

FROM CIRQUE DU SOLEIL.

VADIMIR OLSHANSKY

The LAUGHTER

"...AS ABSURD AS LIFE."

JULIO CASTRO, LA REPUBLICA CULTURALE (MADRID/SPAIN)



ABOUT THE SHOW

The Laughter is a one man show performed through the language of visual theater, a dynamic combination of mime, dance, and music. It is a fascinating look at the art of clowning, and it's evolution from the simplicity of slapstick to the sophistication of contemporary metaphysical comedy.



VLADIMIR OLSHANSKY



Vladimir Olshansky graduated from the Academy of the Moscow Circus and Variety Arts in the early seventies. He developed his ideas of the clown-actor from studying the Masters such as Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton and Max Linder, as well as the legendary Russian directors Meyerhold and Vakhtangov. It was meeting Russian clown Leonid Engibarov, the first clown to combine the art of the circus and the theater, that solidified the thought that developed Vladimir's art throughout his career.

In St. Petersburg Vladimir co-founded the Clown Group "Lizidei"—an old Russian word meaning "face-makers"—with Slava Polunin, who is widely acknowledged as one of the top clowns in the world. In the mid-eighties Vladimir emigrated to New York where he worked with the Big Apple Circus and later with Cirque du Soleil. His solo show Strange Games got a special mention on the BBC's "Late Addition". Between 2009 and 2010 Vladimir continued his experiments and research with various other shows which he played with success all over Europe.

Currently, Vladimir is the artistic director and one of the three founders of Soccorso Clown, a non-profit organization that employs professional hospital clowns who work mainly with terminally ill children. In 2014, Vladimir founded the "Olshansky Art De La Joie" theater company.

CRITICAL ACCLAIM

A fascinating journey through the high art of clowning, where Olshansky, deploying his poetic world, reveals the eternal balance between comedy and drama that the world is made of.

—**ILARIA VARRIANO**, *CORRIERE DEL MEZZOGIORNO*, (CARRIERE DELLA SERA)

Vladimir Olshansky, an actor-clown almost as absurd as real life. The spectator will witness a wide spectrum of this art, conceived from a simple “entrée” of a circus to the wonderful sketches, summits of philosophy and poetry. [*The Laughter*] is a great example of experienced acting & professionalism.

—**JULIO CASTRO**, *LAREPÚBLICACULTURAL.SPAGNA*

Genius of a new dramatic experiment... With the freshness of a truth that is told to the public discreetly, the character of Vladimir comes alive, takes its form, as to become the paradigm of a flatus vocis which moves through the rooms of silence and the looks, the gestures so prudent and delicate... Here you do not look for the ultimate solution, the high road: just grope a right path (so that people begin to follow him, to understand who they can be)...

—**ALESSANDRA D'OTTONE**, *THE PICKWICK IT*

