

**Tell**

**me**



**Swiss**

# Press kit: *Tell me Swiss*

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## Birth of a magical show

Once upon a time was *Tell me Swiss...* A show reinventing Switzerland was born out of the imagination of Cisco Aznar, a Catalan choreographer living in Switzerland. Created thanks to the collaboration between the Fluxum Foundation, foundation based in Carouge/Geneva, encouraging the culture and in particular the dance, and the Geneva University of Art and Design (HEAD – Geneva), this performance will be presented at the Shanghai World's Fair, in the Swiss Pavilion, on coming September 6 and 7.

### **Costumes created by the Geneva University of Art and Design students**

As winner of a contest launched by the Federal Foreign Affairs Department and Presence Switzerland within the two Fashion Design Universities of Basel and Geneva, the students of the Geneva University of Art and Design were elected to design the uniform of the Swiss Pavilion guides at the Shanghai World's Fair. Starting from these uniforms, the Catalan choreographer Cisco Aznar imagined a show inspired by the Swiss values and playing with the usual prejudices. *Tell me Swiss* is a surrealist fairy tale... here the dragons are "coucou" clocks, and potions, "moitié-moitié" cheese fondues...

### **A performance created and directed by Cisco Aznar**

This interdisciplinary performance will stage three dancers and a singer, who will evolve in an imaginary and unreal "made in Switzerland" universe. Cisco Aznar, whose choreographies were presented on the most prestigious scenes of the world, like the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris, the Escena Contemporánea of Madrid, the Grand Théâtre de Genève or the Théâtre de Vidy in Lausanne, also participated in the greatest international dance festivals. For *Tell me Swiss*, he once again collaborates with Samuel Marchina, video artist with whom he already worked on *Coppelia*, *Blumenkabarett* or *Lola Loca*. The video images of this new creation will underline the burlesque and colourful universe of the Catalan choreographer.

## Swiss Style in China

The Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and Presence Switzerland Office have mandated the Geneva University of Art and Design to conceive the uniform worn by the guides greeting visitors at the Swiss Pavilion, during the 2010 Expo Shanghai China.

At the term of an intense deliberation day, held in July 2009, concluding three months of competition with the Basel Fashion Institute, the Fashion Design Department from the Geneva University of Art and Design won the honour to represent style and creativity among architects, designers, and relevant public personalities, stating today's Switzerland at the Swiss pavilion. It is Michelle Schneuwly's project "Edel & Weiss" which raised unanimous plebiscite.

The dancers' costumes of the performance *Tell me Swiss* are a creation of the Fashion Design students of the Head – Geneva and are inspired by the guide uniforms they previously created for the Swiss Pavillon.

### Swiss Style Exhibition

As a follow-on to its participation in the 2010 Expo Shanghai China, Head – Geneva is organising a three stop road show – from Shanghai to Canton to Beijing – to present all the guide uniforms created by its Fashion Design students. For this occasion a catalogue will also be published.

More information on [www.hesge.ch/head](http://www.hesge.ch/head)

