



Paradise lost?

The Semi-Circle Presents

Three One-Act Plays

Homecoming • Squashed • The Fear of Heaven

On April 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, 2005,
7.30 pm at Das Neue Theater am Bahnhof Dornach





We wish the Semi-Circle Basel good luck for its production.

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Welcome

The Semi-Circle is Basel's English language amateur theatre group. Born of a group within the British Circle it became a fully independent club over twenty-five years ago. Since then we have staged more than 70 productions, primarily comedies, before appreciative audiences. Productions take place in spring and autumn each year and have included works by Chekhov, Coward, Miller, Pinter, Shaw and Wilde, to name a few.

The club is essentially an amateur one, for theatre enthusiasts with a capacity for sociable disposition to amusement. Members come from many different countries and backgrounds. Active members can be encountered either behind or in front of the curtain, and often both.

If you would like to find out more about us fill in one of our response cards or visit our website: www.semi-circle.ch. See also page 15 for information on how to join us.

We thank you for coming tonight and we hope that you enjoy our "Paradise Lost?" production!



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Programme



presents:

Three One-Act Plays

Homecoming

by Jamie Sievert

Directed by Jamie Sievert and Krista Jaquet

Shortlisted for the 2004 Proscenium Prize for One-Act Plays

This is your little welcome back event. Be happy. Sally has just returned home after a two-year stay in Italy. It's October – the fire season in California – and Sally's brother Rick is holding a welcome back party for her on the backyard patio of his suburban Los Angeles home.

Cast in order of appearance

Carol	Christine Commerci, understudy Lucia Miggiano
Sally	Tara Gostelow
Rick	Jamie Sievert
Debbie	Susanne Thommen
Ian	Frédéric Anklin

Squashed

by Peter Young

Directed by Peter Hilton

George is a dutiful husband who tries to fulfil his wife's DIY requests, if not exactly within the timeframe she expected. Shirley makes sure that

George is left in no doubt as to what she thinks of his skills as a handyman. Unfortunately for Shirley there is a second George who has designs on her future - especially in the short term!

Cast in order of appearance

George	John Hyland
Shirley	Suzan Wilson

Interval of 20 minutes with bar service

The Fear of Heaven

by John Mortimer

Directed by Susan Aeschbach-Jagger and Eric Collino

Two Englishmen recover consciousness in a Tuscan hospital and, seeing the painting of Heaven on the ceiling, assume they have "passed on". Luby, an arrogant lecturer, obsessed by the decadent lifestyles of the great poets, is shocked to discover that the apparently dull and insignificant Fletcher has led the sort of Byronic life which he has only written about. He decides major life changes are required. But how will Mrs. Luby react?

Cast in order of appearance

Guide	Nick Steven
Patient	Marek Kujawa
Nun	Lianne Gisler
Doctor	Anna Giedrys
Lewis Luby	Martin Spedding
Fletcher	Tony O'Sullivan
Sophie Luby	Diana Zuger

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Homecoming

- cast portraits



Jamie Sievert

When you live as an expat, it sometimes seems like cats bark and dogs meow. Meanwhile, the place you came from becomes a warm and fuzzy ideal, its hard edges softened by time's erosion. No need to object to such juxtapositions, as long as you understand the tricks involved. Welcome home to all of you always – wherever home may be.

Krista Jaquet

While marketing ingenious high-tech solutions for demanding ambient conditions, Krista has always found film and theatre - in addition to family and friends, of course - to be a source of joy and inspiration. She has been involved with many productions in Finland, Los Angeles and now with The Semi-Circle in Basel. "Thanks, Catherine, for introducing The Semi-Circle to me. Thanks, Jamie, for letting me be part of your play. I love it!"



Christine Comerci

I've had a wonderful time with The Semi-Circle: back stage, on stage, up front and even tried my hand at directing. The best fun about acting is trying to get into the skin of a character. I've been a delusional reporter looking for my big break, and a somewhat goofy piano player. Now, I get to be a loud American...not too much of a stretch you say?



Tara Gostelow

After selling out 17-seat theatres for two consecutive nights during a community theatre stint in hometown suburban British Columbia, for Tara the next logical step was to pack her bags and head to Switzerland to become - what else? - an au pair. She wishes someone would explain to her why "Bitte" means two completely different things. Tara credits much of her success to long-time idol and muse, Robert Goulet.

Susanne Thommen

I was a member of the thespian society and the actor's workshop in Halifax, West Yorkshire between the ages of 10 and 21. After six years working and partying in London, I moved to Switzerland in 2003 for love and married last year. I'm delighted to now be involved with The Semi-Circle and enjoying my favourite hobby once again.



Frédéric Anklin

A Swiss-Norwegian, Frédéric learned English through growing up in Southeast Asia. He has loved acting ever since he played Joseph in a nativity scene at four years of age. He didn't like the part, though, and his inner self has probably been compensating ever since, seeking refuge in a variety of roles with groups such as The Gay Beggars and now The Semi-Circle.

Lucia Miggiano

From the more demure activities in financial acquisitions Lucia stumbled on Jamie who has drawn her onto the stage. In spite of herself she is finding the experience rather pleasant and is happy to have sought some fantasy beyond the world of figures.



