

RADIO FRANKENSTEIN

**Witness
the First Head Transplant
in the Human History**



Written and directed by Markus Zohner



WHAT MAKES YOU WHO YOU ARE?

What makes me who I am?

Are you a human because you have a heart? Because you have eyes, a brain? Because you walk upright, because you mate with pleasure? Because you can read, write your name, remember, because you think you know you exist?

Are you this man because you have this knee, this pain in the shoulder, this heart, this love for this vanilla pudding, this faith in this God, this memory of this grandmother?

Does it matter where your hand comes from? Your stomach? Your heart? Your singing? Does it matter where your words come from? Your kidneys?

You will wake up as a new human being. Resurrect from the decay of life, rejuvenated, beautified, much better, much newer, much more yes-you-can'ed. Your new penis, made from the cultured cells of your umbilical cord, again and ever ready, firm, big, shiny.

Egg cells, grown from your own skin for timeless offspring, planted in the brand new fallopian tubes, fertilized with sperm from your own genome, so that you can always only remain yourself, only you, only you, only yourself.

Do not be afraid: you will not die. We only cut parts of you, and replace them with new ones. We keep your soul, and transplant it into a new existence.

| **RADIO FRANKENSTEIN**

The Italian neurosurgeon prof. Canavero is going to perform the first human head transplant. He will need two donors: one will give his body and the other one who will make his head available for transplant. For this operation, Prof. Canavero will have at his disposal a whole clinic in Harbin/China with a medical team of 150 doctors and nurses.

Radio Frankenstein is a theatrical project by the swiss based Markus Zohner Arts Company. It is a meeting of art and science, in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission.

"Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus", written in 1817 by Mary Shelley, is the story of Dr. Victor Frankenstein's experiments, where he puts together pieces of human corpses and instills life in them, creating a monster, a being who possesses superhuman strength.

Radio Frankenstein was developed for the JRC during the Resonances II Festival Fair/Fear, in close dialogue with scientists Paolo Rosa and Laura Grimaldi. Till today, it was staged to public acclaim in Ispra, Milan, Lugano and Bellinzona in 2017 and 2018, and in Pohoda Festival Trenčín / Slovakia 2019.

RADIO FRANKENSTEIN | Producer: Markus Zohner Arts Company | Co-producer: JRC - Joint Research Centre of the European Commission | World premiere: 08/09/2017, Teatro Foce, Lugano (CH) | Playwright: Markus Zohner | Actors: Patrizia Barbuiani, Santiago Bello, Luca Domas, Alessandra Francolini, Igor Mamlenkov | Director: Markus Zohner | Interaction Designer: Sandro Pianetti | Technical Director, Light Design and Sound: Martin Wieser | Costumes: Valentina Forbicetti | Stage Setting and Props: David M. Zurbuchen | Graphic Design: Edy Ceppi | Production Assistant: Elisabetta Preite | Photography and Filmmaking: Patrick Botticchio | Audio: Studio RADIO PETRUSKA | Performance available in: English / Italian / Spanish

PATRIZIA BARBUJANI
LUGANO / SWITZERLAND

She collaborates with Markus Zohner Arts Company as an actress, playwright and director, creating performances and promoting international projects all over the world and winning important theatre awards in Europe, in Asia as well as in South and North America. She directs theatrical performances for her company TEATROX in Lugano and Russia. She is also a writer. In 2019 her second novel „Il canto degli antenati“ (The chant of the ancestors) has been published in Italian, translations into German, English and French are to follow in 2020 and 2021.

SANTIAGO BELLO
BOGOTA / COLOMBIA

Actor, juggler, video artist and puppeteer. Colombian multidisciplinary artist. In 2018 he graduated in Master's of Arts in Physical Theatre at Accademia Teatro Dimitri, Switzerland (2015-2018). Since 2015, he has been researching the fusion of physical theatre, juggling, object manipulation and video projections on stage. Santiago has a B.A in Journalism and Audiovisual Communication from Universidad de la Sabana in

Colombia (2012) and for the past years, has alternated and combined his work in theatre, circus, film and communication.

LUCA DOMAS
COMO / ITALY

He is an actor and voice-over talent born in Como, Italy. After joining the first academic courses in Milan, he soon has toured across Italy with "I Guitti" theatre company. He moved to London in 2015 where he studied at the Drama Studio London. In 2016 he joined the Markus Zohner Arts Company, and he keeps working between London, Milan, and Lugano. Now he is based in Italy, where he works for several multilingual projects.

ALESSANDRA FRANCOLINI
FLORENCE / ITALY

Actress, acrobat, dancer and undershower singer. After three years of classical theatre education at the Academy of Dramatic Arts LinkAcademy in Rome, she decided to further her training in Switzerland, where she completed a Master's in Physical Theatre at the Dimitri School of Theatre. She took part in French, Swiss, Czech and

Italian productions, which enabled her to discover different artistic influences. In June 2017, she had her theatre debut with the production "To be" written and directed by herself.

IGOR MAMLENKOV
BARCELONA / SPAIN

Actor, director, performer. Born in Russia in 1988. Since 15 years old he practiced breakdance and theatre. When moved to Barcelona, he started learning to clown. He made films as an actor and director. His latest film *The Place is Now* got SPECIAL JURY PRIZE. He finished MA in Physical Theatre at the Dimitri School of Theatre. Co-created and toured with the show INSOMNIA in Europe; created his solo show DOMOVOI and toured it in Russia, Switzerland and Italy; tours with the show Radio Frankenstein since 2017.

