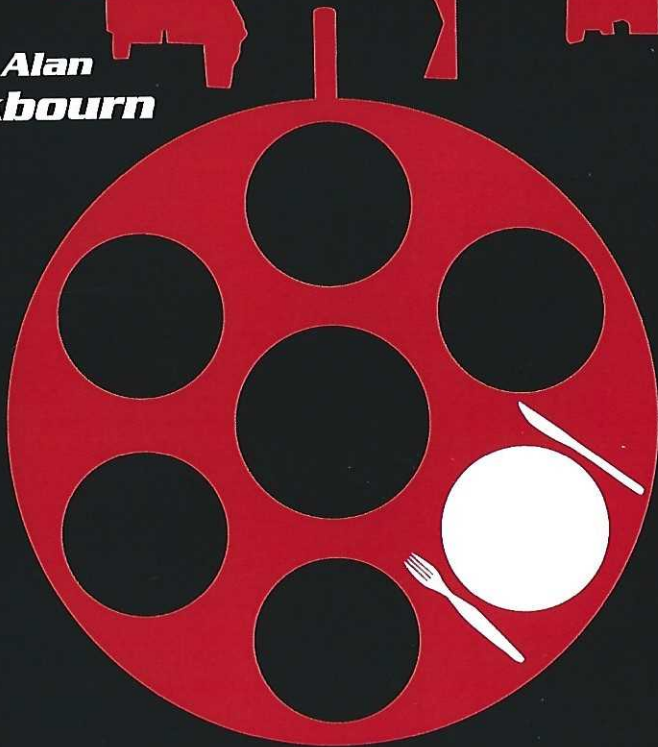




*By Alan  
Ayckbourn*



# ***RolePlay***

*Directed by Angela  
Robinson*

*7th, 8th, 13th, 14th, 15th of September 2007  
Helmut Fölnbacher Theatre*

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The Semi-Circle is a group of drama enthusiasts who have been bringing the best of English language theatre to Basel for just on 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 pre-requisite. Active members can be found not just on stage, but also working hard back or front of stage (or both). If you enjoy tonight's play and want us to send you a flyer in advance of our future productions we shall be happy to do so. Please fill in the card you find in this programme, and put it in the box on your way out, or visit our website: [www.semi-circle.ch](http://www.semi-circle.ch). We thank you for coming tonight and we hope that you enjoy "RolePlay"!

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.

## About RolePlay

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 or visit our website [www.semi-circle.ch](http://www.semi-circle.ch).

### About the theatre

Since the Helmut Förbacher Theater Company was formed in 1980, it has produced dozens of plays in many venues in and around Basel before becoming more established, and creating this beautiful theatre at these premises at the Badischer Bahnhof in 1998.

The theatre is very much a family affair, a culmination of the hard work and ambition of Helmut Förbacher. Born in Basel and trained in Vienna, Mr Förbacher became very well known as an actor and director in film and television. He led the Theater "vis à vis" in 1974, was later responsible for the "studio for music and theatre" and the "operastudio" for the Musik- Akademie in Basel, before starting his own group in 1980. We admire Förbacher's theater company for being able year for year to fill a programme with great theatre. You, too, are contributing half of the price of your ticket and the money you spend at the bar. We are delighted to be able once again to put on a play in this wonderful theatre.

[www.foernbacher.ch](http://www.foernbacher.ch)

### Cast (in order of appearance)

Julie-Ann	Eva Mann
Justin	James Bailey
Paige	Eleanor Low
Micky	Steve Martin
Derek Jobson	Peter Hilton
Dee Jobson	Penny Rettig
Arabella	Suzan Wilson

The action takes place in Justin's riverside apartment on the Thames in London's Docklands.

<b>Act One</b>	Scene One	Six p.m.
	Scene Two	A few minutes later

There will be one INTERVAL of 20 minutes

**Act Two** Two hours later

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## A word from the director



**Angela Robinson** – Director  
(England/Kenya)

The first full-length play Angela ever directed was also by Ayckbourn – “Absent Friends” in Nairobi in 1988. Oh, my God! (as Justin loves saying) – that was nearly 20 years ago! Since then she has directed 28 plays, pantos and revues. We think she might be getting the hang of it! As always, staging a show is

a team effort, so she would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way. In our busy modern world it gets more and more difficult to find people to help with productions, so those that do give up their precious time are treasured! This time her special thanks go to Robi for the set and to John Hyland and to Susy and Hans-Peter Isenring of the Theatermuehle Arisdorf for rehearsal space.


