

JOIN US!

www.semi-circle.ch

As you sit there waiting for the lights to go down, the music to play and the story to unfold, you may wonder how all this is arranged and organised, who are the people involved and why?

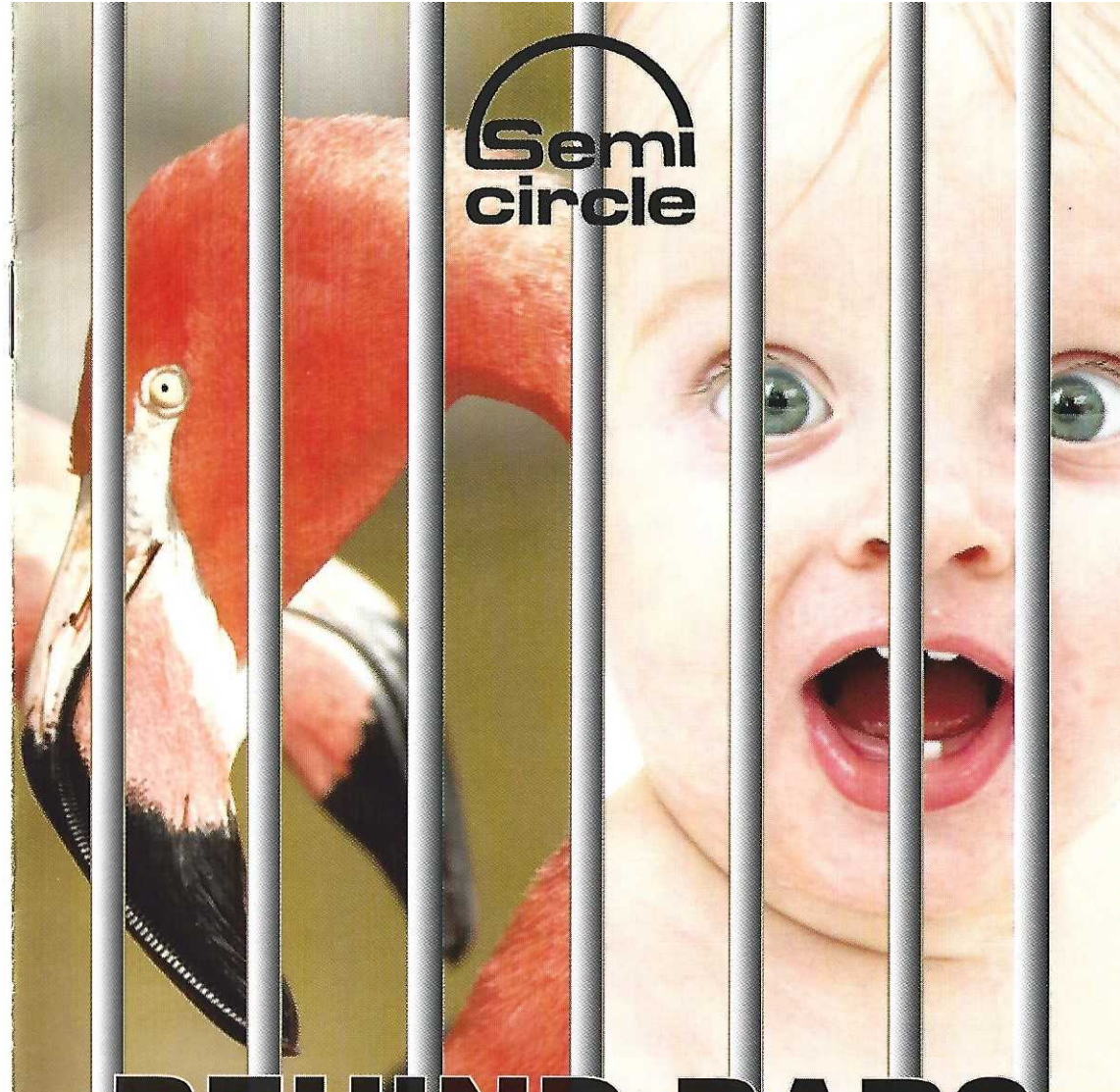
Well, it is just a bit puzzling. After all, our spare time is precious to us so why spend it involved in amateur dramatics? Some explanation is to be found in the biographies of the cast and director. Of course, other than those you see on stage, there are many more less visible team members who help plan, organise, support and execute the action that is seen on stage, from sound and lighting to props and paying the royalties; more such retiring creatures are to be found serving behind the bar, pushing buttons at the lighting and sound desks and sneaking behind the curtain. Our members come from many different countries and backgrounds. If you are curious enough to try-out, either on stage or in a less conspicuous place please fill in the card in this programme, ring Tony O'Sullivan (the president of The Semi-Circle) - +41 -(0)61 692 3901, or fill in the card in this programme or visit our website www.semi-circle.ch.

