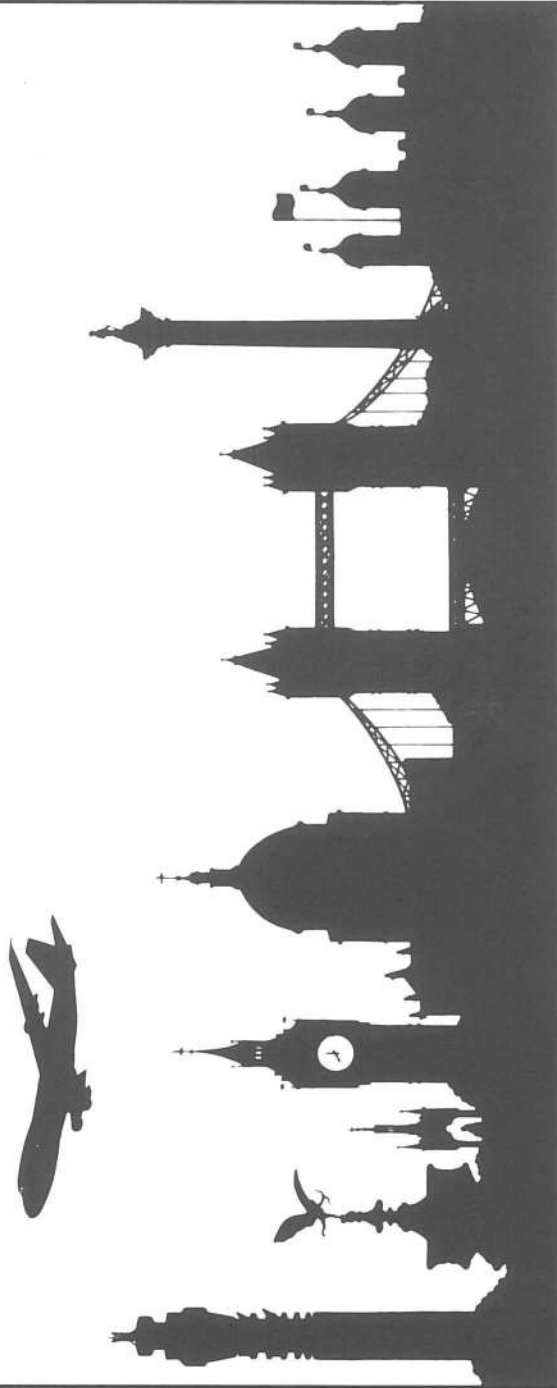


**THE SEMI-CIRCLE**  
presents  
Norman Robbins'

# Nightmare

Directed  
by  
Muriel Taylor

March 5/6/7/8 at 8 p.m.  
Gymnasium Bäumlhof



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**NIGHTMARE**

Cast of characters

(in order of appearance)

Doris Meacham	Sheila McKenzie
Katherine Willis	Joy Scherer
Dr Andrew Thorne	Theo Bucher
Michael Willis	Rupert Dell
Raymond Shapley	Oscar Baldomero
Marion Bishop	Diana Zuger
Laura Vinnecombe	Joan Kuster

The play is directed by Muriel Taylor

The action of the play takes place in the living-room of Marion Bishop's home, Moor View, an isolated house on the edge of Barrowdale Moor.

**ACT I**

Scene 1 A Saturday morning in mid-September  
Scene 2 Two weeks later  
Scene 3 Ten days later, evening

**ACT II**

Scene 1 Later that evening  
Scene 2 Four days later, morning  
Scene 3 The following day, evening

Time - the present

# A Nightmare?



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About the author ....

NORMAN ROBBINS

Born in Leeds, Yorkshire, Norman Robbins made his first stage appearance at the age of three in a play starring the late Tod Slaughter, famous for his portrayals of Sweeney Todd and other great melodramatic roles.

After some years as an amateur actor, Norman was offered a State Scholarship to study drama and became a professional actor in 1965.

Within three months of attending drama school, he was appearing in pantomime and also appearing regularly in such television series as "Crossroads", "United" and "Swizzlewick". In 1969 he appeared in the smash-hit comedy "Nearest and Dearest" with Jimmy Jewel and Hylde Baker, and in 1971 played opposite Hylde in "Not on your Nelly". By the end of the 1970's, he had appeared with almost every top name in the field of entertainment, and made several films. In January 1979, he became a Visiting Professor of Drama at Iowa State University, USA, at their invitation, and whilst there conducted workshops in drama, and directed what the American press claimed to be the first successful production of an English pantomime ever seen in America.