### Sir Alan Ayckbourn

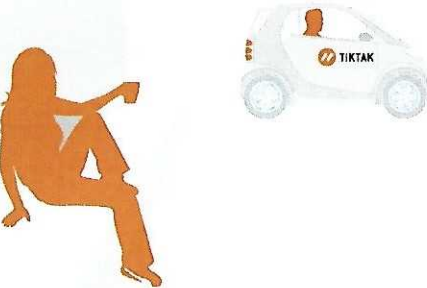
Born in London in 1939, and has worked in theatre all his life. He has undertaken various roles including actor, writer and director. Almost all of his plays written to date have been first performed at the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, of which he is Artistic Director. A prolific writer of comedy plays satirising middle-class manners, he is considered one of the world's pre-eminent dramatists. His first West End hit, *Relatively Speaking* (1968), opened in 1967. To date he has written some 70 plays, translated into some 35 languages.

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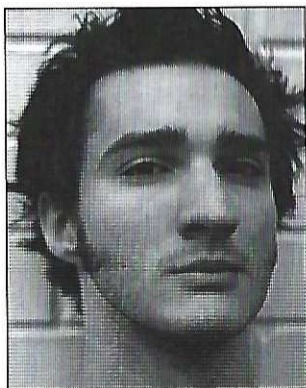
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# Cast portraits



**James Bailey** – Justin  
(England)

Number of months in Basel: 9. Number of years he's been acting: 18. Number of favorite bands: 62. Number of plane rides: 289. Number of beers he can name from memory: 31. Number of those he can remember at the end of the night: 3. Number of teeth: 29. Number of hobbies: 5. Number of years since he has acted on stage: 4. Number of words in his vocabulary: 1,784. Number of those not fit for this audience: 27. Number of languages he speaks:

18. Number of those he actually understands: 2. Number of tattoos: 3. Number of sentences he had to memorize for Roleplay: 457. Number of those he will paraphrase tonight: 73. Number of other actor's lines he will say tonight accidentally: 4. Number on purpose: 1. Number of joints in his left thumb: 3. Number of pairs of shoes: 12. Number of those which are white: 8. Number of roles played: 28. Number of those cross-gender: 2. Number of those cross-species: 1.

**Eva Mann** – Julie-Ann  
(Switzerland/USA)

Eva Mann is new to both the Semi-Circle and the Föörnbacher Theater, however not to many aspects of Julie-Ann, having thorough experience in being a third daughter (*Lady Precious Stream*, Chava in *Fiddler on the Roof*), throwing screaming fits (Erifila in *Fools of Valence*, Polly in *The Beggar's Opera*) and being a nagging moral know-it-all (Prism in *The Importance of Being Ernest*, Serena in *Porgy*). The thing she feels not qualified to deal with are pudding forks. For the sake of unambiguity she also wishes to state that she does not keep a tidy house, prefers cooking herself - and does not intend to spend her wedding night reading a book!!!

