



Le Fabuleux Destin de Monsieur Della Merde

Léa Katharina Meier - Tatiana Baumgartner

24.10.2025 Performissima, CWB, Parigi (FR)

17.12.2025 Sol Invictus, Fondazione Sant'Elia e Istituto Svizzero, Palermo (IT)

Project presentation

« Good evening, um, have you been here long? Were you waiting for me? Are you alright? Yes? But actually, who are you? What are your names? Oh yes, that's nice, but anyway, anyway, anyway, anyway, I exist too, eh! I'm not made of sugar! I exist too! Yes, I do! I'm not some little man made of wood! I exist! I'm flesh and blood! I am Monsieur Della Merde. Monsieur is Swiss. Della is Italian and Merde is French! »

Monsieur Della Merde in *Le Fabuleux Destin de Monsieur Della Merde*

Léa Katharina Meier, in collaboration with Tatiana Baumgartner, presents a solo performance (30min) centred on a recurring element of her artistic practice: storytelling. In *Le Fabuleux Destin de Monsieur Della Merde*, her clownish alter ego and allegory of her premenstrual syndrome, Monsieur Della Merde, comes to tell a series of short stories that have shaped his fabulous destiny. Between logorrhoea, nursery rhyme, victim and tormentor, magic trick, hostage situation, hysterical outburst and bawdy song, this shifting character will by turns charm, frighten, and move the audience.

The performance was presented in 2025 at Performissima at the CWB in Paris (FR) and at Sol Invictus at the Fondazione Sant'Elia in Palermo (IT), organised by the Swiss Institute in Rome.

> [Link to view the video recording](#)



Excerpt from the performance

« Why are you at school! What are you doing here, at school, MY son!! Why are you at school when you should be at home with me! Your Dad who loves you! Who loves you to death! Why are you here learning? You hurt me, you hurt me so much. Look what you're putting me through! Come home with me. Let him come home with me! You'll see, we'll be so happy together forever, reunited for eternity, we'll hold hands, you could comfort me! Come on, let's be buried together, in the same grave! Blood ties cannot be broken, they exist forever, forever! And you, why are you keeping him here at school! Let him come with me! He has to COME home with me. Come on, let's run away, let's leave, let's escape, let's go, let's go home! »

Monsieur Della Merde dans Le Fabuleux Destin de Monsieur Della Merde



Credits

Le Fabuleux Destin de Monsieur Della Merde is a solo excerpt from the collective piece Terminale Hysteria, conceived and staged by Tatiana Baumgartner and Léa Katharina Meier. Concept, artistic collaboration and direction: Léa Katharina Meier and Tatiana Baumgartner. Performance and set design: Léa Katharina Meier. Costumes: Safia Semlali. Masks: Chaïm Vischel. Italian translation: Veronica Pecile. Production, administration and distribution: Artemisia Romano. With the support of: CWB Paris, Swiss Institute in Rome.

Biography

Léa Katharina Meier (born 1989 in Switzerland) is a performance, theater and visual artist. By employing clowning as a performative practice, her research focuses on the notions of ridiculousness, abjection, and jubilation in order to create a visual and sensory universe that embraces the audience. Out of her intimate failures, she wishes to develop a filthy, dyke sense of humour. On stage, she strives to embody negative emotions and feelings as a source of pleasure. Storytelling, the body as archive, grotesque femininity, shame, and a childlike universe are recurrent motifs in her practice. Léa Katharina Meier has shown her work in numerous art spaces and theaters (CH: Arsenic, Tunnel Tunnel, MCBA, TU-Théâtre de l'Usine, Le Commun, La Ferme de la Chapelle, Zabriskie Point, Swiss Art Awards, Festival Programme Commun, Belluard Bollwerk, Les Urbaines, Cabaret Voltaire / IT: Lateral Roma, ADA Roma, Short Theater Festival, Festival Bande de Femmes / BR: Pivô arte e pesquisa, FAAP Residência Artística / FR: Perfomissima at CWB Paris). In 2021, she received the audience and jury prizes at the Swiss Performance Art Awards for *Tous les sexes tombent du ciel* who was presented in 2025 as part of the Swiss selection in Avignon (FR). In 23-24, she is a resident of the Swiss Institute in Rome (IT) and received an award of the Irène Reymond Fondation in Lausanne (CH).

Tatiana Baumgartner is a performer and stage director whose main subject of research is power dynamics that lies behind every interaction and situation in the private and the public sphere alike. In her creations, she attempts to highlight ambiguous actions, behaviours and discourses, whether mundane or extraordinary, which form fertile ground for the manipulation of others. In doing so, she seeks to show the banality of power relations between people, and above all to remind us that we are all, potentially, affected. Her latest works includes *Terminale Hysteria* (Arsenic, 2024, TU Théâtre de l'Usine 2025) which she co-wrote, co-directed and in which she co-performed alongside Léa Katharina Meier. The play explores the links between laughter and violence, using these concepts as tools for emancipation to address the violence that norms exert on our bodies, as well as the violence that we ourselves can inflict as women ; and *We didn't come empty handed* (Arsenic 2021, La Grange and Le Pommier 2022), a play she co-wrote and co-performed with Caroline Imhof. Tatiana graduated with a BA of arts from HETSR La Manufacture in 2013. Before that, she trained in theater at the Lee Strasberg Institute in New York in 2009.

Artemisia Romano -

Production, administration and distribution

production@leakatharinameier.com

www.leakatharinameier.com

Léa Katharina Meier

lea@leakatharinameier.com

