



Three Comedies

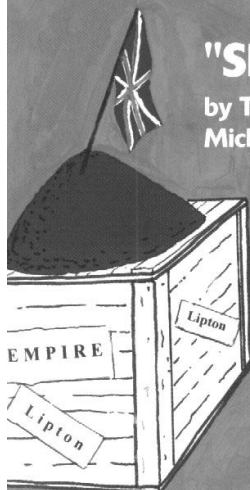
"On Hold at 30'000 Feet"

by Kitty Burns, directed by Michael Clarke



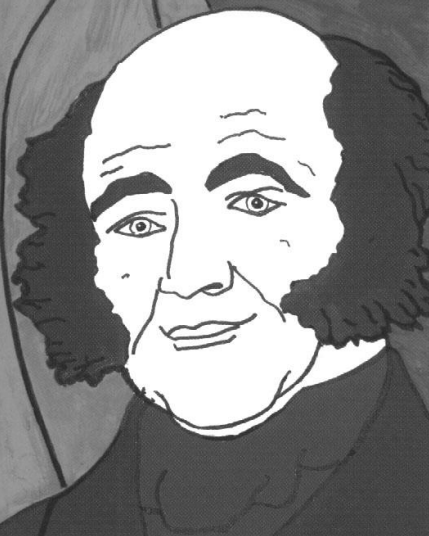
"Sharks in the Custard"

by Tony Layton, directed by
Michael Wilkinson



"The Doctor in Spite of Himself"

by Molière (Translation by A. Bermel),
directed by Zuzana Cox



March 21, 22, 24, 25 and 29, 30, 31, at 7:30 p.m. at the
Keller Theater of the Schönes Haus, Nadelberg 6, Basel

Ticket sales and reservations at Bider & Tanner, Aeschenvorstadt 2, 4051 Basel,
phone 061/206'99'99.

Tickets not picked up before 4 p.m. on the day of the performance will be offered for
sale at the evening Box Office.



**Semi
circle**

The English Language Amateur Theatre Group

"On Hold at 30'000 Feet"

It's been a long hard business trip. All Jacqueline really wants is to settle down in the plane home, relax, read the paper and enjoy a couple of whiskeys in peace. The last thing she - or the cabin crew - wants is to have to nursemaid Harvey, a neurotic suffering from a life-long flying phobia. The only way for Harvey to calm his jaded nerves is to call up first his psychoanalyst - and then his personal psychic: Madame Kiki. Happily, Madame Kiki foresees a safe and peaceful landing for Harvey.
- or does she?

Director: Michael Clarke

Actors:	Harvey:	John Hyland
	Jacqueline (née David):	Moira Hess
	Attendant #1:	Susannah Todd
	Attendant #2:	Isabelle Haine
	Pilot:	Eric Collino

Prompter and Assistant to the Director:
Barbara Hummel

Michael Clarke

Michael originally hails from Southend-on-Sea (Saarfend). After living all over the place for a few years, he settled in Basel 19 years ago. In 1994 he "trode the boards" for the first time in Cinderella. Since this turned out not too painful, he went on to join the Semi-Circle where he has appeared in "Interior designs"; "Doctor in the House"; "The Problem" and most recently "Chorus of Disapproval". He has also appeared in three other Pantomimes. Now after only just over 5 years of acting, Michael has been promoted to "Director" - which is a much faster career progression than in his day job in the Clinical Operations department of Hoffmann-La Roche!

Isabelle Haine

Apart from the most embarrassing moment at the age of 13 when her strapless ball gown fell off while she was performing on stage, Isabelle has always loved acting. She's been involved with amateur dramatics since she was 7 years old and was thrilled to discover the Semi-Circle when she moved to Basel nearly 10 years ago. She has performed in several Semi-Circle productions but, so far, there have not been any ball-

room scenes (although you might have seen her in a recent production prancing about on stage dressed in a black leotard and white tutu!)

Susannah Todd

Susannah obtained a Masters in contemporary French theatre from Grenoble University in 1997. She was first interested in the stage at the age of 5, appearing in pantomimes and musicals and has appeared in amateur productions in England, Belgium and France. She hopes to experiment in mime in the future.

Eric Collino

Eric's first active entry into the world of theatre came by chance some 7 years ago. He read a Semi Circle leaflet found in the foyer after attending a performance of "The Boy Friend". For the weekly play readings additional people were sought. Sounded harmless enough. Went along. Changed his life. "All hope abandon ye who enter here". Got drawn into taking a minor part in a one-act play. Survived. Became addicted. Has been chosen once or twice a year since then for various parts. Probably nobody else of his advanced age available! Has also helped backstage. Still savouring the teamwork and friendships. Hopes you all enjoy the performance as much as we have enjoyed preparing for it!

John Hyland

John is a little nervous about this his first appearance in a play. Well that's not strictly true since he did make a small - but memorable - appearance in the recent Basel Pantomime production, Cinderella. John is going to be very nervous on stage - which is rather convenient since Harvey his stage role is also very nervous. Unfortunately, this gives him so much confidence that he is worried that he will not to appear to be nervous(?).

