

March
12/13/14
at 8 p.m.
Gymnasium
Bäumlihof
(Bus 34, Drei Linden,
direction Riehen)



The Semi-Circle
presents
Emlyn Williams'

Night Must Fall

Director: Richard Levitt



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ADMAX

Night Must Fall

Cast of characters

(in order of appearance)

The Lord Chief Justice	Bob Billington
Mrs Bramson	Doreen Richter
Olivia Grayne	Cynthia Baer
Hubert Laurie	Norman Koeth
Nurse Libby	Margaret Robertson
Mrs Terence	Diana Zuger
Dora Parkoe	Monica Jaeger
Inspector Belsize	Graham Simons
Dan	Chris Widmer

Directed by Richard Levitt

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

Prologue

The Court of Criminal Appeal

The action of the play takes place in the sitting-room of "Forest Corner", Mrs Bramson's bungalow in Essex.

Act One

Scene 1:	A fine morning in October
Scene 2:	An afternoon, twelve days later

Act Two

Scene 1:	Late afternoon, two days later
Scene 2:	Half an hour later
Scene 3:	Half an hour later

Epilogue

The Court of Criminal Appeal

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A Synopsis of Tonight's Play

Mrs. Bramson is a tight-fisted hypochondriac, who tyrannizes her relatives and servants alike. The usually quiet atmosphere of this little bungalow in Essex is shaken to its foundations by a series of astounding events.

Dora, the maid, confesses that she is pregnant, and that the father is a young page at the Tallboys Hotel. At about the same time, the bungalow is visited by an inspector from Scotland Yard, who is investigating the disappearance of one of the hotel's female guests.

Dan, the page, appears on the scene. He is, on the surface, a rather likeable young man, who quickly charms his way into the affections of the cantankerous Mrs. Bramson. Only Olivia (Mrs. Bramson's niece) is filled with strange forebodings about this good-looking young stranger.

The dismembered body of the missing lady is found very near the house..... everything, that is, except the head. The subsequent events build up to a thrilling climax, which will not be revealed in this synopsis..... Have a good scream!

"We have never seen an audience more thrilled at a thriller, more amused at a farce, or more touched by pathos than they are at this really remarkable play."

- The Bystander (1935)

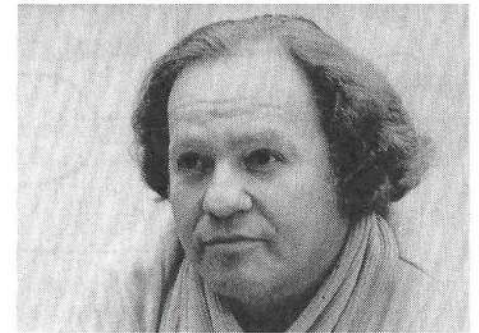
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A Word from the Director...

Another year (my third) with the Semi-Circle and yet another change of pace. This year our actors will be able to get their teeth into a classic thriller from the pen of Emlyn Williams (who has recently turned 80). Tonight we have three "new faces", some familiar faces in less familiar roles, two new "star performers", and many former "stars" acting in major capacities behind the scenes. Our group is expanding every year, which now makes it possible for us to embark on a second event. This will take the form of a Victorian Scrapbook entitled "We are Amused". It will comprise poetry, prose and music spanning the 60 years of Queen Victoria's reign. We are always anxious for new members, especially men with that hidden talent for the stage. As for tonight hold on to your seats and your breath ... and away we go!



Richard Levitt

Night Must Fall!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emlyn Williams

Emlyn Williams was born at Pennyffordd, Flintshire, in 1905, and was educated at Holywell County School, in Switzerland and at Christ Church, Oxford, originally intending to be a schoolmaster.

He became a member of the Oxford University Dramatic Society and made his first stage appearance at the Savoy Theatre in 1927. The play "Night Must Fall", first performed in 1935, was his first big success as an actor-dramatist and ran for over a year at the Duchess Theatre. Ever since that time he has been an outstanding figure in the British and American theatre as an actor, playwright and director. His other plays include "The Light of Heart", "Spring 1600", "The Wind of Heaven", "Someone Waiting" and "The Corn is Green".

In 1951 he embarked on "Solo Performances as Charles Dickens Enacting Scenes from his Stories". This venture, so successful that he found himself a pioneer, has taken him all over the world.

In between, he has appeared in a Shakespeare season at Stratford-upon-Avon and in other stage plays, as well as in films and on television.

In 1961, on television, he was a commentator at the Investiture of the Prince of Wales. He has recently played in the television production of "The Deadly Game" and in "Rumpole of the Bailey".

His writing credits, too, have been considerable. Besides his adaptation of "The Master Builder", which was presented by The National Theatre, in particular he has written four books: his early autobiographies "George" and "Emlyn", "Beyond Belief" ("A Chronicle of Murder and its Detection") and his first novel, "Headlong".

1985 saw a revival of "The Corn is Green" with Deborah Kerr and his activities during the year included making another film for television and directing a revival of his play "Someone Waiting". Plans are also afoot for a tour of Poland with the Dickens production, followed by another visit to the USA.