On his return to Britain, he lectured at the National Theatre on the subject of pantomime production, and during the past few years has hopped from acting and directing to playwriting and teaching with equal success.

His first play was published by Samuel French Ltd in 1975, and he now has 13 full length scripts in their catalogue and more in preparation.

For the past two years he has presented his own theatre group in summer seasons, and is now making plans for a return visit to America and Canada this summer.

"A Tomb with a View", his most successful thriller, has been presented all over the world, and translated into several languages. It was televised in Malta and Australia, and broke all box-office records last summer in Paignton, Devon, a short distance from his impressive Georgian home overlooking Dartmoor and the sea.

Norman is married to actress Ailsa Robbins and they have two children.

**CLIPPERS**

H A I R D E S I G N

English spoken

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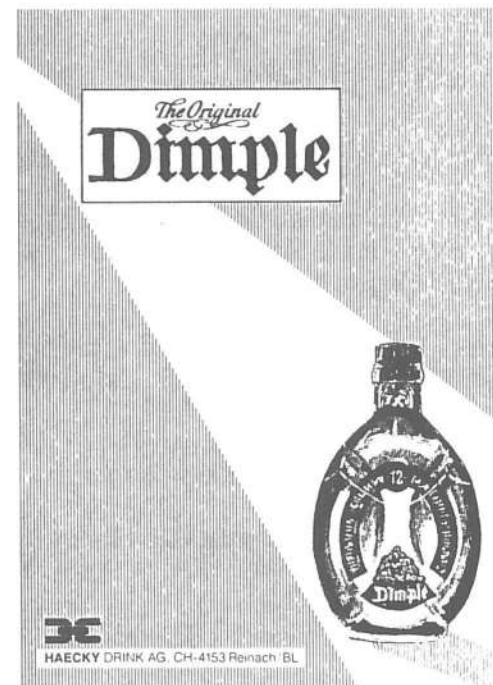


Bleicherweg 21 8039 Zürich Tel. 01/201 69 01

**Lamprecht**  
Reisebüro

## S Y N O P S I S

Marion Bishop, an elderly writer of romantic novels, is dying. Katherine Willis, a kind soul from the nearby village, looks after Marion in a most caring way, while coping with her mentally retarded young brother. When Katherine takes leave to attend her cousin's wedding in Scotland, Laura, an experienced nurse from London, comes to take care of the failing writer on the recommendation of the local doctor. A series of mysterious telephone calls and the appearance of Raymond, Marion's rapacious nephew, set off a nightmare situation which becomes increasingly complicated when Katherine's brother is found dead in a ditch. Deceit, suspicion, blackmail and incrimination are subtly woven into a web of crime which is completed by a dramatic confrontation scene just before an ingenious twist brings a surprising close.



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For details of membership contact:  
The Secretary, SBS, c/o Englisches Seminar, Nadelberg 6, 4051 Basel

BEHIND THE SCENES

Director	Muriel Taylor
Stage Manager	Sonia Dell
Production Manager	Dennis Dell
Stage Director	Peter Nixon
Lighting	Roger Kleiber
Sound	Peter Degen Grayson Richards
Wardrobe	Ruth Meier
Properties	Madeleine Kings
Make-up	Rosanna Niklaus
Prompter	Jenny Aellig
Publicity	Rudolf Kuster
Programme/Advertising	Penny Ehrsam
Box-office	Sheila Nixon, Helen Baldomero, Jacintha Horowitz
Photographer	Jonathan Taylor
Front of House	Jean-Pierre Zuger and volunteers

The Semi-Circle would like to thank everyone not mentioned by name whose generous help has made the production possible.

"Nightmare" is produced by special arrangement with Samuel French Limited, London.

Grammohaus  Lothar Löffler

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## About the Semi-Circle ....

The Semi-Circle is a non-profit-making society devoted to the furtherance of English-speaking theatre in the region of Basle and the public performance of dramatic works in the English language. The foundation stone of the society was laid in 1967 when a few members of the British Circle began to meet regularly to read plays in English. The play-readings were informal events, solely for the entertainment of the participants. Later, Peter G. Broberg, who had trained in acting and production, agreed to help the group form a drama society and the Semi-Circle was born. The Semi-Circle was initially sponsored by the British Circle Basle but is now a fully independent society.