Maira Hess

"This is Maira's second try at a Semi-Circle workshop. She has previously been seen making a fool of herself in two Pantos and is also an active member of the Tréteaux de Vauban."

"Sharks in the Custard"

This play takes place in an art gallery and concerns the ordinary lives of the cleaners employed there. However, in a wider sense it is about our modern life and how absurdly it is becoming dominated by "Shareholder Value", "Merger Madness" and the blatant worship of mammon in all its forms. "Sharks" presents lowly cleaners confronted with the inhumanity of cost-centre thinking, As they soon realise, society has become totally monetarized and it takes no heed of the individual's need to earn a living, even if it is only at subsistence level. However, our ladies are feisty and resourceful. They learn to play the system with uproarious success. An example to us all?

Director: Michael L. Wilkinson

Actors:

Liz	Sheila McKenzie
Vera	Suzan Wilson
Mair	Stephanie Manning
Bridget	Valerie Walder
Visiting art aficionado	Michael Wilkinson
Atlas Cleaning Corp Operative	Luisa Breckeridge

Sheila G. McKenzie

After several years of backstage work, including directing "Albert" and co-directing "The Problem" as well as four of the recent pantomimes, Sheila is delighted to be back treading the boards. As a native Glaswegian, she considers her role as Liz to be the best kind of type-casting: after spending her life avoiding getting into any of Liz's miserable predicaments, she can now (at least temporarily) assume her "rightful" role as cheerful underdog in a rich man's world!

Suzan Wilson

Suzan was recruited to the Semi-Circle 4 years ago to come in and feed the budgies. Since then she has appeared in various Workshops as well as the Shakespeare production. When not on stage she is trying to improve the level of English of her students. In this play she is able to let her hair down and practise her 'Aussie' accent.

Stephanie Manning

This is Stephanie's first performance with the Semi-Circle. Originally from Nottingham, England, she moved to Basle in July 1999. She has performed in many amateur shows in her hometown and played Dandini in Cinderella here in Basel last Christmas. Stephanie, a beauty therapist by trade, left her salon in capable hands to be with her husband who came here on a limited contract. Her personal experience of being "only a housewife" for the past seven months qualifies her, she feels, for the part of a cleaning lady who has seen better times.

Valerie Walder

Valerie came to CH 40 yrs ago with 7 suitcases, 2 lampshades in a plastic bag, an old Singer sewing machine and a new Swiss husband. Now has 3 grown-up kids she is proud of, divorced, has found the pleasures of the theatre again. Re stage: Nativity Play when ca 4 (naughty child), at 15 one of Elizabeth Barrett's brothers, a few times ballet dancing. Recently played a neurotic woman, a dead woman (You looked just great!) and now promoted to art gallery curator. There's culture for you!

Michael Wilkinson

Michael has performed various functions both behind the scenes, on the boards and latterly behind the bar and as party organizer. He is now trying his hand as Director of "Sharks in the Custard." This is not exactly his first foray into directing, as he had to learn a little of the trade in the army. Amazingly, putting on shows behind the lines was a deliberate strategy calculated to keep up the morale of the troops when not actually fighting. It is a slight irony of fate that characters in the play refer fondly to Tommy Handley (I.T.M.A. - It's that Man again) who is often quoted as joint first with Winston Churchill in keeping the civilian morale high during world War 2. So T.T.F.N (ta ta for now); see you at the show.

The Semi-Circle would like to give special thanks to Peter Moesch, peintures et trouvailes, for his help in designing the set and the loan of the paintings displayed.

"Sharks in the Custard" is presented by kind permission of Samuel French, Inc.

"The Doctor in Spite of Himself"

A comedy by Molière
(translated by Albert Bermel)

He protests he objects but all to no avail! A lowly woodcutter is thrust into the role of the eminent doctor. Everyone in the household of a rich landowner believes him to be the great physician who is capable of curing all ills! Against his better judgement he agrees to play the part ... and then, "in spite of himself", enjoys his task of curing the landowner's daughter of her mysterious malady .. whilst helping her towards true love! Albert Bermel's recent translation of Molière's classic seventeenth century farce is presented with all the qualities of an absurd fairy tale ... and of course a tongue-in-cheek "poke" at the medical profession !

Director: Zuzana Cox

Actors:

Sganarelle, a woodcutter David Cox

Martine, his wife Angela Robinson

Géronte, a landowner Andrew Thompson

Valère, servant Diana Zuger

Lucas, Géronte's other servant
John Gleaves

Jacqueline, wife of Lucas
Alexandra Foggetta

Lucinde, Géronte's daughter,
in love with Léandre Jacqui-Mae Allison

Léandre, in love with Lucinde
Louis van Niekerk

Prompter Dennis Dell

Zuzana Cox

Has appeared on stage in numerous Semi-Circle productions. Last seen as the actress Coral Browne in *An Englishman Abroad* which also represented the Semi-Circle at last year's Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies (FEATS) in Geneva. As director she gets the chance to boss people about (which she does with great flair!) and hasn't had as much fun since "*Two Little Boys*" was Top of the Pops!