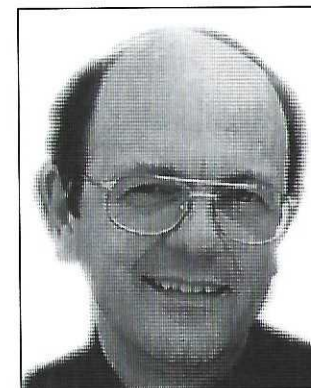


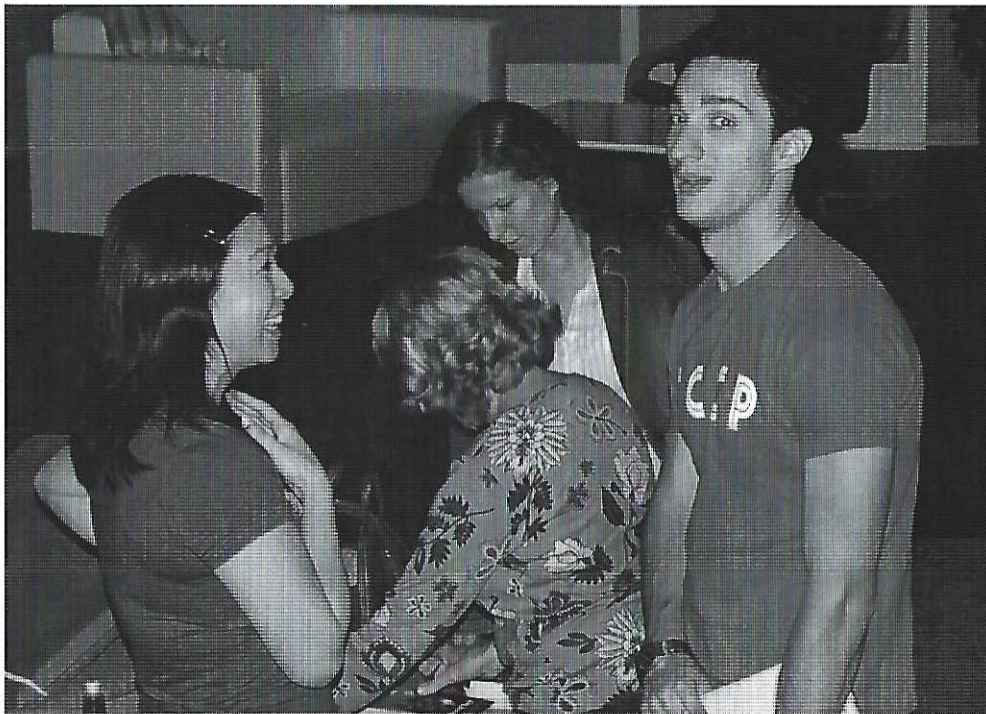
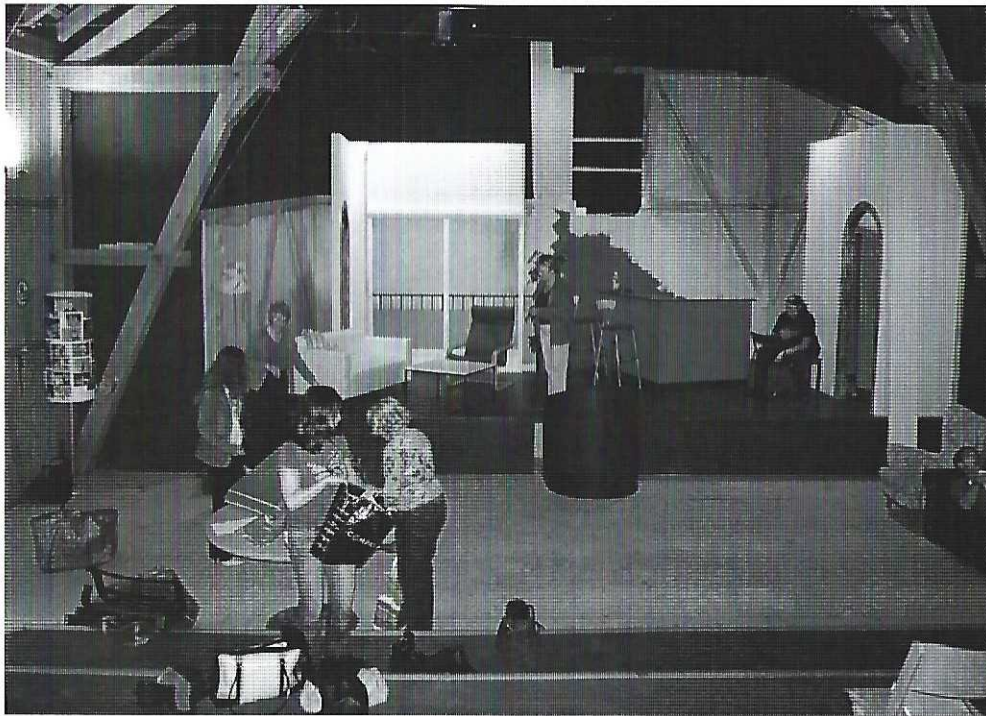
**Eleanor Low** – Paige  
(England/Singapore)

This is Eleanor's debut with the Semi-Circle and actually her first ever play (she normally only does musicals). You might have seen her singing and dancing in a few Upstart Entertainment productions such as: "A Slice of Saturday Night" and "Return To The Forbidden Planet". For her is it quite strange to be on stage and suddenly not break out into a song or dance, but then she realised all was not lost in "RolePlay"...

