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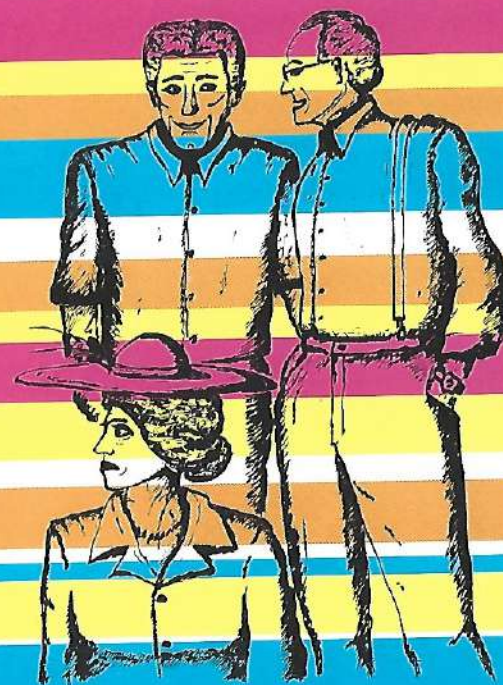
**Semi
circle**

THE SEMI-CIRCLE BASEL PRESENTS:

STRAIGHT

AND

NARROW



OCTOBER 2000, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14 AND 18, 19, 20

KELLERTHEATER

Englisches Seminar, Nadelberg 6, 4051 Basel

SCHÖNES HAUS BASEL

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A FEW WORDS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Jimmie Chinn was born and brought up in Lancashire, studied at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, and taught English and Drama in London for a number of years. Since 1984 he has been a full-time writer of radio and stage plays. He is one of the most popular playwrights for the amateur stage in England and his plays are often performed at theatre festivals. The Semi-Circle has performed several of his one-act plays, notably "A Respectable Funeral", "From Here to the Library", "Too Long an Autumn" and "Interior Designs". In 1992, Chinn's "Straight and Narrow", his first play to be performed in London's West End, was an immediate hit.

You may be wondering why you are sitting here, and not at the Bäumlhof Gymnasium, for this our major production for the year. For various reasons it was decided to bring it here to our second home - the Schönes Haus. It is already well known to many of you as the location for our March Workshops. Some of our major productions just would not "fit in" here but this play, as you will see, is well suited to the cosy atmosphere of the small stage. I am sure many of you will also appreciate the fact of being in town, especially after the show.

It is also 3 weeks earlier than our usual time slot. As this coincides with the school autumn holidays, we did have some problems at the beginning with casting. However, as you will see, we finally came up with a great team.

This is my 4th major production as well as several workshop productions. You may sense a penchant for comedy - and why not? We all enjoy a good laugh and this play is no exception. But it is no way purely a comedy - in part it is intensely moving and poignant - a warm and sympathetic look at family life.

Sonia

SYNOPSIS

The play takes place in the home of Bob and Jeff, just outside Manchester on a Saturday afternoon in July. Bob has returned from a holiday with his live-in lover, Jeff, and it is clear that it has been something of a disaster. Indeed, they are surely on the verge of breaking up. The imminent break-up situation is having its own traumatic effect on the rest of his family and in particular on Vera, his unenlightened mother.....

ZUSAMMENFASSUNG

Bob kehrt soeben mit seinem Lebenspartner Jeff von einer Ferienreise zurück, die offensichtlich von einem aussergewöhnlichen Ereignis überschattet wird. Eine Katastrophe bahnt sich an und es sieht ganz danach aus, als ob das Verhältnis zwischen den beiden Männern in die Brüche geht. Diese angespannte Situation hat auf Bobs gesamte Familie, aber im Speziellen auf Vera, Bobs ahnungslose Mutter, eine geradezu traumatische Auswirkung.....

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Bob	JOHN GLEAVES
Jeff , <i>Bob's live-in lover</i>	DENNIS DELL
NONA , <i>Bob's sister</i>	BARBARA HUMMEL
Lois , <i>Bob's sister</i>	STEPHANIE PARKER
VERA , <i>Bob's mother</i>	JOY SCHERER
Bill , <i>Lois' husband</i>	CHRIS MORRISON
ARTHUR , <i>Nona's husband</i>	TONY O'SULLIVAN



THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB OF BASEL

warmly wishes The Semi-Circle a successful production!

