

Welcome to Another Semi-Circle Workshop

Since the Semi-Circle's first public performance with a reading of Oscar Wilde's "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime" in 1975, over forty productions (readings, musical revues, full-scale plays and musicals as well as workshops) have been added to its credit.

The Semi-Circle started as an off-shoot of the British Circle, but has since developed into a fully independent amateur dramatic society with regular large annual productions, most often at the Bäumlhof Gymnasium in Riehen, and workshops, generally at the Schönes Haus.

The first workshop, "Fumed Oak", was presented in 1986. The idea was to give untried talent a greater opportunity to perform on stage and courageous members the chance to try their hands at directing or learning the intricacies of the many important jobs of production planning, front of house or back-stage. Some of the directors providing your entertainment for tonight are taking on the responsibilities of directing for the first time.

If you should have an interest in the fascinating activities involved in putting together an evening's entertainment such as tonight's, presenting it to an appreciative audience and enjoying the deep satisfaction when it has all passed successfully, or if you just want to receive advance notice of our productions, then please fill out the form below, putting a cross next to the appropriate text, and send to:

Cynthia Baer, Hölzlistrasse 51, 4102 Binningen

I would like to join the Semi-Circle

Please send me information on future Semi-Circle productions

Name:

Address:

The Semi-Circle Workshop Presents an

EVENING OF COMEDY AND DRAMA

with Four One-Act Plays

"THE MAN IN A CASE"

by Wendy Wasserstein

based on the Short Story by Anton Chekov

Directed by Michelle Florin

"PHONES"

by Don Morris

Directed by Sonia Dell

"LUNCH HOUR"

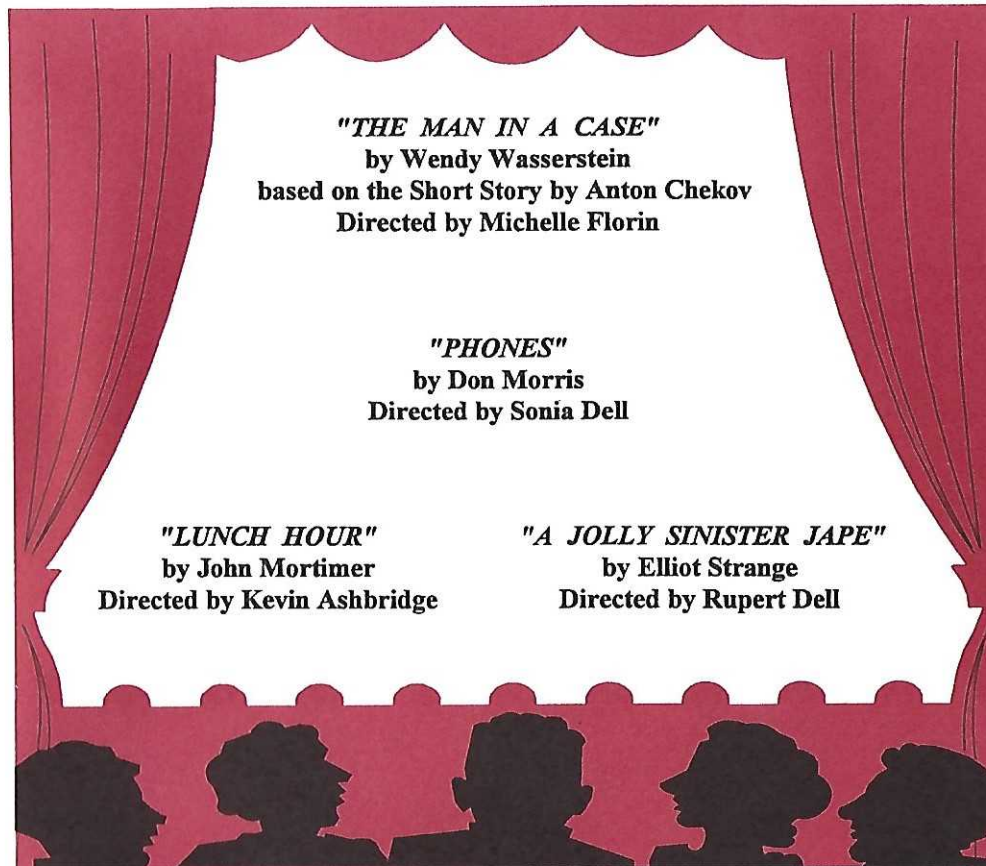
by John Mortimer

Directed by Kevin Ashbridge

"A JOLLY SINISTER JAPE"

by Elliot Strange

Directed by Rupert Dell



In the "Kellertheater" of the Schönes Haus, Nadelberg 6, Basel
on March 16th - 18th and 23rd - 25th 1994 starting at 7:30 p.m.

