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Theatre in English

The Semi Circle Basel Presents

Three One-Act Plays



IDENTITY CRISIS

*by Kitty Burns
directed by
Michael Clarke*

THE PROPOSAL

*by Anton Chekhov
directed by
Tony O'Sullivan*

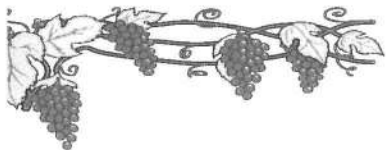
DIARY OF A BAD HOUSEWIFE

*based on the novel
by Sue Limb
adapted and directed
by Michael Wilkinson*

Programme

Junges Theater Basel

October 2001 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 27



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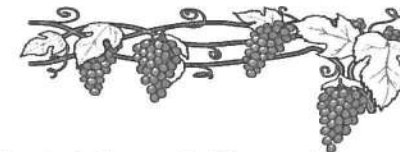
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Introduction



What Do You Know About The Semi-Circle?

Hi! - Let us introduce ourselves to those who we welcome here tonight as our first time guests. The Semi-Circle is a theatre group putting on top quality plays in the English language. In fact, apart from Basel University's "Gay Beggars", we are the only theatre group in this corner of Switzerland and the region doing this. And we have been doing it for some time! We were set up more than a quarter of a century ago. In that time we have put on more than 70 productions which our patrons thoroughly enjoyed. And these have covered the whole range: comedies, musicals and classical plays. We have included well-known playwrights from Britain, Ireland and America, including great masters such as Shakespeare and Chekhov. We put on full length plays as well as the more experimental collections of one-act plays which you will see performed in our "Workshop" production, tonight.

A theatre production is a major event. It requires a lot of voluntarily work by many people, not only by the actors and directors, but also by the backstage and front of house crew. The contribution of all is essential to a success production. Why do we do it? Well, there are as many reasons as there are different kinds of people. Some do it for the sheer excitement of it and for love of the theatre and for the pride in putting together something of quality that is appreciated by the audiences we attract. Others mention the marvellous enjoyment they get out of it: mastering the minor disasters, sharing in the great triumphs, being part of the fine camaraderie and taking in the wonderful stimulation we get from participating in the teamwork that a production of this sort requires. It really is something to be experienced. It is a whole lot of fun most of the time!

Tonight you will see three one-act plays each of a different genre acted by familiar and new faces. As it is our first time performing in the *Junges Theater Basel*, we especially hope that you will enjoy the atmosphere of this theatre as well as our production.

About the Junges Theater Basel

Das *junge theater basel* ist genau das, was der Name verspricht: der Ort für junges Theater in Basel.

- Hier werden für Jugendliche professionelle Vorstellungen gespielt
- und hier können sich Jugendliche selbst im Theaterspielen ausprobieren.

Das *junge theater basel* entstand 1977 als Basler Jugendtheater. Das Theater arbeitet unter professioneller Leitung mit einem jungen Ensemble, das sich aus Profis und Laien zusammensetzt. Jährlich entstehen 2 - 4 Produktionen, die jeweils ca. 30 Vorstellungen in Basel erleben.

Es werden zwei Räume bespielt: das eigentliche Theater auf dem Kasernenareal mit 100 Plätzen und ein Salon in der Villa an der Wettsteinallee mit 40 Plätzen. Parallel zu den Produktionen setzen sich Jugendliche zwischen 14 und 24 Jahren in einjährigen Theaterkursen mit ihren darstellerischen Fähigkeiten auseinander. Mehr und mehr haben sich die Kurse auch zu einem Nachwuchs pool für die Produktionen entwickelt.

New semi circle members, with or without experience, are always welcome!

If you would like to join us, be it as an actor or as part of the technical crew, or even just to receive notice of our regular events, then please call our secretary, Chris Commerci, at 061/401 0768, or drop her a line at Christine Commerci, Bahnhofstr. 27, 4104 Oberwil. We will be very pleased to hear from you.

