



THEATER DER KLÄNGE **THE MECHANICAL BALLET**

Based on original Bauhaus designs from 1923



When Dada and Futurism learn to dance
A project by THE THEATRE OF SOUNDS



THE PROJECT

The Mechanical Ballet brings a forgotten treasure back to life. Based on designs by Kurt Schmidt and Georg Teltcher from 1923, both Weimar Bauhaus students. A reconstruction was created in 1987 which has lost none of its fascination since then.

What was once only shown twice – in Jena and Berlin – and survived as an idea registered through drawings and photographs, becomes a lively theatre experience in this new interpretation. The geometrically cut, strongly coloured figurines were reconstructed in a size that can be worn by dancers. This creates a fascinating interplay between human movement and mechanical form.

The five-act piece develops a dramatic journey from abstraction to emotion: what initially appears truly mechanical and pictorial gradually gains liveliness. From the third act onwards, vivid characters become recognisable, rebelling against the rigidity of the costumes and increasingly entering into dramatic interaction.



HISTORICAL ACHIEVEMENT MEETS CONTEMPORARY HUMOUR

Pioneering work in reconstruction

In 1987, THEATER DER KLÄNGE became the first theatre group ever to bring these revolutionary ideas from the 1920s back to life. The reconstruction is based on meticulous research of the surviving drawings and few historical photographs.

Musical journey through time

The specially composed music for piano, percussion and trombone combines jazz elements with folk rhythms of the time. It lends the mechanical character a surprising liveliness and underlines the technical optimism of the Bauhaus era.

Flexible performance formats

The mechanical ballet can be presented both as a stand-alone 45-minute work and in various double programmes: "Bauhaus Ballets" (with the Lacquer Ballet) or "Dance at the Bauhaus" – depending on the context of the event.

ARTISTIC TEAM & CAST

Director: J.U. Lensing

Choreography: New creation based on historical designs from 1987

Music: Composition for piano, percussion and trombone

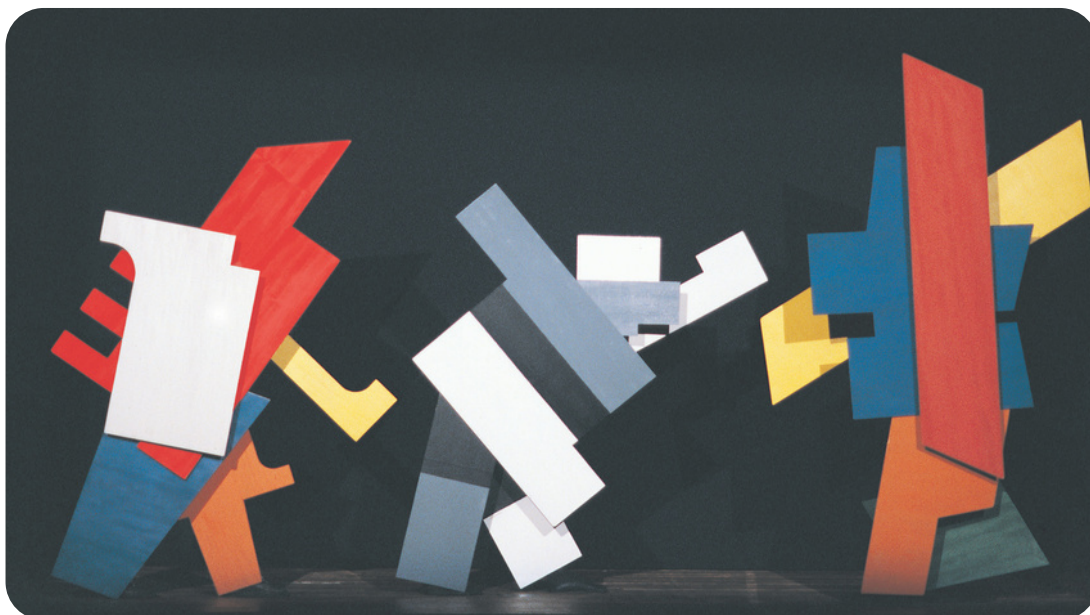
Costumes: Reconstruction based on original Bauhaus designs by Kurt Schmidt and Georg Teltscher

Ensemble: 5 dancers 3 live musicians 1 technician

PRESS REVIEWS

It is almost a 'historic achievement' of this theatre group to present the ideas of that time (which must have seemed revolutionary to audiences in 1923) as an experience to contemporary audiences. The music is particularly impressive, combining jazz elements and folk rhythms of the time to create an acoustic delight. The ballet movements are mechanical, yet also funny, cheerful and bursting with technical optimism. Dada and Futurism meet here. Enthusiastic applause for Theater der Klänge – and what the Bauhaus artists once suspected, the Düsseldorfers have finally proven: that humans can lend the essence of theatre to mechanics."

Süddeutsche Zeitung



GUEST PERFORMANCE FORMATS

Single performance "The Mechanical Ballet"

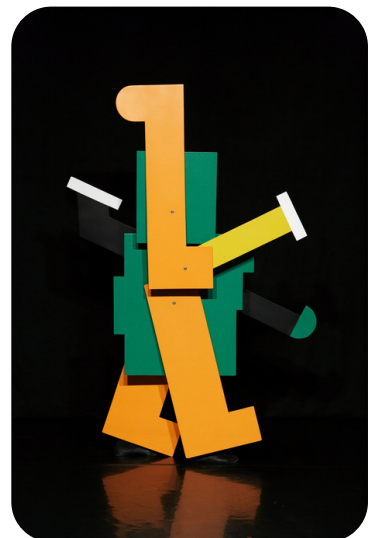
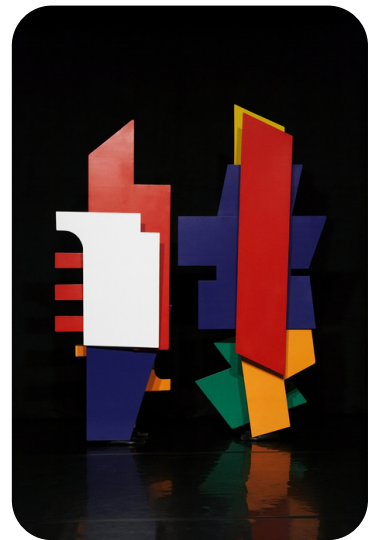
- Duration: approx. 45 minutes
- Stage: min. 8m x 7m, black proscenium
- Ensemble: 5 dancers, 3 musicians, 1 technician
- Target audience: All age groups, particularly suitable for families

Double programme "Bauhaus Ballets"

- Combination: "The Mechanical Ballet"+ "The Lacquer Ballet"
- Duration: approx. 110 minutes (with interval)
- Comprehensive Bauhaus stage show with contrasting aesthetics

Double programme "Dance at the Bauhaus"

- Various combination options with other Bauhaus productions
- Flexible programme design depending on the event setting



TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Stage:

Minimum dimensions: 8 m x 7 m

Black proscenium (dance carpet preferred)

Side entrances and exits

Lighting:

18 spotlights

Basic lighting for coloured figurines

Simple lighting plan available

Sound:

Grand piano or high-quality electric piano

Space for drum setup

Amplification for trombone

Set-up time: 4-6 hours

Dismantling: 2 hours

Technically uncomplicated and tour-proven!

Contact
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