SANDRO PIANETTI
LUGANO / SWITZERLAND

Visual artist and interaction designer. Born in 1987, grown up in the Italian part of Switzerland. After a Bachelor in Visual Arts at ÉCAL Lausanne, he obtained a MAS degree in Interaction Design in Lugano. Right now he

follows his artistic practice while working in various branches in his field. Since 2017 he is part of the no-profit art space Sonnenstube and collaborates with the Markus Zohner Arts Company. Sandro also works as an artist's assistant and technical consultant for exhibitions.

MARKUS ZÖHNER
LUGANO / SWITZERLAND

Actor, director, playwright, radio man. Born in Munich, he lives in Lugano. In 1987, he founded his theatrical company Markus Zohner Arts Company. In 2002 he founded the Markus Zohner Flying Theatre Academy for Central Asia in Almaty (Kazakhstan). He wrote the theatre version of the Estonian national epic "Kalevipoeg" for the VAT Theater (Tallin/Estonia) and directed the performance. "Kalevipoeg" was also presented in Finland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany, Russia and Japan. It was chosen as one of "The 100 most important Estonian theatrical productions in the last 100 years". In 2004, he directed the Theater am Brennpunkt in Baden (Canton Argovia). Between 2006 and 2008, he developed the Kosovo Blood Theatre Project, a collaboration

with Quendra Multimedia and Jeton Neziraj in Prishtina. On 16th December 2008, he started his 9-month walk from Venice to San Petersburg. After crossing 12 states and walking for more than 4000 kilometres, he arrived in San Petersburg on the 21st September 2009. He wrote a book and presented photo exhibitions about his adventure: "The Re-Discovery of the ancient Amber Way".

Radio Frankenstein is his latest theatrical performance, produced in collaboration with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. During the last years, the main focus of his theatrical work has been on devising and writing performances based on scientific data, and on researching for innovative ways of engaging with the public.

| **JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE**

As the science and knowledge service of the European Commission, the Joint Research Centre's mission is to support EU policies with independent evidence throughout the whole policy cycle. The Joint Research Centre has six sites in five different EU member states (Brussels and Geel /

Belgium, Ispra / Italy, Karlsruhe / Germany, Petten / The Netherlands, Seville/Spain).

| **JRC SciART**

The JRC SciArt project investigates the changing borders between science and art. The objective is to understand the epochal rapprochement of the two disciplines and to bring innovation in research through the arts. The project invites artists to meet with scientists and policymakers on a theme of importance to the European Commission and the JRC, to discuss similarities of method and discover commonalities of intent.

Artists are invited to conceive a new work based on JRC science. If the JRC selection is approved by a committee of world-famous SciArt specialists, these works are produced and shown in a festival in the JRC site of Ispra, at the Lago Maggiore in Italy. They move then to an important venue in Europe, an excellent occasion to establish a dialogue with the public on a theme important to all European citizens. The JRC SciArt project is currently preparing the third edition of the Resonances Festival on the theme of Big Data, AI and Digital

Transformation. Developed along the idea of Datami – a data tatami that must give us rest and repose against the digital onslaught – the works will be unveiled in a festival in Ispra in October 2019 and then shown in an important European city.

The main objective of the Science and Art project is to provide the theoretical and practical foundations for a much closer collaboration between artists, scientists and policy makers, in pursuit of a more transdisciplinary and exploratory agenda for the JRC in the coming years. The Art and Science concept promotes that real innovation and change occurs when science, art and society come together in an intellectual process where reasoning, facts, figures, opinions, impressions and expressions, concerns and values coupled with – why not? – beauty blend to discover new venues of meaning and uncover a new sense of the world. It is a quest to unlock the secret of innovation. In that spirit, the JRC intends to establish a platform where artists, philosophers, poets, designers, scientists and policy makers of all disciplines can work together, in a cross-boundary effort, employing different perspectives to develop approaches that may contribute

to the solution of key societal challenges, involve the citizen and support the JRC in delivering on its work programme and mission.

MARKUS ZÖHNER ARTS COMPANY

The MARKUS ZÖHNER ARTS COMPANY produces theatrical performances, artistic projects, and podcasts. It offers masterclasses for actors and creates exhibitions and multimodal and photos exhibitions. It presents its productions in theatres and festival all over the world and has won several awards, among them the prestigious Swiss Theatre Awards in 2000. As of today, the company has worked on more than 25 theatrical productions, including 12 co-productions with theatres and theatrical companies abroad, taking the company on tour around the world. The company has created RADIO PETRUSKA, a radio project that deals with the production of podcast series like 'The Sense of Life' and 'La creazione del mondo' (Creation of the world). Here the company meets up with world famous artists and scientists, who are in search of the origin of everything: www.radiopetruska.com.

Through the investigation on manipulation of the collective consciousness by stories told by media, religion and politics, the theatrical radio performance 'Cappuccetto Infrarosso' (Little Infrared riding Hood) has been devised (2016). By the new production Radio Frankenstein, a theatrical performance

produced in collaboration with "Joint Research Centre" of the European Commission. In September 2017 the latest documentary, 'Leggere Proust in prigione' (Reading Proust in prison), has been broadcast by RAI Radio3 in the program Tre Soldi and by Swiss Radio RSI.



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