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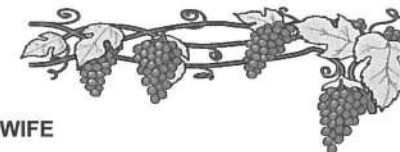
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DIALOGICA BASEL

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[illegible]

The Plays Tonight



DIARY OF A BAD HOUSEWIFE

Adapted for the stage by Michael Wilkinson

Based on the novel "Dulcie Domum's Bad Housekeeping" by Sue Limb

Scene - A living room

Dulcie Domum is the creation of Sue Limb, a well-known English author and columnist. "Diary of a Bad Housewife" has been with the British public for some 20 years as a weekly newspaper column. Dulcie, is a mother of two young children and a struggling writer with an abstracted university lecturer husband, Gordon, who is so immersed in his academic pursuits that he finds it very difficult to participate in the day-to day matters of the family. Dulcie has been trying for some time to write a best seller, which is proving very trying, but she needs the income to ease her constant cash crises. Dulcie is instantly recognisable as a kind of "Everywoman", sharing many of our present day stresses. The message is encouraging: if Dulcie can survive, so can we!

* * *

INTERVAL

20 minutes, with Bar Service

* * *

IDENTITY CRISIS

by Kitty Burns

Scene - Baggage Claim area of Nebulus Airlines at the Oakland Airport

1937: Aviation pioneer, Amelia Earhard, takes off to cross the Pacific on her round the world flight. Hours later, with fuel running out, radio operators pick up her final message. Lost without a trace? Maybe - or perhaps Andrea Estridge, reporter, is about to uncover the aviation sensation of the century!

THE PROPOSAL

by Anton Chekhov

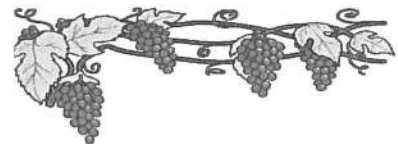
Translated by Ronald Hingley

Scene – A farmhouse drawing room

A young farmer approaches his neighbour's daughter with an offer of marriage. Although the father looks kindly on the match, the daughter, unaware of the man's purpose, gets caught up in an argument with him, resulting in his expulsion from the house. Even after the man's motivations are made clear, and the father fetches him back, his and the daughter's cantankerous stubbornness continue to jeopardise the betrothal.

"The Proposal" is one of a series of short plays, written by Chekhov about a hundred years ago. With only very minor changes made in the text, the protagonists' unreasonable behaviour appears compatible with today's society.

The plays are produced by special arrangement with Peter Frazer Dunlop Ltd., London, and Samuel French Ltd., New York.



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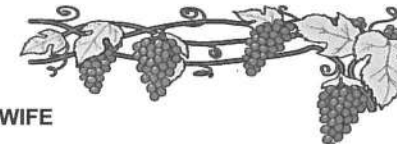
DANCE EXCHANGE

Theater Roxy Birsfelden:
1. - 3. November at 8.30pm
4. November at 7pm

DANCE CONNECTION

Theater Roxy Birsfelden:
8. -10. November at 8.30pm
11. November at 7pm

Directors and Cast



DIARY OF A BAD HOUSEWIFE

Cast

Dulcie Domum	Molly Arnold
Spouse (Gordon)	Peter Hilton
Harriet (elder daughter)	Alice Lyons
Henrietta (younger daughter)	Josie Smith
Mrs "Body", the household help	Valerie Walder
Tracey, Mrs. "Body's" niece	Dorothy Jaeger
Val, a photographer	Andrew Goegan
Saskia, a snobby friend	Suzan Wilson



Michael Wilkinson (Director): Michael has performed various functions both behind the scenes, on the boards and behind the bar. His debut as a director was with "Sharks in the Custard" a couple of years ago. He has adapted some of Sue Limb's well-known work for the stage and is directing the resulting play.

Molly Arnold: Molly is a founder member of the S-C. She has been off and on the stage (more off than on) over the past 25 years - very active in the Swiss German "Theater Rampenlicht" in Frenkendorf/BL. How to keep your English going after many moons in CH? Join the Semi-Circle! They'll keep you up-to-date with modern English, "as it is spoken". Wicked!

