ABOUT MINENSEMBLET

MiNensemblet is "an ensemble that people should flock to experience." (*Helgeland Arbeiderblad*)

Quality, diversity, and consistency make MiNensemblet's performances memorable, unique, and thrilling and have led to a broad audience of core fans that is constantly expanding. Their repertoire has dynamism and breadth and spans from early music in the classical genre to jazz and contemporary classical music. They are a sought-after group of musicians that perform at a variety of events, shows, and recordings. MiNensemblet are based in Northern Norway where they tour extensively, but can often be found throughout the rest of the country and abroad.

Since their inception in 1992, MiNensemblet has maintained a very high profile promoting contemporary music. MiNensemblet is known for contemporary projects that involve direct collaboration with composers who write music specifically for their productions. In addition, the ensemble is renowned for "Theme Projects", such as Baroque music with authentic baroque instruments and "Hammerklaver" (fortepiano) projects with new and creative interpretations of great composers of the past.

In recent years, MiNensemblet has released a range of recordings and CD-releases, and have collaborated with artists such as Bjørn Andor Drage, Arvid Engegård, and Bobby McFerrin to name a few.

MiNensemblet has been enthusiastically received by audiences and critics both at home and abroad. They have toured throughout Europe, with concerts in Denmark, Italy, Spain and the Czech Republic, and have also visited Russia several times in recent years. In 2013, MiNensemblet visited the US with a limited NYC run of their Raymond Scott tribute.

www.musikkinordland.no

CURRENT MEMBERS OF MINENSEMBLET (2016):

LAZAR MILETIC	*Viola*
ØYVIND NUSSLE	*Violin*
TOR JOHAN BØEN	*Violin*
HANS-URBAN ANDERSSON	*Cello*
OLE KRISTOFFERSEN	*Clarinet*
ANTON BIEHE	*Fagott*
KETIL PEDERSEN	*Oboe*
INGE ROLLAND	*Flute*
DIMITRIS KOSTOPOULOS	*Piano*

Established: 1992
Primary Location: Narvik, Norway
Kongens gate 44,
8514 Narvik
Organization: Musikk i Nordland /
Nordland County
Type: Chamber Music Ensemble

ABOUT NORDLAND VISUAL THEATRE

Located in the arctic circle in Norway, Nordland Visual Theatre plays a key role in developing and promoting visual theater in Norway. The theater has created productions ranging from traditional puppet theatre to cross-over productions, merging elements from the visual arts, theater, mime, dance, and multi-media. This is done in collaboration with puppeteers, actors, directors, stage designers, composers, and artists from all over the world. Nordland Visual Theatre was founded in 1991 and is funded by Nordland County, the municipality of Vestvågøy and the Arts Council of Norway. Each summer Nordland Visual Theatre participates in organizing Stamsund International Theatre Festival.

Nordland Visual Theatre is Geir-Ove Andersen, Elisabeth Belsvik, Preben Faye-Schjøll, Ing Randi Johansen, Tim Lucassen, Jan Erik Skarby, and Anne Sørfjell.

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Melissa Creighton, Daniel Fine, Liz Hara, Elysabeth Kleinhans, Telly Leung, Anne Tofflemire, Darron West

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59E59 THEATER A

WAKKA WAKKA
PRESENTS

MADE IN CHINA

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH
NORDLAND VISUAL THEATRE, MINENSEMBLET
AND THE HOPKINS CENTER, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 19, 2017



WAKKA WAKKA

PRESENTS

MADE IN CHINA

A CO-PRODUCTION WITH NORDLAND VISUAL THEATRE, MINENSEMBLET, AND THE HOPKINS CENTER, DARTMOUTH COLLEGE

WRITTEN BY **GWENDOLYN WARNOCK** AND **KIRJAN WAAGE**
WITH HELP FROM THE **MADE IN CHINA ENSEMBLE**

DIRECTED BY **GWENDOLYN WARNOCK** AND **KIRJAN WAAGE**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER **GABRIELLE BRECHNER**

MUSIC & LYRICS	YAN LI
PUPPETS	KIRJAN WAAGE
UNDERSCORE	LARS PETTER HAGEN
ORCHESTRA	MINENSEMBLET WITH YAN LI AND MAX MAMON

The running time of ***Made In China*** is 1 hour and 20 minutes with no intermission.

