

In Pictures

Switzerland tunnel: The oddest moments of the opening ceremony

🕒 1 June 2016 | [In Pictures](#)



We're not sure what this was all about either

From the World Cup to the Olympics, it is not a significant event if you don't have an unusual opening ceremony to go with it.

This was also the case when the Gotthard base tunnel, the longest and deepest in the world, was inaugurated on Wednesday.

T

C

W

H

P

C

F

F

C

a

Here are some of the most striking moments from the ceremony - we have tried to explain what is going on as far as possible. It was not always possible.

Warning: This article contains partial nudity



The ceremony represented different aspects of Swiss culture - at this point, milk floats drove in a procession



In the middle of all of this, an actor sat down, looked rather underwhelmed by everything, and ate his lunch



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A topless woman decked as a bird hovered above actors representing the nine construction workers who died during the building of the tunnel



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

It is unclear what the German, French and Italian leaders, who were all present, made of the ceremony

P
M
g

P
U
se

D
Is

A
W
th

M



Parts of the show proved very popular with some of those in the audience, however



David Wyllie ✓
@journodave



@journodave why is there a dead lamb?
pic.twitter.com/bVnOJtKVEen

11:35 AM - 1 Jun 2016



↩️ ↻️ 30 ❤️ 31

TWITTER/@JOURNODAVE

Some viewers were left baffled, as, perhaps, were some participants

Re
Ap
bal
—
Cli
wo
—
Wh
will
—
Bo
to l
—
Ob
me
—
Th
clo
—
Po
Cu
—
Pe
ext
—
Fre
pol
—
Mc
Ke



EPA

At one point, there were lots of people rolling around in white underwear



EPA

They, too, looked a bit blank about the whole thing - it was put together by German director Volker Hesse, whose most famous work has been done in Switzerland



EPA

The ibex, that is native to the Alps, played a prominent part in the ceremony



Fabien Perissinotto

@FPerissinotto

 Follow

On inaugure un tunnel, et il y a 2 personnes déguisées en bouquetins qui miment une scène de sexe... #Gottardo2016
pic.twitter.com/zCVZ9c4xOz

11:44 AM - 1 Jun 2016



TWITTER/@FPERESSINOTTO

One Twitter user wrote: "We're opening a tunnel, and here are two people dressed as ibex pretending to have sex"



EPA

More than 600 actors reportedly took part in the ceremony - an experience they are unlikely to forget any time soon

Share this story About sharing



More on this story

Gotthard tunnel: World's longest and deepest rail tunnel opens in Switzerland

1 June 2016

Swiss Gotthard rail tunnel - an engineering triumph

1 June 2016

World's longest rail tunnel opens in Switzerland

1 June 2016

In Pictures >





Europe's last primeval forest

🕒 7 June 2016 | [In Pictures](#)



Daredevils

🕒 7 June 2016 | [Australia](#)



Game changers

🕒 6 June 2016 | [Africa](#)

BBC News Services



On your mobile



On your connected tv



Get news alerts

Explore the BBC

News

Weather

Earth

Capital

Autos

TV

CBBC

Food

Bitesize

Arts

Taster

Local

Sport

Shop

Travel

Culture

Future

Radio

CBeebies

iWonder

Music

Make It Digital

Nature

[Terms of Use](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Accessibility Help](#)

[About the BBC](#)

[Cookies](#)

[Parental Guidance](#)

Contact the BBC

Advertise with us

Ad choices

Copyright © 2016 BBC. The BBC is not responsible for the content of external sites. **Read about our approach to external linking.**