

ART &
SKIN

FIGHT! PALAST

#MEMBERSONLY

PENG! Palast (Germany/Switzerland)

BIOGRAPHIES OF ARTISTS

PENG! PALAST

Inspired by theatre classics, PENG! Palast generates its content from its members' own biographies. They want to break through to the audience and bring them to action. They push themselves to the limit, with undercover research, physical training and unrestrained improvisations.

PENG! Palast won the prestigious PREMIO Swiss award for young drama and dance talents in 2009, Burgergemeinde Bern's Youth Award in 2010 and their play *FIGHT! Palast #membersonly* was nominated for the Leipziger Bewegungskunstpreis in 2015.

They have also created a feature film *the holycoaster s(HIT) circus*, which premiered at Solothurner Filmtage 2016, based on the production of the same title that was presented at M1 Singapore Festival 2013: Art & Entertainment.

In 2016, they created their eighth play *Bye Bye Babel*.

CO-DIRECTOR/ PERFORMER - DENNIS SCHWABENLAND

Dennis Schwabenland grew up in the Ruhr district in Germany and currently lives in Bern, Switzerland. He is the Co-Artistic Director of the drama group PENG! Palast. Dennis graduated from the Academy of Arts in Bern (HKB) in 2008 and was awarded the BEST scholarship for outstanding graduates.

Besides PENG! Palast, he works as an actor in different ensembles, including Club 111, 400asa, Weltalm, Kämpf/Urweider and BUES/MEZGER/SCHWABENLAND.

He is also Co-Artistic Director, Producer and Actor of the documentary-comedy *the holycoaster s(HIT) circus* (2016) which was screened at the Solothurn Film Festival and the Hamburg Filmfest.

CO-DIRECTOR/ PERFORMER - CHRISTOPH KELLER

Christoph Keller was born in Bern in 1986. He received his Masters of Arts in Theatre from the Academy of Arts in Bern (HKB) in 2011. He is the Co-Artistic Director and an actor of the drama group PENG! Palast. He also works with other groups and directors in diverse plays, including *FAUST Exhausted* (TART-production), *Tod meiner Stadt* (Daniela Janjic), and *Romeo & Julia* (Livio Andraina). He had also appeared in cinema and television productions such as *The Circle* (Stefan



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Haupt), *Tatort: Verfolgt* (Tobias Ineichen), *Vatertag* (Rahel Grunder). Alongside his work as actor, he produces, directs and writes his own plays such as *Cockroach* in 2011.

PERFORMER - NINA MARIEL KOHLER

Nina Mariel Kohler was born in 1984 in Bern and studied drama at the Academy of Arts in Bern (HKB). She won the Migros Kulturprozent study award as well as the prize for promoting young artists from the Friedl Wald Stiftung. After performing as a guest at the Stadttheater Bern as well as the Stadttheater Konstanz, she was a permanent member of the ensemble at the Deutsches Nationaltheater Weimar from 2010 to 2012. So far, she has been a member of the cast in the PENG! Palast productions *and now go home and change your underpants*, *Woyzeckmaschine* and *FIGHT! Palast #membersonly*.

TECHNICAL MANAGER - TONIO FINKAM

Tonio Finkam was born in 1986. He grew up in the Emmental region and became an electronic engineer. Since 2006 he has been working as lighting designer for Dachstock and since 2009 at Tojo Theatre at the Reitschule in Bern. He has also worked with the bands Copy&Paste, The Catamaran and Baze and has been a freelance employee of Nuance Veranstaltungstechnik and Livesound.

Since 2009, he has been working as a lighting designer and technical manager with different theatre companies.

PRODUCTION MANAGER - ROLAND AMREIN

Roland Amrein was born in 1980. Since 2007 he has been working as a production manager, touring planner and stage manager with PENG! Palast, Theater Club 111, GUBCOMPANY, Bergtheater and Jurczok 1001.

He received his certificate for Project Management Associate IPMA in 2008, and did his studies at the College for Media Management and Media Science (Visual Communication) at the School of Arts and Design in Bern and Biel from 2009 to 2012.