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BEHIND BARS

Semi-Circle Production: Two One-Act Plays

THE CAGEBIRDS

**BABYSITTING
CALVIN**

September 21, 22, 23, 27, 28, 29 & 30, 2006
at Das Neue Theater am Bahnhof Dornach

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WELCOME

The Semi-Circle is a group of drama enthusiasts who have been bringing the best of English language theatre to Basel for thirty years.

During that time we have managed to bring over 70 productions to venues in and around Basel. We stage plays of many different genres - from musicals to classical plays - and by a wealth of different playwrights, from Ayckbourn to Coward, Miller to Pinter, Shaw to Wilde.

Although our primary objective is to entertain with high quality English language theatre, we are also a club whose members enjoy getting together for occasional social activities.



Members come from many different countries and walks of life – contrary to popular belief perfect English is not a prerequisite. Active members can be found not just on stage, but also working hard back or front of stage (or both).

For upcoming productions and happenings please visit our web-site at www.semi-circle.ch.

We thank you for coming tonight and we hope that you enjoy “Cagebirds” and “Babysitting Calvin”!

Kosmetik-Studio Artistik

Inh. N. Zuger
 Tulpenweg 21
 4153 Reinach
 Telefon 061 711 10 21

Öffnungszeiten:
 Mo.–Do. 08.30–12.00 Uhr
 14.00–18.30 Uhr
 Fr. 14.00–18.30 Uhr

I PROGRAMME I



presents:

CAGEBIRDS

by David Campton

Directed by Michael Clarke

Presented by kind arrangement with Samuel French Ltd., London

Six tame "birds" are kept in a cage by their Mistress. Each is living in her own world, totally absorbed in her own character. When the "Wild One" is thrown into the cage, she ruffles feathers by stirring up ideas and memories. She tries to convince the others that freedom is more important than security. But the self-imposed walls they have built around themselves are much harder to break down than any external barriers could be. Disaster is inevitable.

CAST (in order of appearance)

6 tame (but idiosyncratic) hen birds:

Regular Thump
Mirror Eyed Gazer
Constant Twitting
Medicated Gloom
Long-Tongued Gossip
Great Guzzler
Mistress, human
Wild One, a vibrant young hen bird

Collette O'Neill
Penny Rettig
Marieluise Maiwald
Susan Stafford
Joy Scherer
Christine Comerci
Diana Zuger
Stephanie Nemeth-Parker

20 minute interval with bar service.

BABYSITTING CALVIN

by John H Newmeir

Directed by Peter Hilton

Presented by kind arrangement with Samuel French Ltd., London

Calvin, a ten month old baby (played by an adult), can still remember his previous life when he was happily married to Laura, despite the womanising attentions of his friend Bob. Calvin will lose his blissful memories when he reaches his first birthday - or speaks - so nothing will make him talk. His single parent Mum is persuaded to go out for the evening with Donna, her sexy friend, and the baby-sitter she finds is none other than Laura. She is bringing along lecherous Bob! Calvin sets about thwarting Bob's desires using every trick known to babies. Can he stop Bob...without saying a word?

