We urge you to join today by going to www.swisscommunity.org

The other website is your very own. It has to do with your own involvement and history as a Swiss Abroad in Southern Africa and is to be found at www.swissroots-za.ch As you may know, the History of the Swiss in Southern Africa as a research topic was started almost 50 years ago by Kurt Scheurer and Felix Ernst in Johannesburg. In Zimbabwe and Namibia, this research was spearheaded by the late Oskar Berner, and in Cape Town and Mozambique by Adolphe Linder. A huge amount of information has been collected and archived. A number of important publications have seen the light of day. Most notable authors and publishers have been the late Oskar Berner and Adolphe Linder. There is a great need to archive and store all collected material in a central register which will be accessible to all. At the

Continued overleaf/...

Delegates of the Organisation of the Swiss Abroad for Southern Africa:

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Two important websites (contd)

same time all Swiss in Southern Africa are encouraged to "write and contribute" their own histories of their stay and activities in Southern Africa. Businesses, firms and corporations are encouraged to do the same.

The initiative in structuring this online concept using the world-wide success of the free encyclopedia, Wikipedia, as a guide, was taken some 3 years ago by the undesignated assisted by Nici Meier as a web-designer, strategist and consultant. This small nucleus has been, and will continue to be assisted by a team of advisors: Tony Bellwald, Ruth Grossenbacher, Francois Jeannerat, Gisela Piercey, Rolf Schudel, the four authors and historians already mentioned, as well as the Presidents of the Swiss Clubs in South and Southern Africa.

By the time you read this, the website www.swissroots-za.ch will be operational. Please access the site and register yourself. It is free. We encourage you to fill out the questionnaire regarding your particulars and your history as a Swiss in Southern Africa. There will be a link with the website mentioned above (SwissCommunity) as well as other interesting sites such as Swiss Clubs in Southern Africa and Swiss Information sites. We need your feedback so that we can effect improvements, so please feel free to pass on your advice at any time to the undersigned at sargro@bluewin.ch

We sincerely hope that with your active involvement, we can all make this website a site to serve not only our past, our present, but also our future as Swiss Nationals in South and Southern Africa.

So we invite you to register by visiting www.swissroots-za.ch

and completing the required form.

With warm greetings to you all in Southern Africa.

Peter Muller

Important information for Swiss Citizens living in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland is reorganizing its consular network and has therefore decided to close the consular section of the Embassy of Switzerland in Harare. The consular districts pertaining to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi will be attached to the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria as of 1st of April 2011.

The consular affairs for Swiss citizens living in Angola were taken over by the Embassy in Pretoria on 1st of September 2010.

Additionally, due to the closure of the General Consulate in Port-Louis by the end of 2010, all consular affairs in Mauritius have been dealt with by the Embassy of Switzerland in Pretoria since 1st of January 2011.

The nomination of a new Honorary Consul General in Mauritius is imminent and Swiss citizens living on the island will be informed directly.

Embassy of Switzerland

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eMail: pre.vertretung@eda.admin.ch

www.eda.admin.ch/pretoria

SWISS CLUB INFO AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

JOHANNESBURG

Swiss Society Helvetia, 31 Moerdyk Ave, Vorna Valley, Midrand, Chairman: Mario Valli, 082 451 8040; office: Debora Lanz, T/F 0118053039, C 0826516152, swissclubjhb@whoswho.co.za, Swiss Country Club Rest. «The Courier», Wolfgang Wollauz, T/F 0118053040, C 0825610063, Tue-Sat 11-21h30 Rest./kitchen, 11-24h Bar, Sun 10-17h, T/F 011 805 3040, C 082561 0063, www.dining-out.co.za « The Courier »
Our Clubs of Society: Afro Gugge, Amicale Suisse Romande, Boccia, Skittling Club. Associated Groups: Swiss Choir, Swiss Rifle Club, Swiss Golf, G.S.N.A. Senior Swiss Circle meets every 2nd Saturday of the month for Lunch Swiss Ladies meet every 4th Thursday of the month for lunch; Evi Frei 011 673 464.