## A company full of passion, with a sense of humour

**Choreography & Direction: Cisco Aznar**

**Light and technical engineer: Samuel Marchina**

**Images video : David Monti, Andreas Pfiffner, Jeanine Waeber**

**Singing: Yannis François**

**Dance: Hannah Shakti Buhler, Laure Dupont, Yannis François, Noémi Alberganti**

**Costumes: Jasmina Barshovi, Aurélia Benoit, Romance Berberat, Jenifer Burdet,**

**Barbora Krempaska, Nina Mischler, Camie Rebord, Michelle Schneuwly,**

**Marija Smolko, Fashion Design students at Head – Geneva**

### Cisco Aznar

Born in 1972 in Badalona, Catalonia, Cisco Aznar is a graduate of the Barcelona School of Dramatic Art and Choreography. On graduation he represented Spain at the European Union Choreography Workshop in Luxembourg. In 1992, a scholarship holder at Maurice Béjart's Rudra Workshop, he helped create the ballets *Autour de Faust* (Around Faust) and *Mister Chaplin* with the Béjart Ballet, Lausanne. In 1993 he worked as a dancer and choreographer in Europe and Latin America, in particular with the Grand Theatre of the Liceum (Gran Theatre del Liceu) in Barcelona, Julio Bocca and A. Maria Stekelmann in Buenos Aires, Grupo Vórtice in Brazil, and Compagnie Nomades, Paco Decina, Redha and Philippe Lizon in Switzerland. In 1998 he took over the artistic direction of Compagnie Buissonnière, based in Lausanne, in order to dedicate his efforts to creating his own pieces: *Peter Funk*, *Bochorno*, *Orlando*, *Lunatown*, *Lola la Loca*, *Parce que je t'aime*, *Le Vilain Petit Canard*, *Blumenkabarett* and *Andrógena de Minas*. In Brazil he created *Adán y Pepa* (1998) and, for the Biene Conservatoire School of Rhythmics, *Sleep, sleep my sweet monsters* (2001). *Coppélia* (2006) was danced by the Geneva Grand Théâtre Ballet, *Giseliña* (2009) by the Gallego de La Coruña Choreography Centre and *Didon and Enée* (2010) was created for the Opéra de Lausanne. Cisco Aznar obtained the Best Show Prize at the Tianguo Mineira Festival (Brazil) for *Adán y Pepa* (1998), the Young Creators Prize for Dance in 2003 awarded by Fondation Vaudoise and the Contract of Trust (2007-2009) awarded by Town of Lausanne, State of Vaud and Pro Helvetia. His pieces were presented, notably, at the following theatres and festivals: Théâtre National de Chaillot-Paris, Maison de la Danse-Lyon, Grand Théâtre of Geneva, Théâtre de Vidy-Lausanne, Festival GREC-Barcelona, Festival Latinidades-São Paulo, F.I.T Belo Horizonte, Escena Contemporánea-Madrid, FILO Londrina, Porto Alegre Em Cena, Virginia Woolf Festival-London, Berner Tanztage Festival and Esplanade Theatre-Singapore.

### Samuel Marchina

Born in Switzerland, a qualified audio and video electronic engineer, Samuel Marchina joined the Théâtre de Vidy-Lausanne as lighting manager in 1999. This led him to accompany, notably, the tour of *Hashirigaki* by Heiner Goebbels. He worked at the same time at "studio Movie" in Morges and regularly collaborated with Dorian Rossel in making short video films. It was in 2003 that he met Cisco Aznar during the making of the choreographic creation *Lola la Loca*. This led them to work together on numerous occasions: *Parce que je t'aime*, *Le vilain petit canard*, *Coppélia*, *Blumenkabarett*, *Andrógena de Minas*, and *Didon and Enée* in 2010. He designed the lighting for the pieces *Gloire et Beauté* in 2006 and *Libération sexuelle* in 2008 both by Dorian Rossel at the Théâtre de l'Arsenic in Lausanne. He also designed the lighting for the piece by Anne-Cécile Vandalem (*Self*) Service at the Théâtre de Vidy in 2008. He then designed the lighting for the show *Les perdus*, directed by Julien Mages at the Théâtre de Vidy and *Délire à deux*, directed by Christophe Feutrier. Future projects: *Habit(u)ation* by Anne-Cécile Vandalem at the Théâtre Royal of Namur in November 2010 and *Turandot* by Cisco Aznar at the Opéra de Dijon in March 2011.

### Hannah Shakti Buhler

Hannah Shakti Buhler obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree in dance and theatre at the Laban Dance Center in London in 2006. She also trained with Daniel Goldinau at "Städtische Bühnen" in Münster, Germany. Since then she has danced for the Retina Dance Company directed by Filip Van Huffle in England and Belgium. In 2007 she joined the Gallego de La Coruña Choreography Centre in Spain, where she took part in several productions by the choreographers Roberto Oliván, Roberto Magro and Cisco Aznar. In 2008 Hannah Shakti Buhler created *AnyBODY home?* and presented it in Italy, Spain and the Netherlands. In 2010 she danced in the piece *Didon and Enée* by Cisco

Aznar at the Opéra de Lausanne. In the same year she danced *PasadaParAGUA*; her creation was first presented at the Birmingham Festival. The short film *PasadaParAGUA* won first prize in the last Choreographic Captures Competition in Munich, Germany.

### Laure Dupont

Laure Dupont trained in classical and contemporary dance in the pilot dance class of the Sion Conservatoire before joining, in 2002, the Rudra-Béjart School-Workshop in Lausanne where she attended classes in classic and modern dance, singing, kendo, percussions and theatre. She took part in several choreographies by Dorotée France then Maurice Béjart, *Gala* (2003), *Création* (2003) *A cœur ouvert*, *Rudra...* (2004), and *Sacre/Oiseau de feu/Boléro* (2004). In 2005 she danced in the piece *Parce que je t'aime* by Cisco Aznar which took her to Lausanne Geneva, Lucerne and Madrid. The following year she repeated the experience with the Catalane creator in *Le vilain petit canard*, then she helped him in the creation of *Coppélia*. In 2007, Laure Dupont performed in the pieces *Nous sommes éternels* by Dorothée Franc and *BlumenKabarett* by Cisco Aznar. In 2008 she was awarded the Cultural Prize of Encouragement by the Canton of Valais after dancing for Cisco Aznar in *Andrógena de Minas*. Last year, in 2009, she was his assistant during the creation of *Giseliña* in Spain.