CAST (in order of appearance)

Katie, Calvin's mother

Calvin, 10 month old baby

Donna, Katie's sexy friend

Laura, Calvin's former wife

Bob, Laura's lecherous "friend"

Susanne Thommen

Nick Steven

Donna Marie Tomlinson

Helen Baldomero

Simon Kessler

Bookworm heaven.

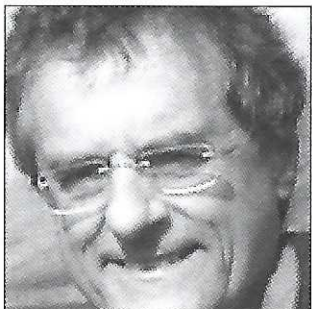
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CAST PORTRAITS

CAGEBIRDS



DIRECTOR: MICHAEL CLARKE

"Stone walls do not a prison make". But when the iron bars are gone who is to blame for the walls that remain in hearts and heads? The question is addressed by David Campton in his thought-provoking metaphor "Cagebirds". It was a privilege for me to explore and interpret this play with this wonderfully talented and motivated "flock" of actresses and production team.

CHRISTINE COMERCI

I've already appeared on stage as a rabbit (in Kindergarten), so why not a bird with human qualities? This will be only my 4th appearance on stage in a Semi-Circle production, but when added to all my backstage roles, I'm starting to feel like an old hand. For me, the whole creation of a production is a marvellous experience and I'm ever so thankful that such a nice group of English theatre enthusiasts exists right here in Basel.



MARIELUISE MAIWALD

I am really not sure about whether I like this part or not. Some days I do, other days I don't. I sort of hope you will enjoy the show, but then again - I am not responsible for anything that happens!



STEPHANIE NEMETH-PARKER

This is the last production I'll be in for a while. With back-to-back plays, it's time for a break! Many thanks to my wonderful, patient director and fellow actors. Life gets crazy sometimes. Hope everyone enjoys the show.



COLLETTE O'NEILL

Organisation, petitions and the censor, that's what's needed! But not for this play I hope. This role is quite different from my last role as the French mistress where I literally got tangled up in the part! That's the beauty of live theatre and I hope you really enjoy the evening with us.

PENNY RETTIG

I first became involved in amateur theatre in Botswana when my ex-husband became hooked on amdram and I realised "if you can't beat 'em, join them". From prompt, props and business manager I went on to acting and directing. Since joining The Semi-Circle I've mainly been involved backstage or front of house. When I said "Break a leg" to Susan I never dreamt she actually would! So now I find myself as the Gazer instead of prompt/assistant.



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**JOY SCHERER**

A native of Leicester in the East Midlands of England, I have performed a variety of roles in Semi-Circle productions, both on-stage and behind the scenes, since 1986. Although cast as a gossip in "Cagebirds", in real life I wouldn't dream of gossiping. So the only personal titbits I am prepared to reveal are a passion for badminton, a love of writing and an incurable addiction to crosswords and jig-saw puzzles. Did you ever?

SUSAN STAFFORD

The secret is out and my true personality revealed in this role: A hypochondriac, full of woe and always expecting the worst! Hardly surprising that my previous stage appearances have included "Misery" in a mystery play, and the weeping, wailing Rachel in Ayckbourn's "Seasons Greetings"... But at least I can be happy when I'm outdoors on a "windy day with the white clouds flying".

**DIANA ZUGER**

I saw this play at the 2004 FEATS (Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies) and was thrilled that it was chosen for this year's one-act play evening. How many of us want to break out of our daily routine but are frightened of change? As the mistress, my sweeties are so cute and I'm sure that introducing a Wild One into their midst will not be a problem or ??????

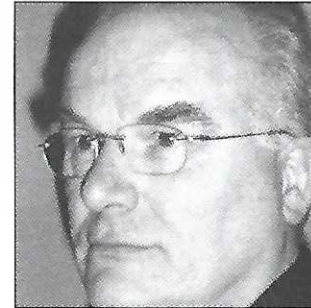
SUSAN AESCHBACH

When told to "Break a leg", I took the advice too literally and broke my ankle falling down stairs at theatre summer school. It wasn't the first time I suffered for art having broken my other ankle six years ago. Humans are known to love symmetry! Sadly, this last tumble meant I had to drop out of the "Cagebirds" cast. But I enjoy helping out wherever I can and hope you will enjoy this humorous, serious and thought-provoking play.



