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SIMON MAYER - KOPF HOCH SONS OF SISSY

Falter magazine listed Simon Mayer's solo performance *SunBengSitting* in its end-of-the-year review as one of the top theatre productions of 2014, describing it as an "ingenious, nakedly yodelling interplay of folk and contemporary dance". In Mayer's group performance *Sons of Sissy* the focus is on that universe of traditions, folk dances and folk music from which the Upper Austrian country lad Simon Mayer originates.

In an experimental manner, four performers and musicians make use of traditional alpine live music, various group dances and ritualised practices. Liberating them from conservatism and conventions, they establish an unseen fusion of artistic reinterpretations and temporary social attributions of meaning.

Defying categorisation and pigeonholing, the Sons of Sissy do everything they can to live up to their name as they conduct themselves as part weird folk-music quartet, part experimentally playful ritual dance combo, using humour to radically disrupt the hackneyed male role models in old traditions.



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CREDITS

Idea, choreography, performance, music Simon Mayer

Performance, music Matteo Haitzmann, Patric Redl, Manuel Wagner

Special instruments Hans Tschiritsch

Stage and costume design Andrea Simeon

Light Martin Walitza, Hannes Ruschbaschan

Artistic consultant Frans Poelstra

Production: Sophie Schmeiser, Elisabeth Hirner

Co-production: Kopf hoch, brut Wien, Gessnerallee Zurich, zeitraumexit Mannheim and Tanz ist Dornbirn.

Touring production: Sophie Schmeiser and Hiros

With the kind support of the City of Vienna's Department of Cultural Affairs, the Arts Division and the Culture Division of the Federal Chancellery of Austria, Kulturland Oberösterreich, Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Kunstenwerkplaats Pianofabriek (Brussels), WP Zimmer (Antwerp), im_flieger, Kunst- und Kulturverein SPIEL.

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BIO

Simon Mayer studied at the Vienna State Opera Ballet School and P.A.R.T.S in Brussels, and was member of the Vienna State Opera Ballet. In 2009, he founded the band “Rising halfmoon” as singer, guitarist and songwriter. As dancer/choreographer and musician he was involved in productions of Anne Teresa de Keersmaecker/ROSAS (*The Song*), Wim Vandekeybus (*Frisking*) and Zita Swoon. In 2014 Simon released his latest music album *Monkeymind*.

His choreographic repertoire includes solos, duets and group pieces that have been performed internationally (*O feather of lead*; *Dancing with the Sound Hobbyist* (Zita Swoon); *Monkeymind*; *SunBengSitting* and *Sons of Sissy*). Simon was Artist in Residence at Theatre de L’L in Brussels and is the artistic director of the festival “spiel”, which he started together with his brothers and the association spiel. Simon is teaching contemporary dance, community dance, traditional dance and voice techniques (Impulstanz Wien, Steirischer Herbst and other international festivals, and as guest teacher at the Konservatorium Wien Privatuniversität).

www.simonmayer.at

TOUR

09 > 12.04.2015	brut Wien, Vienna (AT) - première -
03.09.2015	Bastard Festival, Trondheim (NO)
14 > 19.09.2015	Pianofabriek, Brussels (BE)
21 > 22.09.2015	Wunder der Prärie, Mannheim (DE)
26 > 27.09.2015	Gessnerallee, Zürich (CH)
03 > 04.11.2015	Spielart Festival, München (DE)
06 > 07.11.2015	Tanz ist, Dornbirn (AT)
19.03.2016	PACT Zollverein, Essen (DE)
06 > 07.04.2016	BIT Teatergarasjen, Bergen (NO)
15.05.2016	Burgenländische Tanztage, Oberwart (AT)
20 > 21.05.2016	Spring Festival, Utrecht (NL)
21 > 22.06.2016	Centre National de la Danse, Paris (FR)
26.06.2016	Belluard Festival, Fribourg (CH)
20 & 22.07.2016	ImPulsTanz, Wien (AT)
28.07.2016	Centrale Fies, Trentino-Alto Adige (IT)
31.07.2016	Griessnerstadl, Stadl-Predlitz (AT)
03.08.2016	Theaterland Steiermark, Oberzeiring (AT)
24.09.2016	Tanzwochen Klagenfurt, Klagenfurt (AT)
04 - 05.10.2016	Gertrūdes ielas teatris, Riga (LV)
29 > 30.10.2016	Dampfzentrale, Bern (CH)
20.11.2016	Schwankhalle, Bremen (DE)
23 > 24.11.2016	Campo, Gent (BE)
27.11.2016	Kaaitheater, Brussels (BE)
14 > 15.01.2017	Vaba Lava, Tallinn (EE)
25.01.2017	Spanski Borci Cultural Centre, Ljubljana (SI)
24.04.2017	Brut, Vienna (AT)
05.05.2017	The Place, London (UK)
01.07.2017	SommerZene, Salzburg (AT)
02.07.2017	Festival der Regionen, Ottensheim (AT)

Sons of Sissy has been presented to **a blind and partially-sighted audience** at several occasions (Vienna, Paris, Brussels, London). In this format, the audience is guided on stage before the performance for a 'touch-tour' and listens to a live audio description during the performance. We are interested in presenting this format more.

After the presentation of *Sons of Sissy*, we can always organise **a Volxparty** with live music and folk dancing.



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VIDEO

Teaser I <https://vimeo.com/121471341>
Teaser II <https://vimeo.com/124407054>
Trailer <https://vimeo.com/126946537>
Full length Video <https://vimeo.com/126952466> (Password: sosbrut)

CONTACT

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Production: Karen Verlinden, karen@hiros.be

Production Austria: Sophie Schmeiser, office@simonmayer.at



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HIROS

Hiros is the joint venture of the management offices Margarita Production and Mokum. Together we continue to build a solid framework for individual artists and artistic projects.

Hiros

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