### Noémi Alberganti

Noémi Alberganti trained in Geneva (Ecole Crescendo, Geneva School of Dance and later with Emilio Artessero and Foofwa d'Imobilité) and New York (José Limon Institute, Merce Cunningham Studio and Trisha Brown Company). She has a licence (bachelor's degree) in psychology from the University of Geneva and was a dance teacher for several years at the Wanda B. School in Geneva. With the collective "Debout sur les Mains", she created and presented in Geneva *Autour de la ligne* (2005), *Femmes en mouvement* (2006) and *Autruiocption* (2007). She signed, in partnership with a Haitian choreographer, the choreography for *La Dérive du Roi*, a Swiss/Haitian show presented in Port-au-Prince in 2008 and Geneva in 2009. This same year, as part of the Gallego de las Coruña Choreography Centre, she danced in

*Giseliña* by Cisco Aznar (world tour), *La 8* by Erik Jimenez and *Kira* by Kirenia Martinez Acosta. In 2010 she was with Cisco Aznar again for *Didon and Enée* at the Opéra de Lausanne.

### Yannis François

Born in Guadeloupe, Yannis François began his career as a dancer. In 2000, he joined the Rudra-Béjart School-Workshop in Lausanne, then became part of the Maurice Béjart Dance Company. During singing lessons that were part of the course, his voice was noticed by Maurice Béjart who strongly encouraged him to pursue a career as a singer as well as a dancer. He is currently coming to the end of his Master of Arts course at the Lausanne Conservatoire in Gary Magby's class. In opera, Yannis sang the lead in Figaro by Mozart in Saint-Louis, Giuseppe in *La Traviata* and Curio in *Giulio Cesare* alongside Andreas Scholl at the Opéra de Lausanne, Pewter Quince in *Midsummer night's dream* (Théâtre du Jorat, Elsa Naouri-Rooke) and in September 2010 he will sing the title role in *Don Giovanni*. Yannis is also interested in oratorio and chamber music and, to satisfy his constant need to be on the move, he still regularly accepts dance roles, for instance, *Le vilain petit canard* and *Blumenkabarett* (Compagnie Buissonnière, Cisco Aznar), *L'incoronazione di Poppea* (Grand Théâtre of Geneva, Yannis Kokkos), *Purgatoire* by Shahrokh Moshkhin Ghalam and, in May 2010, he was the solo dancer and singer in *Didon and Enée* (Opéra de Lausanne, Gabriel Garrido).

**Jasmina Barshovi, Aurélia Benoit, Romance Berberat, Jenifer Burdet, Barbora Krempaska, Nina Mischler, Camie Rebord, Michelle Schnewly, Marija Smolko**, Fashion Design students at Head – Geneva

## Fluxum Foundation

[www.fluxumfoundation.com](http://www.fluxumfoundation.com)

The goals of the Fluxum Foundation all focus on encouraging culture in Geneva, Switzerland and abroad, dance representing the primary form of expression in the artistic concept. To achieve its goals, the institution implements artistic and cultural projects, supports event promotion by creating partner networks and encourages other Swiss or foreign foundations to participate in collaborative projects.

The Fluxum Foundation gave FLUX Laboratory its outward-looking attitude, as it helped it find its place.

FLUXUM FOUNDATION

## FLUX Laboratory Missions

[www.fluxlaboratory.com](http://www.fluxlaboratory.com)

At FLUX Laboratory the space is experimental and embodies sharing, the basic idea at the source of all projects. Observation, reflection, creation, quality encounters, well-being, tradition and technology are the different facets of this multi-disciplinary laboratory. Flux Laboratory is, above all, a place of life.

Forming a link between artists and businesses, FLUX Laboratory devotes its energy to giving form to innovative ideas for a series of events that establish connections between major thinkers, artists and economic players; in short, it provokes constant interaction between cultural environments and the business world.