PRETORIA

Swiss Embassy 0124520660, Swiss Society Alpina, Hans-Georg Bosch, President, T 0123478310, C 0825510222, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com, Biffy van Rooyen, Secretary, swissclub.pta@hbosch.com
The Year end Function took place on 27 November, 2010 at the Johannes-kirche Church Hall. Our thanks to Hans-Georg Bosch who sponsored the event. The event was attended by a small group who thoroughly enjoyed the sunny weather to braai and exchange news. Planned events for 2011 will be a Kegelabend mid April at Swiss Club, Vorna Valley, the annual Fondue in the second week of June at Johanneskirche Church Hall, Willow Park Manor, Pretoria, and the 1. August celebrations (Bundesfeier) which will take place on 30th July at the Fountains. To end the year the annual end of year function will take place in the second or third week of November at the Church Hall Willow Park Manor, Pretoria. At the AGM held on 18 February 2011, the following people were elected to the committee for 2011: *President* Hans-Georg Bosch. *Vice-president* Gabor von Moricz. *Treasurer* Liesl van Rooyen & Margrit Müller *Secretary* Biffy van Rooyen. *Additional members:* Marianne Scholtz, Lisa von Moricz, Prisca Schleiffer Marais

CAPE TOWN

Swiss Consulate General T 0214183665, Swiss Social&Sports Club, Nick Eppenberger, Nicky Rodrigues T 0722185759, membership.secretary@eppenberger@telkomsa.net, www.swissclub.co.za

Notice is hereby given that the Swiss-Austrian House Committee for the Swiss-Austrian Club is inviting applications from suitable and capable full-time caterer to apply for the position of caterer at our new venue. This includes both the running of the kitchen as well as the bar. For more details, please contact Heinz Pospech heinz@austrianclubcapetown.co.za 082 773 8067. The club remains open on Wednesday & Thursday evenings for dinner or just a drink with some friends. Refer to the newflashes or website for other events. Forthcoming Events:

- Sunday, Easter in Jonkershoek 24 April, a Joyful day enjoyed by both young and old. Easter bunny will be there to entertain the kids
- Mother's day lunch : 8 May
- Past Events: The New Years Brunch on

23 January was much enjoyed by all Waldfest in Jonkershoek on 13 February. For further details visit our website www.swissclub.co.za

SWISS CLUB NATAL

Hanspeter Graber, T/F 031 568 2457, C 083 262 6107, hansg@saol.com; Philippe Lanz, Secretary, pl@swisscontact.co.za, C 082 4932673
JASS EVENINGS: Change of venue: Westville Country Club Link Rd, Westville (first road on the left when travelling from the Pavillion N3 exit towards Westville). As before, the Jass evening takes place every second Friday of the month 19h00. The dates for 2011 are: 8/4, 13/5, 10/6, 8/7, 12/8, 9/9, 14/10, 11/11, 9/12.
TARGET SHOOTING PRACTICE starting at 9h00: Dave Nicol Shooting Range, Nottingham Rd/KZN Midrand: Note there are exiting new events with prices eg Hand Gun Competition, Introduction Arch Bow Sport, Boar Shoot, Chamois Buck Shoot, etc. Dates for 2011 are: 23/4, 28/5, 25/6, 23/7, 27/8, 24/9. 29-30 Swiss Club National Championship CTN-JHB-NTL. Detailed program is available from the Secretary.

SWISS CLUBS EASTERN CAPE

Port Elizabeth

John Diener, President, PO Box 5608, Walmer 6065, T 0413792421, the_dieners@bluewin.ch; comm.member@bluewin.ch Mark Krebsler C 0823281098, T w 0413671422

SWISS CLUB FAR NORTH

Paul Thomas, PO Box 148, Makado 0920, C 0823343187 Girardin T 0155563690

NAMIBIA

Hon. Consul K. Neuenschwander, Veronica Strasse 22, Ludwigsdorf, PO Box 9298, Eros/Windhoek, T +26461225116, F +26461220104; Schweizer Club, Peter Hess, T +26461252943, C +264811246890, phess@iafrica.com
Generalversammlung am Samstag, 9. April 2011, 15 Uhr, in der Faeschthuette, bei Peter and Christa Hess, in der Hamutenja Wanehepo Ndadi Str. 60 (ehemals reginald Walker Str.), Olympia.

SWAZILAND

Ruedi Hofer, Calabash Rest., T (h) +2684161095, T (w) +2684161187, C +2686028545, calabash@swazi.net

ZIMBABWE

Swiss Embassy, Harare (represents Angola, Malawi+Zambia), T +2634703997/8, F +2634794925, vertretung@har.rep.admin.ch

MAURITIUS

Club Suisse de Maurice, Secrétariat: Alois Fürer, Comet Street 19, Roches Brunes, Beau-Bassin, T 466-2014 fureralois@intnet.mu

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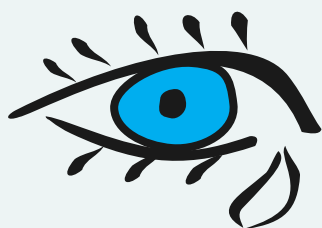
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