



The Semi-Circle, Basel



4 one-act plays

Time Flies

by David Ives,
directed by Michael Wilkinson

Feeding the Ducks

by Michael Park,
directed by Diana Zuger

Three Women

by Albert M. Brown,
directed by Christine Comerçi

Red Spy at Night

by Robert King,
directed by Tony O'Sullivan

May 6, 7, 8, 13, 14 and 15, 2004
Basler Kindertheater





The Plays Tonight

Time Flies

by David Ives

Scene - A field

Two mayflies, surprisingly human in their desires, discover that they have only 24 hours from birth to death. With the help of a human observer they learn to “seize the day!” There is a message for the audience here too...

Feeding the Ducks

by Michael Park

Scene - A duck pond

Successful businesswoman Clare has a secret rendezvous in the park, but the only person around when she arrives is a man feeding the ducks. Little does she realise the impact this total stranger is quickly going to have on her life...

Interval

20 minutes, with bar service

Three Women

by Albert M. Brown

Scene - A senior citizen apartment

Three “friends” get together for their weekly game of rummy. Each woman knows that the way to play the game is not to reveal the cards they’ve been dealt. However, as the play progresses, it’s clear that these women apply this principle to another little game...

Red Spy at Night

by Robert King,

Scene - A dark cellar

During the dark days of the cold war an English, American and Russian spy spontaneously decide to cooperate to extract information on a top-secret new bomb from a French physicist. However in this farce fate, and let’s be honest incompetence, interfere. So who ends up getting the secret?





Time Flies

by **David Ives**

directed by **Michael Wilkinson**

Presented by kind arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York, NY 10016

May, a female Mayfly
Horace, a male Mayfly
David Attenborough

Susan Aeschbach
Simon Kessler
Peter Hilton

The Players and Director

Susan Aeschbach

This is my fifth (and most challenging!) role after successively playing a down-market queen, a confidence-trickster music hall girl, a Roman lady and a gold-prospecting Indian in recent Basel Panto and Semi Circle productions. I'm hoping that the director won't bug us too much, we'll be successful and that you'll get as much of a buzz from watching as we do performing.

Simon Kessler

Born in Zzzouth Africa and having spent about half of his 27 years there. Zzzimon is now located in Zzzwitzerland and buzzy trying to improve all our lives by marketing sportsmen and events. Zzzimon has been involved in last year's Semi-Circle productions 'The Love Course' as well as the pantomime. Playing a rather grim student and a singing cowboy he has now taken the part of a buzzing mayfly, expressing his feelings that time sure is short and there is zzzo much to do .

Peter Hilton

Peter seems to be enjoying his roles in semi-Circle productions. Starting off being a henpecked husband in "Diary of a Bad Housewife" He went on to play a major role as an English literature lecturer in "The Love Course". Now he is showing his versatility by playing a naturalist observing insects in "Time Flies". One of his main attributes is his ability to keep the cast happy during rehearsals with his unceasing flow of humorous asides - these no doubt a carryover from his roles in the panto.

Michael Wilkinson

A longstanding member of Semi-Circle, he has fulfilled many functions within the club, from running the bar to making props and driving them around town, but also including minor acting parts. He has gradually discovered his interest in directing, which gives him an opportunity to influence the actor's interpretations, to create props and express his ideas through the whole production.





Feeding the Ducks

by **Michael Park**

directed by **Diane Zuger**

Successful businesswoman Clare has a secret rendezvous in the park, but the only person around when she arrives is a man feeding the ducks. Little does she realise the impact this total stranger is quickly going to have on her life.....

Billy
Clare

Michael Clarke
Stephanie Németh-Parker

This is the play that we will take to FEATS, the Festival of Anglophone Theatrical Societies, in Antwerp in May. We are grateful to **Novartis** and to **Syngenta** for their generous contributions to help defray our FEATS expenses.

The Players and Director

Michael Clarke

Well, it all started with sparrows really. All my friends were feeding sparrows, so, well, I just sort of thought there couldn't be any harm in it, so I thought I'd give it a try. Of course, I soon moved on to feeding robins and tits and the occasional blackbird, but I still felt I had it under control. Then one day, I was sitting by a local pond, when I suddenly realized that I was throwing bread to a group of mallards! That was it really: from then on it was teals, tufted ducks, coots, moorhens – anything really: I wasn't even averse to feeding the odd grebe if I could get one. And it wasn't just stale bread crusts - oh no! There was bird seed, dried fruit, crushed nuts – anything I could get my hands on really! Finally it came to a head when I realized that I was actually feeding the Canada Geese!! That was when I finally decided I had to Act decisively and Enter the audition for Michael Park's "Feeding the Ducks"

Stephanie Németh-Parker

Coming to Basel, Switzerland from Los Angeles has been a big change for Stephanie. While in LA, most of her acting was in the way of theater, but she did appear on the TV shows Friends and The Practice. She also had the honor of studying with Sir Anthony Hopkins right before she left the States. Now, after having had her little boy, she's excited to get back to acting.