Peter Hilton: Peter joined the S-C especially for this role. Like so many of our members, he also teaches English, but believes in fitting the material to the situation. You will spot one of his students by the use of such phrases as "skinny dipping, plonker, and bloody foreigners". Peter was last seen as a Dame in Pantomime, any likeness in this role is purely coincidental.

Andrew Goegan: Andrew, who comes from Niagara Falls, Canada is a musician (electric bass) and has extensive stage experience from standing behind his instrument and making people groove. This is a great chance for him to sharpen his acting skills, something he has wanted to do for some time. He tells us: "It's been nothing but fun so far!"

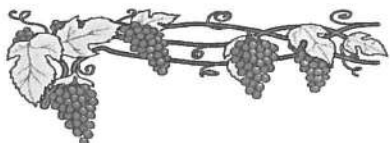
Valerie Walder: Valerie came to Switzerland 40-odd years ago. She finds acting a welcome change, because she can try out being someone else. So far, on the stage at least, she has tried being dead, neurotic, an art gallery curator, and now a disastrous household help. After trying these alternative lifestyles, being an English teacher doesn't seem too bad at all.

Suzan Wilson: Suzan was recruited to the S-C six years ago. Since then she has appeared in various S-C productions, most recently at the Baseldytschi Bihni in "Rumours". When not on stage, she teaches English and is studying for a degree - oh and looking after her husband and two sons.


Dorothy Jaeger: Dorothy is the daughter of a former S-C star: Monica Jaeger. At 14, she may not have the experience of Mama, but she is learning fast and apart from appearing in school drama productions, she plays the saxophone and dances.

Alice Lyons: Alice is only 10 but has risen to the challenge of portraying Harriet, Dulcie's obstreperous daughter. She has taken part in school plays but this is her first public performance.

Josie Smith: Josie is just 6 but is already an expert at playing six-year-olds who need to be kept in order by their older sisters. This is her first appearance on any stage anywhere. Having such young children take part, is a first for the S-C too.



Basel English Panto Theatre Presents



The Sleeping Beauty

A Traditional Panto Tale with loads of fun, silly jokes, singing, messy slapstick, audience participation and a little bit of sentimentality!

Performances:
Saturday 8th December, 7pm.
Sunday 9th December, 2:30pm.
Monday 10th December, 7pm.
Tuesday 11th December, 7pm.
Friday 14th December, 7pm.
Saturday 15th December, 2:30 & 7pm.
At the Schoenes Haus Kellertheater,
Nadelberg 6, Basel.

Tickets: 20 CHF downstairs
16 CHF upstairs
on sale from the end of October at
Bider and Tanner, Aeschenvorstadt.

We look forward to seeing you!!!

Directors and Cast



IDENTITY CRISIS

Cast

<i>Andrea Estridge</i>	Christine Comerci
<i>Nathan Ross</i>	Allen Holland
<i>Kathy Healy</i>	Sandra Roche
<i>Jack</i>	Andrew Fernandes
<i>George</i>	Tony Fenn
<i>Marian</i>	Diana Zuger



Michael Clarke (Director): Michael has been interested in acting all his life - though only relatively recently discovered that you could also do it on stage! This is the second of Kitty Burn's one-act plays that Michael has directed. He has also acted in S-C one-act and full-length plays. Although being very fond of many other art forms - literature, dance, music - his true love has always been, and remains, sleeping late on a Sunday morning.

Christine Comerci: This is Chris' first time in a S-C Production! Chris made her debut as an Easter Bunny in Mrs. Husk's Kindergarten class, and after a hiatus of some 40 years, she is back. She is not new to Semi-circle and has starred in many roles, such as bartender, production manager, ticket sales and committee secretary.

Allen Holland: Since 1994 Allen has been reincarnated again and again in various characters along with fellow Semi-Cirlers.. Allen says, "Rebirth is a wonderful and therapeutic aspect to all thespian endeavors". And to paraphrase a Bob Dylan lyric ...'those not busy being born are busy dying'. Allen is also a singer/songwriter and you can look for upcoming music projects on his website www.tomorrowsthinktank.com.