THE MADE IN CHINA ENSEMBLE

MARY	PETER RUSSO (WAKKA WAKKA COMPANY MEMBER)
DICK MILLS, YO-YO (EDDIE'S DOG), OTHERS	ANDY MANJUCK (WAKKA WAKKA COMPANY MEMBER)
LILY, EDDIE'S FEET, SPINNING DILDO, OTHERS	DOROTHY JAMES
VOICE OF LETTER, PLUNGER, TIBETAN, EDDIE'S FATHER REHABILITATION EDUCATOR, YOUNG, OTHERS	CHARLES PANG
WEI WEI, FARMER, OTHERS	STEPHEN J. MARK
EDDIE	ARIEL ESTRADA
EDDIE	HANSEL TAN SHENWEI
MARY'S FEET, MISS MILLIONS, OTHERS	LEI LEI BAVOIL
UNDERSTUDY	FANG DU

MINENSEMBLET PERFORMERS

VIOLA	LAZAR MILETIC
CELLO	HANS-URBAN ANDERSSON
CLARINET	NINO FELBAB
PERCUSSION	ARNFINN BERGRABB

KEYS

KEYS 1	YAN LI
KEYS 2	MAX MAMON

CREATIVE & PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION STAGE MANAGER	MACKENZIE BLADE
MADE IN CHINA PUPPETEERS IN WORKSHOPS 2015/2016	HANSEL TAN SHENWEI, WEI-YI LIN, WILLIAM YUEKUN WU, HEATHER GILBERT, FANG DU, HOLLY CHOU, JOSEPHINE HUANG
ADDITIONAL PUPPETS	DOROTHY JAMES, JACK MARKUSSEN
PROPS	DOROTHY JAMES, JACK MARKUSSEN, GLORIA SUN, LEI LEI BAVOIL, WEI-YI LIN, ANDY MANJUCK, STEPHEN J. MARK, CHARLES PANG, PETER RUSSO, HANSEL TAN SHENWEI
SEAMWORK & PUPPET SEWING	EMILY GASDA, RANNVEIG GISLADOTTIR, ASHLEY ROSE HORTON, ANDREA OSP KARLSDOTTIR, BEC SLOANE
LIGHTING DESIGN & TECHNICAL DIRECTION	ALEX GOLDBERG
SOUND DESIGN	TYLER KIEFFER
SET DESIGN	YU-TING LIN, GWENDOLYN WARNOCK & KIRJAN WAAGE
COSTUME DESIGN	GWENDOLYN WARNOCK & KIRJAN WAAGE
VIDEO ARTIST	TIGER CAI
VIDEO DESIGN FOR "GOTTA GET OUT"	EVE WARNOCK, OBLSK INTERACTIVE
ADDITIONAL SOUND & VIDEO	ANDY MANJUCK
PUPPETEER, "INNOVATION" ANIMATION	WEI-YI LIN
SET CONSTRUCTION & WELDING	TIM LUCASSEN, ALEX MCCARRON, JAN ERIK SKARBY
CASTING	MICHAEL CASSARA, CSA

NORDLAND VISUAL THEATRE

GEIR-OVE ANDERSEN, ELISABETH BELSVIK, PREBEN FAYE-SCHJØLL, ING RANDI JOHANSEN, TIM LUCASSEN, JAN ERIK SKARBY, ANNE SØRFJELL

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MADE IN CHINA HAS BEEN GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY
THE CREATIVE CAPITAL FOUNDATION, THE MAP FUND, THE NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS, THE JIM HENSON FOUNDATION, THE NORWEGIAN ARTS COUNCIL, THE ROYAL NORWEGIAN CONSULATE GENERAL OF NEW YORK AND THE EUGENE O'NEILL THEATER CENTER.

A NOTE ON MADE IN CHINA

Within the past five years, for a myriad of reasons, everyone in Wakka Wakka has traveled to China. Our individual experiences were at once exciting, dynamic, difficult, and thought provoking. The feelings and questions we each had about China before traveling there became more complicated upon our return. And the more we read and spoke to people, the more we realized that this feeling was, on some level, true for almost every American. "China," as a concept, is confusing and challenging. It is a subject people often shy away from because they feel they do not possess enough knowledge to discuss it, or because they are censoring themselves on some level.