THE MAN IN A CASE

by Wendy Wasserstein
based on the Short Story by Anton Chekov

Directed by Michelle Florin

Characters

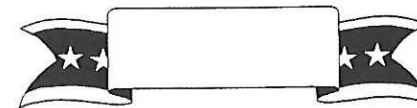
Varinka

Nina Meier Bradlin

Byelinkov

John Fulton

Prompter: Barbara Hummel



"The Man in a Case" is a play about possibility. Byelinkov, an aging school teacher irritated and alarmed by reality, and the always laughing Varinka are in search of a life together, but can't seem to get beyond the cases they've built around themselves. They are as others see them, believing that they "deserve not to be different"

PHONES

by Don Morris

Directed by Sonia Dell

Characters

Phyllis - A gossip

Sheila McKenzie

JB - A businessman

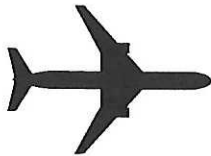
Denis Dell

Airline captain

Kevin Ashbridge

Angry wife

Jacintha Horowitz



In the departure hall of an airport four totally different people with totally different problems happen to be in neighbouring telephone booths; watch and listen how their separate problems develop and eventually converge.

LUNCH HOUR

by John Mortimer

Directed by Kevin Ashbridge

Characters

The Girl

Katerina Ganslandt

The Man

Eric Collino

The Manageress

Diana Zuger

Prompter: Marie-Louise Collino



Her knight in shining silver armour. That's what the girl was looking for; someone who knew about romance and about love. He already had a home life, but she was willing to overlook that shortcoming. She had met him at the office and now after several innocent lunch hours in the park she was on her way with him to a hotel. Oh but he loved her -- he had said so. He had arranged for the room but he had not told the hotel manageress the truth about her. Sometimes the truth has a way of catching up with you...

It is the early 1960's in a small hotel room near King's Cross railway station London. It is 1 p.m. exactly on a winter's day.

A JOLLY SINISTER JAPE

by Elliot Strange

Directed by Rupert Dell

Characters

Lord Stubbs *Edward Atkinson*

Biffy Trubshaw *Flavio De Rosa*

Ophelia Le Bobo/Deirdre Sausagemeat *Isabelle Gould*

Fatty Parsons *Sandra Brunschweiler-Marx*

Prompter: Caroline Weisskopf



"A Jolly Sinister Jape" by Elliot Strange is a hilarious one-act-play with all sorts of frills, thrills and mysteries that will keep you on the edge of your seats from start to finish.

One evening in the 1920's in an apparently deserted house....

PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager

John Stafford

Technical Director

Roger Kleiber

Make-up

*Lynn Mazzotti
and Helen Baldomero
assisted by Ray Kleiber
and Friends*

Set Design

*Roger Kleiber
John Chidlow
Bob Williamson*

Properties

Françoise Loiseau

Costumes

Sabine Trieloff

Box Office

*Marie-Louise Collino
and Friends*

Refreshments

*Martin Wilkinson
assisted by Gillian Jespersen
and Friends*

Programme

Franziska De Rosa

Publicity

*John Stafford
and Friends*

All four plays are produced by special permission.

There will be a 20-minute interval after
"PHONES" when drinks will be available.

THE CASTS

Nina Meier Bradlin is a graduate of University of Michigan and hails from the "Motor City" (Detroit). She is currently working on a "Lizenziat" in English and German Philology. Nina is new to the Semi-Circle, but has acted in and directed numerous productions. Her most recent appearance was in "Equus" with the Gay Beggars here in Basel.

John Fulton grew up in Montana, California and Utah and completed studies in literature at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. When he's not reading, teaching, or acting he likes to speak German. He has been in Switzerland for a little over two years and although he has theatre experience, this is his Semi-Circle debut.