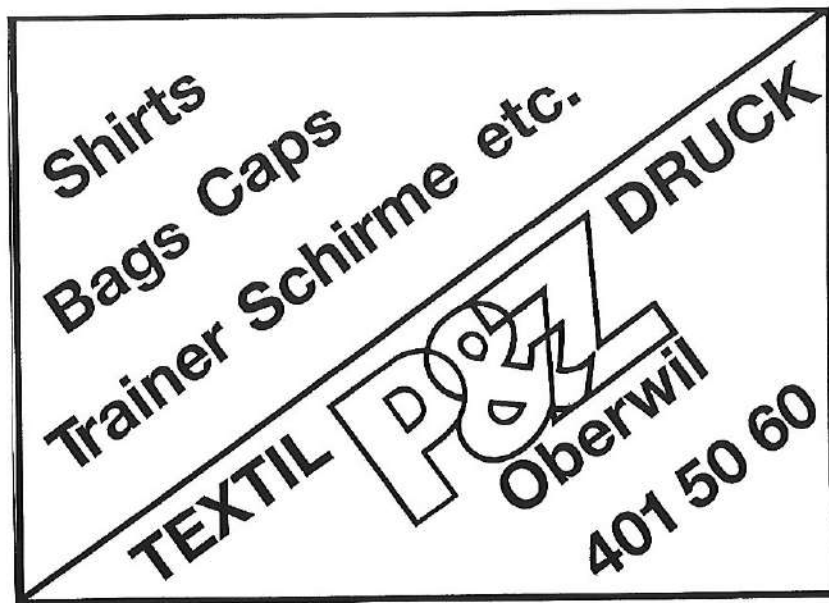
The ICB brings together the international community of Basel for social, cultural and outdoor events.

for more information contact:

ICB Membership, Postfach 650, 4001 Basel or call 061/401 07 68

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Sonia Dell has been connected to Semi-Circle for many years, first back stage and then as Assistant Director. Her first solo directing experience was in the Workshop production "What's for Pudding". Then she graduated to major productions - Lord Arthur Saville's Crime (during one performance of which Professor Winkelkopf famously lost his moustache) - Season's Greetings and Doctor in the House. It is obvious that Sonia has a distinct flair for comedy, although one day she does intend to tackle a good juicy murder mystery. However, once again, Straight and Narrow is a comedy, although with poignant overtones. She hopes very much you enjoy tonight's performance.

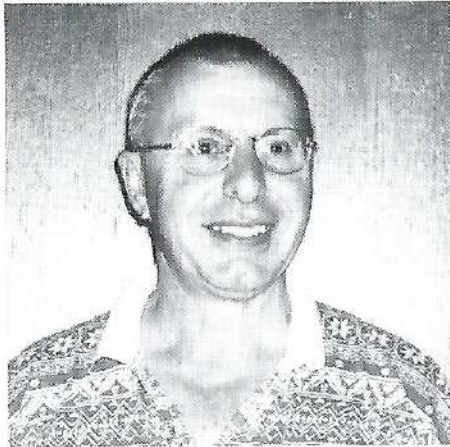


PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCTION MANAGER	CHRIS COMERCI
DIRECTOR	SONIA DELL
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR / STAGE MANAGER	YVONNE FENN
LIGHTS AND SOUND	ALAN BIGGINS AND DAVID WAGNER
STAGE SETTING	ELSA OBOLENSKY AND FRIENDS
Publicity	DAVID FOGGETTA
PROGRAMME	TONY O'SULLIVAN
MAKE-UP	RAY KLEIBER
PROMPTERS	ERIC COLLINO, ALEXANDRA FOGGETTA
PHOTOGRAPHER	UTE KESSEL
BAR	PETER BERRIE AND ANN MAERKI
Box Office	ANDREW THOMPSON AND FRIENDS
Ticket Design	SUZAN WILSON

ABOUT THE ACTORS

Dennis Dell has always had funny roles: it's what he enjoys most. Most actors aspire to play Hamlet, but not Dennis: his ambition, realised last year, was to play one of the ugly sisters in Cinderella! Now he tries his hand at a relatively serious role: can he do it? Don't hold your breath!