Diane Zuger





Red Spy at Night

by **Robert King,**
directed by **Tony O'Sullivan**

Michelle:
Professor:
Lee:
Stella:
Count Peter:

Collette O'Neill
Eric Collino
Jamie Sievert
Zuzana Cox
Steve Sims

The Players and Director

Collette O'Neill

Collette arrived in the cultural metropolis of Basel just seven short months ago. Her interest in drama led her to Semi Circle and this is her first appearance in a farce. Like her Semi Circle cohorts, she hopes you will enjoy the show this evening.

Eric Collico

Eric Collino has found himself involved in a number of acting roles, stretching back in time rather longer than he cares to admit. He finds the process of preparing for a role - rehearsals and learning about the play - very absorbing and rewarding. The Semi Circle has extended his range of friends. They, and involvement in the theatre, have enhanced his knowledge of human behaviour - positively. He hopes you all enjoy the evening's entertainment.

Jamie Sievert

Jamie descended from the City of Angels into the Upper Rhine inferno several years ago. Working with Semi-Circle helps him to keep the balance between his angelic and devilish sides. Red Spy at Night is Jamie's fourth production with Semi-Circle -- and the first one in which he does not end up naked or neurotic on stage.

Zuzana Cox

Zuzana last appeared on stage as "Sally the Pauper" in the Semi-Circle and International School production of "Oliver!". Her role in this play not only allows her to look a little healthier but is also definitely more glamorous. It's all a far cry from playing the "Virgin Mary" which was her first stage appearance many years ago.

Steve Sims

The opportunity to appear as Count Peter in A Red Spy at Night has enabled Steve to fulfil two unfulfilled ambitions in one go. Firstly, to appear in a farce; and secondly, the childhood dream of being a spy!

Tony O'Sullivan

Tony O'Sullivan has contributed in many ways to the Semi-Circle productions in the past, both on-stage, off-stage, upstairs, downstairs, in and out and shake it all about.





Three Women

by **Albert M. Brown**

directed by **Christine Comerçi**

Mrs. Baer,
Mrs. Lyons,
Mrs. Wolfe,

Joy Scherer
Susan Stafford
Valerie Walder

The Players and Director

Joy Scherer

Joy Scherer first came to Basel from England in the late sixties. She joined the Semi-Circle in 1984 and has taken part in numerous productions both on-stage and behind the scenes. In “Three Women” she portrays a card-playing doting mother. In real life she hopes to play her cards right as well, as she is soon to become a mother-in-law, probably her most challenging role to date ...

Susan Stafford

Sue Stafford has a passion for Gustav Holst, bluebell woods, mother-of-pearl, and folk dancing. She has been involved with the Semi-Circle for many years, and the experience she treasures most was seeing one of her own plays being performed.

Valerie Walder

Unless we are cats and have nine lives, being on the stage is the next best thing in my opinion. This time, however, in contrast to other roles, the character I am attempting to portray is rather close to the real thing.

Christine Comerçi

Since joining the Semi-Circle I have had lots of fun behind the scenes, up in front of house, and even on the stage. Each aspect of theater work has its own reward. This is my first attempt at directing. Although it is quite a challenge, having a cast of three experienced women (to be interpreted any way you like) has certainly eased the way. I hope you have as much fun with this short piece as we have!





Production Team

Production manager

John Stafford, Yvonne Fenn

Light and sound

Bob Kenyon, Susannah Todd, Hans Klein

Make-up

Claire Spedding, Korien van den Bosch

Box office

Penny Rettig, Lianne Gisler, Suzan Wilson,
Edward Atkinson

Stage hands

Matt Breckenridge, Peter Berrie, Mary Sinnott,
Jean-Pierre Zuger, Tony Fenn

Bar

Kindertheater

Catering

Kindertehater

Publicity

Jamey Sievert

Advertising

David Foggetta

Programme

Peter Berrie

Photography

Ute Kessel

Video

Michael Wilkinson

Prompter

Helen Baldomero

The Basler Kindertheater

Since September 1970 Olivia and Horst Lang have managed the Basler Kindertheater, where they wrote plays, directed them, and made the set, and where the children, even very young ones, acted. After Horst Lang died in 1999, Olivia Lang ran the theater on her own with help from her assistant Priska Sager and the set-designers Georg Steiner and Patric Clauss. They are supported by the "Verein für das Basler Kindertheater".

By now the original casts are adults, and sometimes their children take part in the Kindertheater productions. The Basler Kindertheater has become an institution, which is well known and greatly appreciated by the children of Basel both as actors and audience.

In May 1993 we arranged to use the Kindertheater for Alan Bennett's "Talking Heads" directed by Richard Levitt. It involved three monologues by Cynthia Baer, Joan Rogers, and Diana Zuger. When we approached Fr. Lang a few months ago she spoke of the fascination of the audience at that time, and was happy to arrange for us to use the Kindertheater for our spring production.

Both those of us for which the venue is new, as well as the veterans of 1993 involved in this production, are very much looking forward to using the theater