The first two productions were rehearsed public readings of well-known plays which took place in 1975 and 1976. These were followed in 1977 by the first of three revues, produced jointly with a group of singers calling themselves The Flowing Bowl. The Semi-Circle's first performed play was Alan Melville's *Dear Charles* in 1978. The first play performed at our 'home' theatre for major productions - the Bäumlihof Gymnasium - was Oscar Wilde's *The Importance of Being Earnest* in 1982. Since then the Semi-Circle has presented an unbroken series of major productions there every season in February/March. Most of these have been directed by Richard Levitt of the Scuola Cantorum Basiliensis, the most recent being Arthur Miller's *The Crucible* in 1990.

Smaller 'workshop' productions began in 1986. These events were started with the aim of encouraging the increasing number of eager members with little or no previous stage experience to 'try their hand', and from this has grown a series of evenings of one-act plays. The first of these was directed by Muriel Taylor and performed in the cellar theatre of the *Schönes Haus*, which belongs to the Department of English Studies of the University. In 1989, we were fortunate in being able to stage two such groups of one-act plays at the *Theater Vis-a-Vis*, each of which ran for 4 nights. Sadly, this delightful little theatre is no longer available.

There are a number of English-speaking drama clubs in other Swiss cities and in 1987 we all banded together to produce the first Festival of English-Speaking Theatre in Switzerland and a second festival took place in 1989, both of these in Berne. Since 1987 our activities have also included Christmas charity productions directed by Norman Koeth. 1989 was the Semi-Circle's busiest year to date, with 29 public performances of various pieces in 19 full evenings of entertainment.

Apart from productions for public performance, we also arrange informal play-readings which are open to all members of the society. 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 just like to be informed of our events regularly by post, please contact our Club Secretary:

Joan Kuster, Mattweg 100, 4144 Arlesheim Tel. 061 - 701 62 73

## Previous Semi-Circle Productions

Wilde	- Lord Arthur Savile's Crime (Reading, May 1975)
Shaw	- Heartbreak House (Reading, December 1976)
-	- Jubilee Review (jointly with the Flowing Bowl, May 1977)
Melville	- Dear Charles (January 1978)
-	- Old Time Music Hall (jointly with the Flowing Bowl, September 1978)
Coward	- Hay Fever (January 1980)
-	- A Seaside Show (jointly with the Flowing Bowl, October 1980)
Wilde	- The Importance of Being Earnest (February 1982)
Coward	- Present Laughter (February 1983)
Coward	- Blithe Spirit (February 1984)
Rattigan	- Separate Tables (March 1985)
Williams	- Night Must Fall (March 1986)
Coward	- Fumed Oak (Workshop, May 1986)
Chinn	- A Respectable Funeral (Workshop, January 1987)
Shaw	- Pygmalion (February 1987)
-	- The Paradise Pageant (at the 1st Festival of English-Speaking Theatre in Berne, April 1987)
Hughes	- Red Carnations (Workshop, August 1987)
St. Vincent Millay	- Aria da Capo &
Townsend	- Womberang (Workshop, November 1987)
-	- The Paradise Pageant &
-	- The Nativity Pageant (for charity, December 1987)
van Druten	- I Remember Mama (March 1988)
Shirley	- Bus Stop,
Pertwee	- Postal Orders &
Chinn	- From Here to the Library (Workshop, May 1988)
Chinn	- A Respectable Funeral (Workshop, September 1988)
-	- The Paradise Pageant &
-	- The Nativity Pageant (for charity, December 1988)
Congreve	- Love for Love (February/March 1989)
Mortimer	- Knightsbridge &
Shirley	- Round and Round the Gooseberry Bush (May 1989)
Kilty	- Dear Liar (September 1989 & November/December 1989)
Pinter	- 5 Revue Sketches (at the 2nd Festival of English-Speaking Theatre in Berne, October 1989), also in Basle (November 1989) together with:
Chinn	- Too Long an Autumn (November 1989)
Dickens	- A Christmas Carol (Reading, for charity, December 1989 & 1990)
Miller	- The Crucible (February 1990)
Kelly	- Queer Street &
Smith	- Departure (May 1990)



**Advance Notice !**

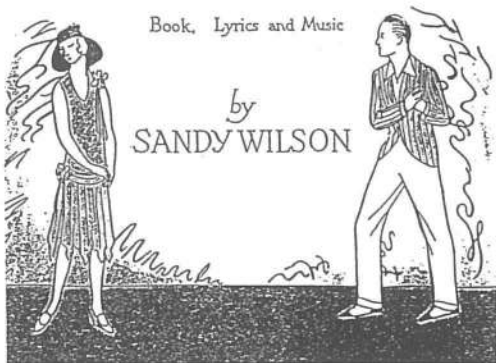
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