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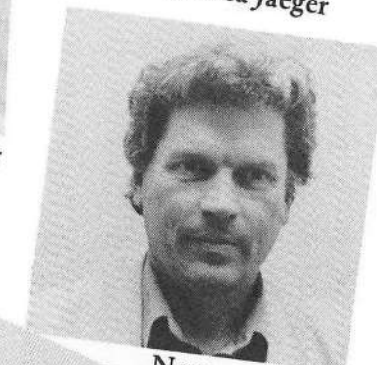
Cynthia Baer



Monica Jaeger



Christoph Widmer



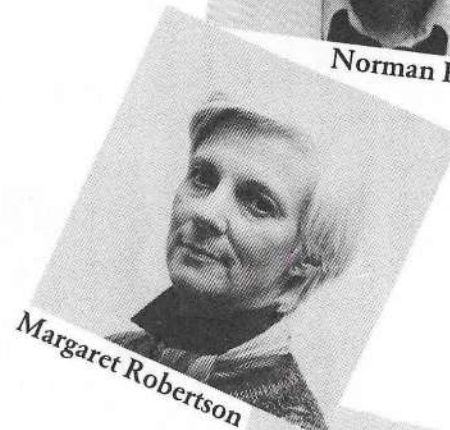
Norman Koeth



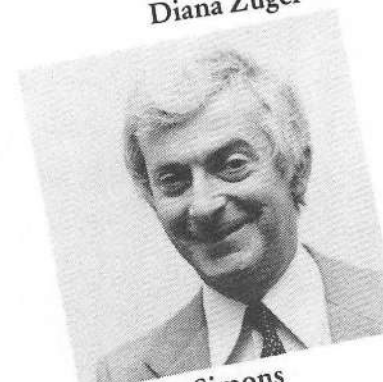
Doreen Richter



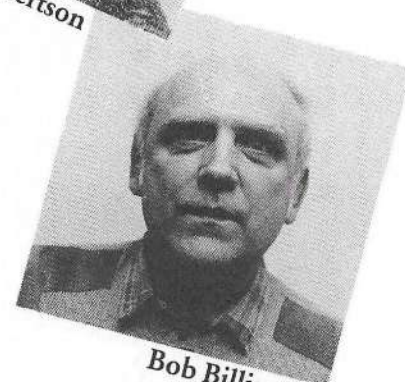
Diana Zuger



Margaret Robertson



Graham Simons



Bob Billington

**The Players
and the Director**



Bob Billington

A fine tenor, Bob is well known for his performances in all the Semi-Circle's joint musical productions and also in the American musical play "The Fantastics" in 1979. He began acting at school in Britain, where the plays were mostly classical and continued in contemporary and restoration comedy during his career in the R.A.F. A founder member of the group, he works as a translator/editor in the Basle chemical industry.

Doreen Richter

Doreen has now been in Basle for 15 years, which is longer than she has ever lived in any other place. Now that she no longer has to care for the daily needs of four children and a husband, she has been able to fulfil a long-time wish to act and was seen last year as the rather potty Miss Meacham in "Separate Tables".

Cynthia Baer

Cynthia joined the Semi-Circle three years ago. Once she learned to distinguish Tomaahatoes from Tomayatoes, she played Charles Condomine's second wife and ghost of same in "Blithe Spirit" and served last year at "Separate Tables". Many of her non-working hours are devoted to eating.

Norman Koeth

A native New Yorker, Norman came to Basle some twenty-odd years ago. First he worked as a teacher of English and is now a translator for a pharmaceutical firm. He has been involved in theatre work in one way or another all his life and is now producing a puppet show. This is his first appearance in a Semi-Circle production.

Margaret Robertson

Margaret was born in England and after living in various countries, came to Basle in 1974, where her husband works in the pharmaceutical industry. A trained nurse, she makes her debut on stage as Nurse Libby in tonight's play.

Diana Zuger

A familiar face in previous Semi-Circle productions, Diana was last seen as the ageing fashion model, Anne Shankland in "Separate Tables". She has been a member since the group was founded. When not learning lines, she is busy acting at being a housewife and the mother of two lively children.

Monica Jaeger

Monica is a newcomer to the Semi-Circle and appears on stage for the very first time in "Night Must Fall". She is a native of Basle and grew up and went to school here. Later, she spent eighteen months in England teaching at a school in Brentford. She teaches English and French in Basle and has one child.

Graham Simons

This is the seventh consecutive season in which Graham has appeared in a full-scale production. His most recent role was that of the bitter ex-politician, John Malcolm, in the 1985 production of "Separate Tables". Before he came to Switzerland in 1969, Graham had also acted or directed in amateur theatre at public school, at Oxford, and with two long-established societies in Brentwood, Essex. The younger of his two sons is following in his father's footsteps, having appeared at the Edinburgh Festival "Fringe" in 1984 and 1985 with the National Youth Music Theatre.

Christoph Widmer

Chris makes his second appearance for the company, after playing a medical student in "Separate Tables" last year. He began acting at public school in England and made his debut as a raw, rosy and chubby-faced (as now!) thirteen-year-old in Dürrenmatt's "The Physicists". He went on to take parts in Oscar Wilde's, "A Woman of No Importance", Miller's "The Crucible" and Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure". He is currently slogging his heart out in Zürich.