I CAST PORTRAITS I

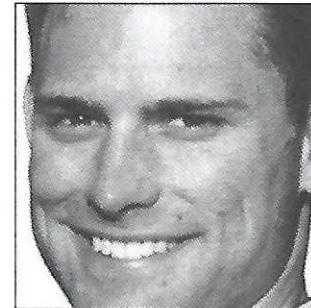
BABYSITTING CALVIN

**DIRECTOR: PETER HILTON**

Peter Hilton has been in Basel for a number of years now. He has been on stage and off with Semi-Circle and also acted? with Basel English Panto Group. This is his second time as a director – this time with a comedy. Last time was as rewarding as being on stage and this has proved to be the case again. I hope you enjoy "Calvin" as much as we have in putting it together.

HELEN BALDOMERO

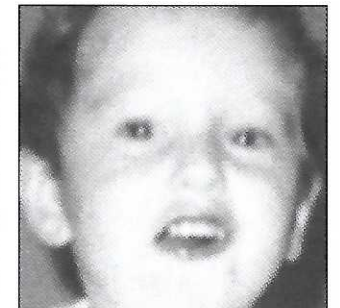
Helen Baldomero (Laura) moved from London to Basel in 1981. She is married with two teenage children who together with a full-time job at the University Hospital in Basel keep her very busy. She joined The Semi-Circle in 1987 and has been active on both stage and behind the scenes. After having a short break from acting she decided to once again taste the fear and experience the thrill of performing. Hopefully the thrill will be greater than the fear?

**SIMON KESSLER**

Simon made his way into this world precisely three decades ago, spending his days in various countries and regions ever since. He became a member of The Semi-Circle a few years ago and has thoroughly enjoyed running around on stage - and giving you some laughs!

NICK STEVEN

Nick Steven was born some years ago and is still not dead. He has worked in many places including a paper mill near Bolton - which later folded - and the European Space Agency in Noordwijk/Frascati where he helped to make expensive fireworks. His acting career started in 1973 when he was one of the shepherds in the school nativity play; by 1977 he had been promoted to third wise man. He is married, has no children and does not live in Surrey.





SUSANNE THOMMEN

I was a member of the Thespian Society and the actors 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 2 years ago. I'm delighted to be involved with The Semi-Circle and enjoying my favourite hobby once again.

DONNA MARIE TOMLINSON

This is my first onstage acting experience since high school: I was in the chorus of a musical, so this is actually my very first speaking part.

When you speak of this experience - as you most certainly will - please remember to refer to my performance with kindness, generosity and perhaps even - dare I say it? - affection. All kudos will be greatly appreciated!



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Assistant Directors - Cagebirds
Set Design - Cagebirds
Set Design - Calvin
Costume Design - Cagebirds
Lighting Design - Cagebirds
Lighting Design - Calvin
Sound Effects - Cagebirds
Sound Effects - Calvin
Sound & Light Operators
Video Production - Cagebirds
Prompter - Cagebirds
Prompter - Calvin
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Stage Crew

Ann Maerki
Penny Rettig / Susan Aeschbach
Krista Jaquet
Peter Hilton, Peter Nixon
Krista Jaquet
Cornelius Hunziker, Krista Jaquet
Cornelius Hunziker, Peter Hilton
Collette O'Neill, Krista Jaquet
Collette O'Neill
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Krista Jaquet, Martin Spedding
Susan Aeschbach, Ann Maerki
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Special thanks to Johanna and Georg, Das Neue Theater am Bahnhof Dornach, for letting us visit their wonderful theatre.

As always, there are many dedicated people involved in getting a production off the ground. And, as always, we cannot possibly mention all those who deserve a mention, so we would like to express heartfelt thanks to all those not mentioned by name who gave of themselves for love of the theatre.