David Cox

"33 ? .. well, once upon a time! Another familiar Semi-Circle face which you may have seen in *Last Tango/Panto in Little Grimley*, *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell* and *Doctor in the House*. Last appeared in a number of roles in *Will Power! Shakespeare, As You Like It!* Prefers Jethro Tull to Rolf Harris!"

Angela Robinson

"Panto fanatic and director (already in preparation for the next one – *Ali Baba*), ex-Robin Hood, genealogist and jam-maker extraordinaire! Also on tonight's production team, Angela is glad to be back on stage briefly. Her other half, Mike, say's she'll have no problem with the part of a nagging wife!"

Andrew Thompson

"Despite being an illusionist, rough rider, president, a lecherous businessman, a cowardly lion and the owner of a hidden kingdom, I am still looking for my alter ego!"

Diana Zuger

"No newcomer to the Semi-Circle. Last seen as a rather flighty woman in *Chorus of Disapproval*, now plays a rather proper servant who gets the chance to beat up David Cox ! That's what makes theatre so much fun!!"

John Gleaves

"33, British, translator. Likes: music (listening and playing), curry, wine and panto. Hates: Rolf Harris! Currently researching his hypothesis that the Blues originated not in New Orleans or Chicago, but in the Irwell Delta region of Salford! Last seen as But-tons in *Cinderella*."

Alexandra Foggetta

"Born in Switzerland, half Hungarian, part Italian, Alex hails from Calgary, Canada. Last appeared as a student nurse in *Doctor in the House*. Tonight she takes her medical career one step further by becoming a fully-qualified, fully-upholstered wet nurse!"

Jacqui-Mae Allison

"Gets to play the typical dumb blonde again!! ... this is Jacqui's overseas acting debut having just completed drama school in New Zealand and moving to the Basel region. Jacqui is a newcomer to the Semi-Circle and is our only genuine stuntwoman ... really!!"

Louis van Niekerk

“33, South African, church organist who can also give a virtuoso rendition of “*Tie me Kangaroo down sport*” on his Rolf-Harris Didgeridoo! Last appeared in *Chorus of Disapproval* and in last years’ workshop production of *An Englishman Abroad* where he played Tolya, the long-haired-cigarette-smoking-balalaika-wielding-electrician from the Moscow Ballet!”

Dennis Dell

Past President, actor, production manager, crew member, Rolf Harris fan etc. who thought he’d done every possible job in the Semi-circle ... except, yes you’ve guessed, ... Prompter. Tonight this man’s dream is finally being fulfilled!!

“The Doctor in Spite of Himself” is presented by kind permission of Samuel French, Inc.

“Songs from the Wood”, “Velvet Green” and “Acres Wild” (by Jethro Tull), are played by kind permission of EMI International®.

Production Manager	Tony O'Sullivan
Co - Production Manager	Angela Robinson
Stage Manager	Margaret Dürrenberger
Stage Crew	Matthew Breckenridge
	Kevin Dunning
Props	Louis Breckenridge
Lighting Advisor	Roger Kleiber
Lighting Operators	Alan Biggins
	David Wagner
Make-up	Sonia Dell
	Ray Kleiber
Bar	Peter Berrie
	Ann Maerki
Box Office	Christine Comerci
Tickets	Suzan Wilson
Publicity	David Foggetta
Programme	David Foggetta

Our thanks to several other people, both members and non-members of the semi-circle, who have helped with this production.

The Semi-Circle

The Semi-Circle has been a part of Basel's cultural landscape for a quarter of a century. Since our first public performance in 1975 we have staged over 70 productions offering a broad spectrum of plays to our audiences. Although comedy remains our most popular genre, we have also successfully produced dramas, thrillers, classical plays, a full-length musical and - our most challenging project to date - a Shakespeare *entertainment* with excerpts from comedies, tragedies and sonnets, along with period music.

Our aim as an amateur dramatic society is to offer a high standard of theatrical entertainment in the English language. Putting on plays requires a great deal of hard work, commitment and discipline, but it is also a lot of fun. Of our 140 members approximately one third are regularly, actively involved in some aspect of our theatre productions.

The Semi-Circle stages two productions a year. Our main, full-length productions take place at the *Gymnasium Bäumlihof* in Basel in late October. Workshop productions, which take the form of evenings of three one-act plays, are staged at the end of March, usually in the cellar theatre of the English Seminar at the *Schönes Haus* in Basel.

The Semi-Circle is a non-profit making society receiving no external financial support. We take pride in the fact that over the years we have been able to make several donations totalling CHF 10'000.- to various Basel charities, and we are grateful to our audiences for their loyalty and support without which these donations would not have been possible.

Joy Scherer