FLUX Laboratory represents a unique concept in Switzerland by its experience straddling art and business, two worlds that, at first sight, seem different but may also turn out to be complementary. FLUX Laboratory feeds creative work and reflection through quality encounters between art, dance, science, health, technology, medias, style and business.

By transforming dogmas into open questions, playing on contradictions with irony and always being open-minded, Fluxum Foundation and FLUX Laboratory are emerging as true platforms for sharing ideas and key players in a new approach to artistic communication. Constantly in movement, these two entities are the definitive answer to the question: "What can Art do for Business?"

Cynthia Odier, Founder & Artistic Director

LABORATORY  
FLUX

## The Geneva University of Art and Design www.hesge.ch/head

In the heart of Geneva, the University of Art and Design is the largest art and design training institute in Western Switzerland. It was established in 2006 as a result of the merger between the Ecole supérieure des beaux-arts (Higher School of Fine Arts) and the Haute école d'arts appliqués (Higher School of Applied Arts), both over two hundred years old.

Head – Geneva offers a wide range of Bachelor and Master Courses in two broad fields of equal importance: Visual Arts/Cinema and Design (Interior Architecture/SpaceDesign, Visual Communication, Fashion, Accessory & Jewellery Design, Media Design and Exhibition Design).

Practical projects, courses and seminars, ordered work in close collaboration with art and design professionals, workshops moderated by guest international designers and artistes, all concur to the dynamism of a school structured as an area of freedom and responsibility. Major technical resources, both traditional and innovative, combined with high level theoretical teaching generate a friendly and demanding, encouraging students to aim for excellence.

During the 2009/2010 academic year, Head – Geneva welcomed 670 students, of these almost one third came from abroad. The constantly growing enrolment is proof of its national and international attraction.

Through its exhibitions in the LiveInYourHead area, its cycle of Talking Heads conferences (which, in 2010, were attended by major names in contemporary art and design such as Mark Lewis, Larry Bell, Enzo Mari or Andrea Branzi), its meetings and film projections (like Apichatpong Weerasethakul, who gave a Master Class at Head – Geneva a few days after winning the Golden Palm at the 2010 Cannes Festival), the school aspires to being a venue for exchanges and open dialog on the city.

Be it through the aquariums presented and noticed in Milan during the latest International Furniture Show, the uniforms for the guides at the Swiss Pavilion and for the Tell me Swiss performance presented at the 2010 Expo Shanghai China international exhibitions and shows where it is

present or the many prizes and awards it has won, Head – Geneva exports its talent and know-how to the four corners of the world.

Jean-Pierre Greff, Director

— HEAD  
HAUTE ÉCOLE D'ART ET  
DE DESIGN GENEVE  
GENEVA UNIVERSITY  
OF ART AND DESIGN

BOULEVARD JAMES-FAZY 15  
CH 1201 GENEVE  
TÉLÉPHONE +41 22 388 5100  
FAX +41 22 388 5159  
INFO.HEAD@HESGE.CH  
WWW.HESGE.CH/HEAD

General information and press contact

Press conference and Performance:

FLUX Laboratory, 10 rue Jacques-Dalphin, Carouge/Geneva

Wednesday 1st September at 11 am

The performance will be followed by a cocktail *Love me Swiss*

World preview in Geneva (on invitation): 1st September 2010, 7 PM

Expo 2010 Shanghai China: 6 & 7 September 2010

OC Concept Store (Orienne Collins), New York: 14 October 2010

Press Contact

SMC-CO Sandra Mudronja

T +41 (0)22 320 95 00 / M +41 (0)79 445 87 92

sandra.mudronja@smc-co.ch

HD images available on request

— HEAD  
HAUTE ÉCOLE D'ART ET  
DE DESIGN GENÈVE  
GENEVA UNIVERSITY  
OF ART AND DESIGN

BOULEVARD JAMES-FAZY 15  
CH 1201 GENÈVE  
TÉLÉPHONE +41 22 388 5100  
FAX +41 22 388 5159  
INFO.HEAD@HESGE.CH  
WWW.HESGE.CH/HEAD

Hes • SO GENÈVE  
Haute Ecole Spécialisée  
de Suisse occidentale

FLUXUM FOUNDATION

LABORATORY  
FLUX  
10 RUE JACQUES-DALPHIN  
CH 1227 CAROUGE GE  
T +41 22 308 1450 F +41 22 308 1451  
WWW.FLUXLABORATORY.COM

Images

Photography: Pauline Nerfin



Images

Photography: Luciana Reolon  
Photography (underwater): David Monti