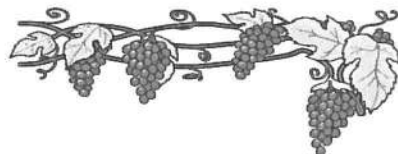
Sandra Roche: When I was asked if I'd be interested in a part in Identity Crisis, the part of Kathy was described to me. She was described initially as being "cute and bubbly, but a bit dizzy". I've never quite worked out what made them think of me. Quite frankly I've always been afraid to ask! Whatever the reason behind it I'm glad the "powers that be", like the man from Delmonté, said yes!

Andrew Fernandes: Andrew has been involved with the performing arts virtually all his life. Following a fairly successful stint with a local Basel band as a singer and songwriter, Andrew decided to devote more time to the theatre, and has performed in a number of recent productions including the FEATS award winning play "Hard Candy". Sooner rather than later, Andrew plans to end his commercial career in Basel and devote himself to his cultural centre in Goa, India, to improve and intensify his artistic skills and knowledge.

Tony Fenn: Tony joined the S-C soon after moving to Switzerland and was quickly involved in various backstage works. His first assignment found him making a chest in which Moira Hess was "sawn in halves". Since then, he has "knocked up" props and set pieces for a number of productions. This is his first attempt at acting. So, fellow thespians, watch this space, the Oscars will soon be flying - let's hope that whoever throws them will miss Tony.

Diana Zuger: As a founder member of the S-C, Diana has been a familiar face on the stage over the years. She has played in numerous S-C productions, including the role of Cookie in Neil Simon's "Rumours" at the Baseldytschi Bihni earlier this year.

Directors and Cast



THE PROPOSAL

Cast

Stepan Chubukov	Eric Collino
Ivan Lomov	Jamie Sievert
Natasha Chubukov	Nicolaia Marston



Tony O'Sullivan (Director): Tony has been sixteen years in Basel and a member of the S-C for four years. He has acted and worked backstage. "The Proposal" is a great play, which was recommended to him by a fellow member. He has enjoyed directing it.

Eric Collino: Eric's prime motivation in being involved in theatre stems from the ever-changing challenges and fun of working with different groups of people - not to mention the opportunities afforded to down a few beers after rehearsals!

Jamie Sievert: Jamie works as a word-cruncher for a translation agency in Basel. This is his second production for the S-C. Last June he appeared in Rumours.

Nicolaia Marston: This is Nicolaia's second production for the S-C. She appeared in Rumours earlier this year. Her acting career has included roles such as Gwendolyn in *The Importance of Being Ernest* - which she even performed once in Baseldytsch!

* * *

Production Team

Production Manager: John Stafford

Assistant Production Manager: Angela Robinson

Box office and bar: Sybille Atkinson, Veronika and Peter Berrie, Marie-Louise Collino, Yvonne Fenn, Michelle Flannigen, Gillian Jespersen, Andrew Jones, Jasmin Kossenjans, Joanne Lee, Angela Robinson, Franziska de Rosa, Joy Scherer, Rebecca Scriven, Eva Traechsler, Virginia Wittmann, Julie Woan

Make up: Susan Billington, Sonia Dell, Ray Kleiber

Light and Sound: Yvonne Fenn, Janette Rovack

Stage hands: Edward Atkinson, Peter Berrie, Allen Biggins, Dennis Dell, Ute Kessel, John Stafford

Catering: Angela Robinson

Publicity: Angela Robinson, John Stafford and Eric Collino, David Foggetta

Programme: David Foggetta

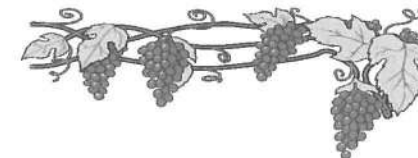
Photographer: Ute Kessel

Prompters: Diana Zuger, Mary Sinnott, Annick Whyte and Claire Spedding

Front of House: Dennis Dell

Special thanks to all helping hands and to our sponsors, who kindly supported us for this programme and production.

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