Iman Lizarazu
Short Bio for Program

Iman Lizarazu, a highly skilled performance artist, specializes in eccentric performing and clown arts. As an experienced instructor, she conducts master classes and workshops worldwide. In these workshops, she performs her original, award-winning 390-minute solo shows titled “Commedia della Basque: A Basque Quest,” “Blanc sur Blanc,” and “Caspar.”

Born in a small village in the Basque region of southern France, Iman’s journey into the world of performing arts began at the tender age of six when she portrayed the Mouse in “The Nutcracker.” Her training in classical ballet and circus arts provided her with a solid foundation in choreography and movement. She also spent time at the Moscow Circus training gym, where she studied classic circus arts from a bygone era. During her teenage years, she honed her skills at the Circus School in Dresden, Germany. In Paris, France, she attended the International School of Mime, run by the renowned French actor and mime artist Marcel Marceau. In the United States, she extensively studied with Julie Goell and Avner the Eccentric, both prominent figures in the Eccentric Performing world.

Interestingly, Iman also earned a PhD in Astrophysics from the Max Planck Institute for extraterrestrial Physics. This was her first love and led her to a career in Eccentric Performing, which she believes is a more challenging profession.

Iman’s collaborations extend beyond her artistic endeavors. She has partnered with Clowns without Borders, a humanitarian organization dedicated to performing for children and adults affected by conflicts in war-torn and natural disaster-stricken countries. Currently residing in the picturesque coastal city of Santa Cruz, located between San Francisco and Monterey, California, Iman is also a co-owner of Renegade Juggling Company, a manufacturer of top-tier performance equipment.

Iman also performed at Tandy Beal and Company’s “Mixed Nutz! The Nutcracker RE-Mixed,” which has received rave reviews.

Driven by her collaborations with other professional performers, Iman is relentless in developing new stories, moves, and props, significantly contributing to the evolution of her art form.

Her past awards and recognitions include:

- Audience First Choice Award at the International Mime Festival in Yerevan, Armenia (2008)
- Recipient of the Gail Rich Award in Santa Cruz, CA (2010)
- Winner of the International Clowns Festival in Milan, Italy (2014)
- Second place at the International Theater Festival in Skopje, Macedonia (2016)
- Best Act Award at the Bangkok International Clown Festival (2019)

