

## Mimirichi – “Paper World” Press Release

The story of the Theater of Plastic Comedy “Mimirichi” began in Kyiv 40 years ago. Since then, the team has been circling the world on a theatrical orbit with their shows such as “Paper World”, “Plastic Fantastic”, “Crazy Hats” and “Miniatures”.

USA, Europe, Great Britain, South America, and Asia – over four decades of touring, Mimirichi has collected millions of smiles from the audience and has been highly acclaimed by colleagues. First place at the International variety competition in Stuttgart, and a gold medal at the Edinburgh Theatre Festival. Mimirichi is part of the Worldwide Clowns’ Association. They participated in the creative workshop by Marcel Marceau, who drew attention to the Mimirichi troupe during their Belgian tour.

Now the Ukrainian mimes hit the road of a world charity tour in support of Ukraine with their show “Paper World” – a spectacular, funny, and exciting performance, told by universal means of facial expressions, plasticity, and gesture.

Any landscape begins with a white canvas, a blockbuster from a blank screen, a novel sets off at a blank page... But all of them – a picture, a film, a book – are inscribed in the framework of white fields. What is behind them? The show «Paper World» invites the audience to become part of the action and look beyond the mysterious white paper wall separating the auditorium from the backstage. “Paper World” is a story told by clowns living in a world made entirely of paper. That seemingly uncomplicated material becomes, as the plot develops, a source of vivid creativity and unexpected improvisations.

When the show was only conceived 30 years ago, the creators could hardly have imagined how prophetic some of the play's scenes would turn out to be. In the show's second half, one of the trio of clowns suddenly turns into a small but very ambitious tyrant with a Napoleonic complex. He begins to take away paper from his neighbours, which he doesn't have a great need for. The whole stage is littered with it, it would seem that it should be enough for everyone, but greed and unhealthy ambitions push him to aggressive actions. Having devastated the stage, the little tyrant goes to the hall, where he is ready to continue his looting campaign. But, fortunately for peaceful spectators, he is stopped by two other clowns. The parallel with the Russian military aggression in Ukraine in 2022 is obvious...

Regardless of age, overcoming the barriers of languages and cultures, the audience is involved in the action, which ends with an exciting paper extravaganza covering the auditorium. Delight, amazement, and a sense of magic – these are emotions the worldwide audience has every time Mimirichi artists come out to bow.

Each performance uses up to 25 kilograms of paper, which at the end of the show is usually taken by the audience as souvenirs.

Mimirichi has made several generations of viewers laugh, and they know perfectly well how important the moments of joy are, especially in such difficult times. Now laughter does not only prolong the life of the theater audience but also provides support with therapeutic humour to Ukrainian refugees to help them cope with their experiences faster. The proceeds from the tour will be transferred to a charity foundation helping Ukrainian heroes defend freedom, peace, and democracy in Ukraine and the whole world.

Let your smiles save the lives of future generations!