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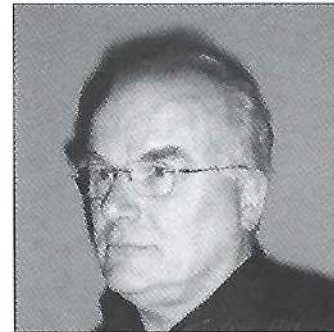
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Squashed

- cast portraits



Peter Hilton

Peter Hilton has lived in Basel for many years now. He has been involved with The Semi-Circle and the Basel English Panto Group, delighting in the glow of the limelight. This time around he is taking a stab at directing.

Suzan Wilson

Beyond studying, teaching and keeping up with the three men in her immediate family, Suzan has found time for The Semi-Circle. As a member for more years than she probably would care to admit, she has been very active: acting, backstage, and in administration. After a bit of an absence from the stage she is bouncing back as Shirley.



John Hyland

John has acted with The Semi-Circle and has been involved with the Panto Group. He is returning to us to play the part of George.

The Fear of Heaven

- cast portraits

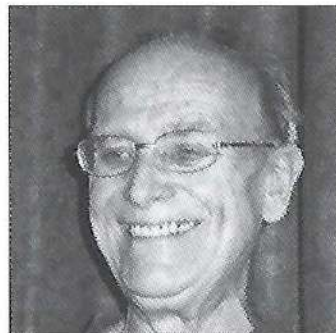


Susan Aeschbach-Jagger

As my first attempt at directing, it's proving to be both a challenging and rewarding experience. Having acted, prompted, shifted and painted scenery, as well as serving on the bar and being the cloakroom attendant in recent years, I enjoy the satisfaction of experiencing the evolution of a production as it comes together. Good teamwork is paramount for success and so, with my ethereal assistant Eric, heavenly cast and divine production team, I hope you have a hell of a good evening!

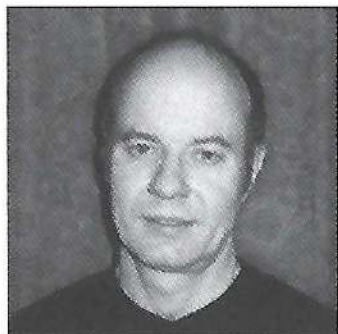
Eric Collino

Chance has somehow brought Collino into The Semi-Circle, where he has enjoyed a number of acting roles. He has attended a Summer theatre workshop in Belgium with some other Semi-Circleers, where he signed up for a directors' course. To his horror he was obliged himself to undertake a small amount of directing. Fate's roll of the dice is unpredictable. For "The Fear of Heaven" She has jostled him into the job of assisting Susan.



Tony O'Sullivan

Tony O'Sullivan has spent most of his adult life in Switzerland, where he works in the chemical industry. He joined The Semi-Circle some years ago for something interesting to do with his evenings. He enjoyed it so much he stayed working onstage, backstage and in the administration of the club.



Martin Spedding

Martin is no stranger to working in the theatre in Basel, either as an actor or helping backstage. Since emigrating from England 15 years ago, he has acted in 3 pantomimes, and has played the role of the dame twice.

The part of Luby is his first acting role for The Semi-Circle and, as his last acting role was playing the dame, Martin is very pleased to be appearing this time as a man.

Diana Zuger

Although she is playing an Austrian in this play, Diana comes from England. She has been with The Semi-Circle right from the start and has been involved in many productions, not only acting and directing, but also working backstage. Last year alone, she directed two of our plays, "Feeding the Ducks" which went on to win an award at an international amateur theatre festival, and "Arms and the Man".



Anna Giedrys

Anna enjoyed acting at university in her native Poland and so leapt at the chance to be involved in theatre here in Basel.

She was delighted to land the doctor's role. When she's not reciting scripts, she enjoys a good discussion and has a lot to say on all sorts of subjects!



The Fear of Heaven - cast portraits cont.



Lianne Gisler

Love brought Lianne, who comes from just outside Rotterdam in Holland, to Switzerland. She started singing for fun and later discovered acting. She understudied the role of Nancy in The Semi-Circle's production of the musical "Oliver" and was Raina in last autumn's production of "Arms and the Man". She has really enjoyed the past two years as a member of The Semi-Circle and would encourage anyone, old or young, to try it.

Nick Steven

Originally from Leigh in Lancashire, Nick is an IT contractor by trade and has lived in lots of different places including Leiden in the Netherlands and Frascati in Italy; working at one point at the European Space Agency making big fireworks. In his spare time between playing on computers he is into running with the Basel Hash House Harriers, contributing to Radio X, and bouncing people up and down a mat in Aikido.



Marek Kujawa

If the groans and moans of the Italian patient sound slightly familiar, it's probably because you saw Polish-born Marek play the evil villain Abanazar in the Panto Group's production of Aladdin in December. He enjoyed the acting experience so much that he couldn't bear to wait a whole year to tread the boards again, and so he signed up to join The Semi-Circle.



Production team

Production Manager	Mary Sinnott
Publicity	Michael Clarke
Graphic Design	Michael Clarke
	Krista Jaquet
Programme and Publishing	Krista Jaquet
Ticketing and Dispatching	Suzan Wilson
Lighting	Michael Clarke
Sound	Collette O'Neill
Stage Manager	John Stafford
Stage Helpers	Marcus Hibell
	Chris Morrison
	JP Zuger
Make-up	Helen Baldomero
	Clare Spedding
Box Office & Ushers	Heidy Baumann
	Jessica Philip
	Joan Rogers
	Sue Stafford
Bar	Veronika Berrie
	Peter Berrie
	Roger Kleiber

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