Michelle Florin has a Swiss father and British mother and grew up across the Atlantic, in Canada and the USA. She now works at Roche. She also has had plenty of stage experience and gave her debut with the Semi-Circle last year in "Sweet Caroline Sweet". This year she has a go at directing.

Sheila McKenzie has been interested in amateur theatre since performing as a child in church pantomimes with an 'amateur star' of the much-mourned Alhambra theatre, Glasgow. Her gruelling comedy training as university prof has won her a small part with the Iona Players, Montreal, and several parts in Semi Circle productions. In recognition of her talent, her cats hide under the bed during home rehearsals.

Denis Dell has played several somewhat eccentric roles in the last four years (an unpleasant lawyer in "Love for Love", trouser dropping husband in "What's for Pudding", schizophrenic patient in "George" and totally incompetent anarchist in "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime"), so he is (almost) looking forward to playing a (fairly) normal business man in "Phones".

Kevin Ashbridge is both directing and acting in this year's workshop production. This is his first experience of being a director ("Lunch Hour") and he has thoroughly enjoyed the experience. As an actor, he has appeared in our previous productions "Thermal Underwear", "A Sense of the Ridiculous", and last year played Lord Arthur in "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime".

Jacintha Horowitz is an American! In the Semi-Circle? Even her direct "Sense of the Ridiculous" should have warned her that it wouldn't be easy getting on "Barstools" in "Knightsbridge". But her puritanical principle of "working back stage" and charming Yankee accent finally got her what she really wanted - her own "PHONES".

Sonia Dell has experienced great difficulties in learning her lines in the various small parts she had, so she decided her talent lay more in telling others off for not learning theirs. After several spells of assisting the director, she had her debut as a director in "What's for Pudding" and then directed last year's production "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime".

Katerina Ganslandt made her debut with the Semi-Circle Theatre in last year's workshop production "George". She has been involved with school theatre for several years, usually helping backstage with the make-up. This year's workshop production sees Katerina in her first major role. She has plenty of work to do when she finishes with us, however, as she is currently studying for her university entrance exams, and hopes to go on to study architecture. Good luck!

Eric Collino is a Londoner who has been living in Basel nearly 14 years. He joined the Semi-Circle Theatre three years ago and has been busy with us ever since, with four roles to his credit already. You may remember his most recent character, "Baines the Butler", in last year's main production "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime". A fan of Winney the Pooh, Eric has been known to comb the parklands for suitable Pooh sticks to throw off appropriate bridges.

Diana Zuger comes from Bournemouth, England, but has lived in Switzerland since... well, a long time. As a founder member of the Semi-Circle Theatre, she took part in the inaugural performance in 1975, a reading of "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime". Last year she acted in our staged performance of that play as Lady Windemere.

Edward Atkinson has lived in Basle for 4 1/2 years, and works for a bank here. Tonight he plays an idiot aristocrat; it is for the audience to decide how much is acting...

For *Flavio De Rosa* being an acclaimed director, award winning actor, ambulance expert and human being are still ambitions. In the meantime he is working for a living. He is married and acts ("The Crucible", "Love for Love") and directs ("Too Long an Autumn", "Sweet Caroline Sweet") for the Semi-Circle.

Isabelle Gould has been on stage from the early age of seven! She is from Surrey and has been living in Switzerland for 3 1/2 years, working at the Bank for International Settlements. Most of her experience has been in pantomimes but, since joining the Semi-Circle, she has played a prim and proper sister in the workshop production "George", and Arthur's fiancée, Sybil, in the recent major production "Lord Arthur Savile's Crime".

Sandra Brunschweiler-Marx gained her first acting experience from the "Contemporary Drama Workshop" at the University of Zürich in 1989. She got addicted to the yearly excitement and hustle and bustle of productions which combined drama and having a great time. When she moved to Basel in 1993 she joined the Semi-Circle. This is her first performance with the Semi-Circle.

Rupert Dell started dancing in England at the age of 4. After nearly appearing on "Jim'll Fix It" he moved to Switzerland in 1981 where he danced and acted at the Basler Theater. He seems to specialise in crazy parts for the Semi-Circle, like a retarded youth in "Nightmare" or a snobby German in "Bar Stools". It is his first attempt at directing and at the tender age of nearly 23, he is probably the youngest Semi-Circle director ever.