Growing up in the West, we were raised to believe that people have certain inalienable human rights. This is not something people our age in China can take for granted. Since the famous Nixon visit 40 years ago, the US relationship with China has been a tightrope walk. As China now vies to present itself as the next superpower, and the knotty relationship between the nations continues, all of us in Wakka Wakka have found ourselves asking: how do we deal with these contradictions on an individual level? How are we involved? As Americans and as consumers, what is our responsibility?

As always, personal stories and puppets are our ways into difficult subject matter. And this subject matter is so broad, and so overwhelming, that we figured "why not make it our first full musical?" It seemed like the logical next step. This is our biggest production to date, and we are so grateful to our collaborators over the past two years, as well as our co-producers and grantors, and 59E59 for helping us nurture it to fruition.

It is worth noting that certain themes in this show have suddenly become more relevant to Americans than we imagined they would be when we began work in 2014. As a nation, we appear to be facing a time in which dissent will be actively discouraged at the highest level of leadership. This is a first in our lifetime, and very dangerous ground. Our intention for ***Made In China*** was always that our audience would examine the feelings and questions that "China" elicits, and attempt to identify where those connect, and differ, from the feelings and questions that "America" elicits. That is still our intention, but now that the relationship between the two nations may become even more complicated – at the same time that our policies (official or cloaked) may begin to overlap in unprecedented ways – we truly hope that you will continue your examination long after you exit the theater.

All the best,
Gabrielle Brechner
Executive Producer, Wakka Wakka

ABOUT WAKKA WAKKA

Wakka Wakka Productions, Inc. is a non-profit visual theater company based in New York City. Our mission is to push the boundaries of the imagination by creating works that are bold, unique, and unpredictable.

Since 2001, Wakka Wakka has created and produced eight original works, which have toured extensively throughout the US and abroad. All of Wakka Wakka's productions have been highly physical, overlapping in a wide range of styles, including grotesque, absurd and clown, incorporating elements such as object manipulation, puppetry, masks, and original music.

Wakka Wakka created its first original work, ***B9: Clinch Mountain Lookout*** at Edinburgh Festival Fringe. ***B9*** is centered on a seemingly perfect couple whose blissful relationship disintegrates into horror. In 2002/3, Wakka Wakka created ***Fattie and Skinny Show!***, a modern clown piece that ran Off-Off Broadway.

In 2004, the company premiered its first puppet piece, ***The Untold Story of Monkey***, at NYC's The Tank. The play follows a young monkey from his jungle home to his untimely death in outer space. In 2006, ***The Death of Little Ibsen*** – a darkly comedic puppet exploration of Henrik Ibsen's quest to find his true self – ran Off-Off Broadway.

In 2008, Wakka Wakka created ***FABRIK: The Legend of M. Rabinowitz***, which ran Off-Off Broadway. About the life of the real Moritz Rabinowitz – an outspoken Polish-Jewish émigré whom the Nazis mistakenly dubbed "the leader of the Jewish Resistance in Norway," ***FABRIK*** was awarded a 2008 UNIMA Citation of Excellence and was nominated for a Drama Desk.

In 2010, Wakka Wakka premiered ***Baby Universe: A Puppet Odyssey*** Off-Broadway. The bizarre tale of humankind's last hope in the face of imminent annihilation wrought by an angry, dying sun, ***Baby Universe*** was critically acclaimed and was nominated for 3 Drama Desks. In 2011, Wakka Wakka was awarded an Obie Grant for Outstanding Work.

Wakka Wakka premiered ***SAGA*** Off-Broadway in the spring of 2013. ***SAGA*** examines the 2008 Icelandic financial crisis through the very personal story of Gunnar Oddmunson. Lucky and successful before the crash, Gunnar's big dreams for the future give way to the harsh reality of family abandonment and bank repossession, which in turn awaken his ancient Norse desire for blood revenge. ***SAGA*** was the recipient of a 2013 Special Drama Desk Award for Sophisticated Puppet Theatre.

The company is led by Gabrielle Brechner, Kirjan Waage, and Gwendolyn Warnock and is supported by members Andy Manjuck and Peter Russo.

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