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Previous Semi-Circle Productions

May 1975:	Wilde: LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME (reading)
December 1976:	Shaw: HEARTBREAK HOUSE (reading)
May 1977:	JUBILEE REVUE (jointly)
January 1978:	Melville: DEAR CHARLES
September 1978:	OLD TIME MUSIC HALL (jointly)
January 1980:	Coward: HAY FEVER
October 1980:	A SEASIDE SHOW (jointly)
February 1982:	Wilde: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
February 1983:	Coward: PRESENT LAUGHTER
February 1984:	Coward: BLITHE SPIRIT
March 1985:	Rattigan: SEPARATE TABLES

**Warum denn in die Ferne schweifen
wo dasselbe ist so nah**


JAGUAR


AUSTIN

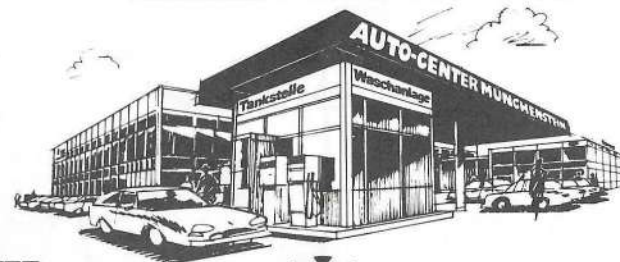

ROVER

RANGE ROVER


LAND-ROVER



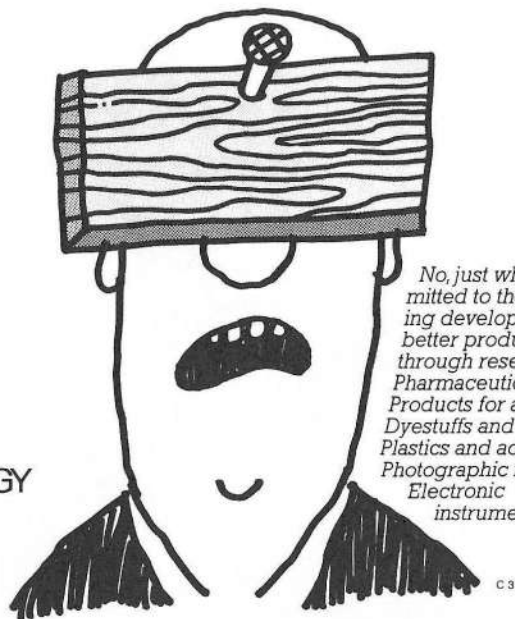
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Behind it all

Jellies, Travellers, Tormentors, Blackouts! No, not some outer space vocabulary but simply backstage language.

Behind all our plays we have been very fortunate to have a group of dedicated people who play "supportive" roles. Set construction and painting, lighting, sound, properties, front of house, production, publicity and a host of hidden but vital activities.

I have been personally involved with The Semi-Circle for just on 10 years and for all of those, I have been concerned with the "mysteries" of the backstage group as Stage Director.

I believe that a good set adds a tremendous amount to an amateur production and provides the frame and mood for audience and actors alike.

I should like to thank all of our willing helpers for their efforts in making our productions successful and creating a true theatre atmosphere.

Peter Nixon



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Behind the Scenes

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STAGE DIRECTOR
STAGE MANAGEMENT

Richard Levitt
Peter Nixon
Barbara Clark, Muriel Taylor

BACKSTAGE CREW

Peter Degen, Chris Heye,
Dick Sharman, Bob Williams

PROPERTIES

Gilian Jespersen, Joan Kuster,
Peggy Sharman, Joy Sherer, Joy Stone

WARDROBES

Ruth Meier

MAKE-UP

Penny Ehrsam, Sheila Nixon,
assist. Lisa Nixon

FRONT OF HOUSE
PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT
ADVERTISING/PUBLICITY
PROGRAMME
PHOTOGRAPHS

Jean-Pierre Zuger & volunteers
Sheila Nixon, Andreas Kilian
Penny Ehrsam
Peter Zumkehr
Hans Peter Laager

The Semi-Circle would like to thank all those members and non-members not mentioned by name whose generous help has made this production possible.

We should specially like to thank the Zurich Comedy Club for their help and assistance with the scenery.



Membership application card

I want to become a member of the Semi-Circle Basel

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The Semi-Circle Basel would like to put on more than one play per year but in order to do this we do need more members.

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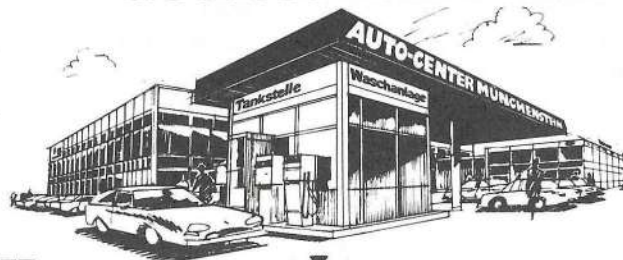
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