



The English Language  
Theatre Group

**The Semi-Circle, Basle**  
proudly presents

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# Two one-act comedies

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John Mortimer's: **KNIGHTSBRIDGE** directed by Muriel Taylor

Rae Shirley's: **ROUND AND ROUND THE GOOSEBERRY BUSH**  
directed by Joan Kuster

# ROUND AND ROUND THE GOOSEBERRY BUSH

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by Rae Shirley

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

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Aunt Lavinia	:	Joy Scherer
Annie May	:	Helen Baldomero
Gertrude	:	Penny Ehram
Prunella	:	Sasha Mazzotti
Charlotte	:	Ruth Meier

Directed by Joan Kuster

The action of the play takes place in the drawing-room of Mrs. Gertrude Bradley.

Time : Evening in an early year of the present century.

## SYNOPSIS

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Life during the Edwardian period in Britain was very far removed from the life we lead today. In those days, conversation was governed by the rules of polite society and sex was a taboo subject. Gertrude, the Colonel's middle-aged widow and her two spinster sisters, the shy, reserved Lavinia and the imprudent Charlotte, who is doing her best to improve women's rights, are faced with a serious problem. Gertrude's daughter, Prunella, is to be married the following day and they realise that there is a certain delicate matter which must be explained to her .....

RAE SHIRLEY

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We do not have much information about the contemporary authoress Rae Shirley other than that her main work seems to concentrate upon one-act plays for all-female casts like "Round and Round the Gooseberry Bush", which was published in 1979. Others include "Bus Stop" ( performed at the "Schönes Haus" by the Semi-Circle, Basle in May 1988 ), "Think the Beautiful Thoughts" and "Sherry in the Trifle". One full-length play of hers for a mixed cast is "Scarlet Ribbon" which also deals with the development of women's emancipation in the early part of the 20th century.

**BEHIND THE SCENES**

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Stage Manager : Theo Bucher,  
Grayson Richards

Prompter : Caroline Weisskopf

Wigs / Make-Up : Sheila Nixon and  
volunteers

Publicity / Programme : Rudolf Kuster

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**FRONT OF HOUSE, LIGHTING AND SOUND ARE SUPPLIED BY  
THE THEATRE VIS-A-VIS STAFF**  
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The Semi-Circle would like to thank everybody not mentioned by name whose generous help has made this production possible.

Costumes by courtesy of the Stadttheater, Basel. Our special thanks go to Frau Studinger for her generous help.

# KNIGHTS BRIDGE

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by John Mortimer

## CAST OF CHARACTERS

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Henry Bulstrode : Oscar Baldomero  
Francesca Stokes : Lisa Nixon  
Muriel Stokes : Jacintha Horowitz  
A Man in a Mackintosh : Bryan Taylor

Directed by Muriel Taylor

The action of the play passes in part of the sitting-room of Muriel Stokes' flat, somewhere behind Harrods.

Time - the early Sixties.

## SYNOPSIS

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Francesca brings her lover, Henry, to her mother's flat to announce their intention to get married. While waiting for Mrs. Stokes, Francesca answers a mysterious phone call. From what he overhears, Henry, in astonishment, concludes that Mrs. Stokes is a member of the oldest profession. As a television interviewer he is immediately interested in securing her for a talk-show - then he finds his interest deepening .....

## JOHN MORTIMER

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is a playwright, a novelist and a former practising barrister. During the war he worked with the Crown Film Unit and published a number of novels before turning to the theatre with such plays as "The Dock Brief", "The Wrong Side of the Park" and "A Voyage round my Father".

He has written many film scripts, radio and television plays, including six plays on the life of Shakespeare, the Rumpole plays, which won him the British Academy Writer of the Year Award, and the adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's "Brideshead Revisited". His translations of Feydeau have been performed at the National Theatre and are published in Penguin as "Three Boulevard Farces".

Penguin publish his collections of stories, two volumes of his plays, his acclaimed autobiography "Clinging to the Wreckage", which won the Yorkshire Post Book of the Year Award, his bestselling novel, "Paradise Postponed", a series of interviews with some of the most prominent men and women of our time and its follow-up, "Character Parts".

John Mortimer lives with his wife and their daughters in what was once his father's house in the Chilterns.

## SEMI-CIRCLE PRODUCTIONS

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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
March 1986	Williams : NIGHT MUST FALL
May 1986	Coward : FUMED OAK (Workshop)
January 1987	Chinn : A RESPECTABLE FUNERAL (Workshop)
February 1987	Shaw : PYGMALION

April 1987	at Festival of English-Speaking Theatre : THE PARADISE PAGEANT
August 1987	Hughes : RED CARNATIONS (Workshop)
November 1987	St. Vincent Millay : ARIA DA CAPO (Workshop) Townsend : WOMBERANG (Workshop)
December 1987	THE PARADISE PAGEANT and THE NATIVITY PAGEANT ( Charity performance )
March 1988	Van Druten : I REMEMBER MAMA
May 1988	Shirley : BUS STOP (Workshop) Pertwee : POSTAL ORDERS (Workshop) Chinn : FROM HERE TO THE LIBRARY (Workshop)
September 1988	Chinn : A RESPECTABLE FUNERAL (Workshop)
December 1988	THE PARADISE PAGEANT and THE NATIVITY PAGEANT ( Charity performance )
Feb./March 1989	Congreve : LOVE FOR LOVE
May 1989	Mortimer : KNIGHTSBRIDGE Shirley : ROUND AND ROUND THE GOOSEBERRY BUSH



## The English Language Theatre Group

In the last few years the group has been able to broaden the range of the type of play offered to its audiences. It has been fortunate in being able to attract a lot of new talent from among the English-speaking community of the Basle Regio and has been able to offer a wide range of activities to members who prefer to stay clear of grease-paint and the foot-lights. William Congreve's "LOVE FOR LOVE", our major production for 1989, could only be realised as a result of more male actors recently joining the group. This year the group, under the direction of Richard Levitt, will start acting lessons for its school-age members. Regular monthly play-readings give members a chance to meet and involve themselves in English-language theatre. Amateur theatre productions mean a great deal of hard work, but they also give us a lot of fun and, we hope, a great deal of pleasure to our audiences.

New members, with or without experience, are always welcome; on stage, behind the scenes or front of house. If you would like to join us or if you would like to be regularly informed about our activities, by having your name and address put on our mailing list, or if you have any questions, please contact our Secretary:

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Mattweg 100            4144 ARLESHEIM

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