Barbara Hummel thinks it is funny how it seems so much easier quoting bits from plays when watching them from behind the dimmer board, listening to them from backstage, not to mention with a prompter's copy in hand. However, learning lines well before the show is due to start is something of a challenge - and getting the accent approximately right, too!



John Gleaves is a relative newcomer to amateur theatre, but having taken part in two Semi-Circle workshops and two pantomimes, he felt confident enough to graduate to the main production. However, having landed one of the bigger roles in tonight's play, he didn't expect his learning curve to be quite as steep! However, he is looking forward - a little nervously - to the challenge. A translator by

profession, John also enjoys music (playing and listening), reading and his VW New Beetle.



Originally from the SW of England, **Chris Morrison** has lived and worked in Switzerland since 1987 when he traded in a lecturing post at Manchester University for a life of even more obscurity in the Basel pharmaceutical industry. He made his Semi-Circle debut as bumbling Ted in 'A Chorus of Disapproval' in 1999, which turned out to be such a rewarding experience that he volunteered for another bash this year.

Tony O'Sullivan comes originally from London, and the accent you will hear tonight is similar to his own. He has lived for many years in Basel, where he works in the chemical industry. His main hobbies are drinking beer and smoking cigarettes and things, which he often does in combination with more salubrious activities such as playing with the Semi-Circle.



Coming to us all the way from Los Angeles, California, **Stephanie Parker** makes her Swiss stage debut with the Semi-Circle. While in Los Angeles, she appeared in episodes of 'Friends' and 'The Practice' and several independent feature films. Her heart, however, belongs to the stage and her favourite past theatre roles as Lady Anne in Richard III and the title role in Antigone. She feels honoured to be able to work with such an amazing group as the Semi-Circle.



Joy Scherer hails from Leicestershire in the East Midlands of England. She came to Basel to work for a pharmaceutical company, initially on a one-year contract. That was thirty years ago. She joined the Semi-Circle in 1984 and has had numerous roles both on-stage and behind the scenes since then. Her role as matriarch Vera in tonight's play gives her the chance to throw her weight about. Otherwise she does this only on the badminton court.



ABOUT THE SEMI-CIRCLE

The Semi-Circle is an English speaking theatre group here in Basel, which is this year celebrating its 25th anniversary. During this time we have put on over 70 productions - comedies, musicals, and classical plays. In recent years we have had a full-length production in autumn, such as the play you will be seeing tonight, and what we call a workshop in spring with about three short plays. This allows new members to act usually for the first time, and other more versed members to experience the more responsible job of directing. We then experiment with stage technique and appearance. Also during the year, apart from purely social occasions, we have play readings and theatre training exercises. Sending a play to a theatre festival is also quite an adventure. We take part in English language theatre festivals as well as those of mixed language. Apart from the acclaim we receive, it is rewarding meeting people from other theatre groups.

Of our approximately 150 members about a third are regularly active in different ways to different degrees. You may not have imagined that there are many more people working behind the scenes than there are on stage.

Although they do not experience the wild swings of adrenaline, which come with appearing on stage, they have a lot of fun doing a good job, and being a part of the production.

In the past we have used various theatres for our productions. One of our favourites is the Kellertheater of the Schönes Haus, where you are sitting tonight. This is a very old theatre, and although it is small and the view is not always optimal, it encourages a more intimate feeling between the audience and the actors. Next year for the first time we have a slot in the theatre in the Lohnhof in June. It is an excellent theatre and we are much looking forward to trying it out.

The financial balance after our productions is usually positive. We keep a certain amount in the bank, to cover the admittedly unlikely case that we have a bad patch, but when this is overreached we give money to local charities. In this way over the years we have donated more than 10'000 Fr, and this year to mark our anniversary we are giving 2'500 Fr to a local charity yet to be decided upon. This is only possible because of your hopefully continuing support, so please enjoy tonight's show.



COIFFURE

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HAT GUTE LAUNE**

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