

**Mr & Mrs Sommerflügel**  
**Produced by florschütz & döhnert**

**Melanie Florschütz**  
**and Michael Döhnert**  
**Kulmer Str. 31**  
**10783 Berlin / Germany**  
**phone: + 49 / 30 / 78 27 908**  
**mobile + 49 / 163 / 45 27 285**  
**E-Mail: post@melaniefloerschuetz.de**

## **Mr & Mrs Sommerflügel – Press comment**

### **Children's Theatre – A Concert of Pure Emotion**

Questembert — The 6th theatre festival Festi'Mômes took place under a daily drizzle (typical bretonian weather!). The numerous spectators were sitting densely packed in the small rooms of the „Pays de Questembert“, where many families could again experience some extraordinary theatre performances that go beyond the scope of theatre for the very young.

Once again we have seen the German group florschütz & döhnert with Sommerflügel (summer wings), a wonderful performance for children between two and four, with elements of shadow theatre and object theatre. As in their earlier productions there is no „real“ story, no big words, but rather an amazing and affectionate complicity between the two actors (Melanie Florschütz and Michael Döhnert) who succeed in establishing that hesitant relationship between themselves and the boys and girls of that tender age. That is all due to the way of playing but also to an indetermined territory that leaves a lot of room for awkwardness as well as bragging and mutual outsmarting. During the show the children - and especially the youngest ones - were roaring with laughter. A very beautiful discovery... just as beautiful as the production Rawums(:) by the same group that had already seduced everyone in the audience a week ago at the opening of the festival.

Michel Bélair 13 novembre 2010 Théâtre

**Mr & Mrs Sommerflügel**  
**Produced by florschütz & döhnert**

**Melanie Florschütz**  
**and Michael Döhnert**  
**Kulmer Str. 31**  
**10783 Berlin / Germany**  
**phone: + 49 / 30 / 78 27 908**  
**mobile + 49 / 163 / 45 27 285**  
**E-Mail: post@melanieflorschuetz.de**

## **Mr & Mrs Sommerflügel – Press comment**

*Mr and Mrs Sommerflügel*

**Florschütz and Döhnert Theatre at the Druid Lane Theatre Galway**

Mrs Sommerflügel arrives in the foyer to greet about 50 excited and expectant children. She informs the adults that it's okay to leave the theatre, if need be, and re-enter when their child is ready. In between each word she blows into a harmonica. This little intervention allays any fears the children might have had about entering the dark theatre space.

The 30 minute performance appears to be so simple. There is no 'behind the scenes' trickery, the mechanics of the performance are visible for all to see. The simplicity of the performance is probably the biggest illusion of all, Mr and Mrs Sommerflügel is packed with sequences that are the result of rigorous and complex preparation. Its apparent simplicity makes the performance so engaging for children, and adults, in the audience.

The performance opens with a closed suitcase centre stage. Mr Sommerflügel sits on one side of the suitcase behind various percussion instruments (drum, triangle, finger organ, cymbal), Mrs Sommerflügel on the other. The suitcase 'magically' opens to reveal a glow of golden light promising all sorts of revelations. The case snaps shut. It re-opens and then snaps shut again to the rhythm of Mr Sommerflügel's instruments, children giggle. There is no high tech work at play, the performance combines joke shop trickery with precise and playful theatre.

First a simple paper butterfly flutters out of the suitcase. A single spot light draws attention to the shadow it casts on Mr Sommerflügel's handkerchief, the shadow is captured and folded inside the handkerchief, the butterfly shadow then escapes to the spontaneous applause of the children. The illusions work beautifully, Mr and Mrs Sommerflügel's timing is perfect.

The butterfly is followed by other, seemingly random, objects/puppets: a small boat, a big fish, a bread roll, a mouse, a cat and a robin. Through discreet, but not hidden, trickery Mr and Mrs Sommerflügel transform the objects into characters within a 'cat and mouse' story: Mrs Sommerflügel hides the bread roll from Mr Sommerflügel under her hat, the big fish hopes to eat the little boat, the clever robin outwits the showoff cat.

The duo present a wonderful miniature circus for the assembled children.

*Richard Tomlinson, the Lead Creative Practitioner on Take Art's Little Big Bang project in october 2011*