**Steve Martin** – Micky  
(England)

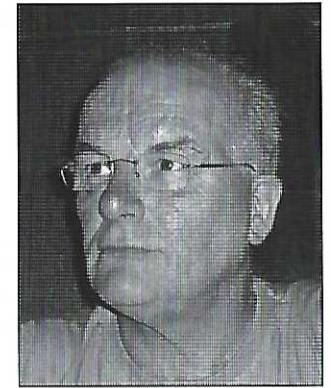
Steve has been involved in amateur theatre for many years. But it goes in phases: sometimes he thinks he's too busy for it, and then he realises he can't live without it. The role of Micky is Steve's debut in Basel. He has acted with many other groups in several parts of the world. Although Steve prefers the limelight, he has also enjoyed directing, stage management, set construction and other technical jobs behind the scenes.





**Peter Hilton** – Derek Jobson  
(England)

Peter Hilton has been with the Semi-Circle for a number of years now as a actor and director. He has cultivated a carefully nurtured reputation for driving his director and fellow actors mad with his complete disrespect for the written word exactly as it is written. He is now pleased to be offered the parts that require a "mature gentleman" approach as he hopes he may now be taken more seriously at auditions on the basis that he can now be considered a "grown up". Derek, and you won't believe this, is nearly 60.



**Penny Rettig** – Dee Jobson  
(Scotland)

Penny's first contact with Angela was when she offered to help a bit backstage on the International School Basel/Semi-Circle production of Oliver, which Angela was directing. Stage managing is a new definition of 'help a bit' and one thing has led to another. Penny has been backstage, front of house and on stage in panto or regular productions ever since. She can only hope that in real life she is not anywhere near as irritating as Dee.

**Suzan Wilson** – Arabella  
(Australia)

Bouncing (or should that read lurching) back onto the Semi-Circle stage after a spell on the organisational side of the club's productions. The role of Arabella is indeed a challenge; playing a sophisticated drunk adds a new dimension to her repertoire of acting roles. Just pray she doesn't topple!



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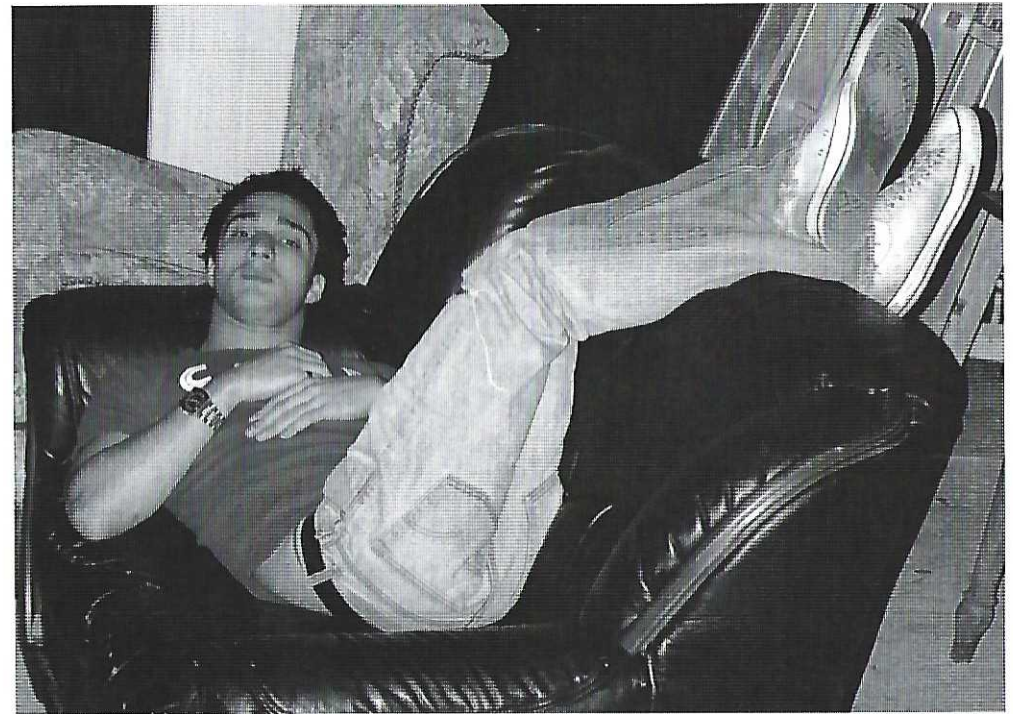
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Bianca Mueller

Jamie Sievert

Ron Sitter

Jakub Sovina

Martin Spedding

Veronika Berrie

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