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A Streetcar Named **Desire**

by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Krista Jaquet

November 6, 7, 19,
20 & 21, 2008 at 19:30
Helmut Fölnbacher Theater

This play is presented by special arrangement with The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, USA.

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Welcome

The Semi-Circle is a group of drama enthusiasts which has brought the best of English language theatre to Basel for over thirty years.

During this time we have managed to stage over 70 productions in theatres large and small in and around Basel. We stage plays of many different genres - from musicals to classical plays, from comedies to tragedies - and by a wealth of playwrights, from Ayckbourn to Coward, Miller to Pinter and 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 regular social activities throughout the year. Our members come from many different countries and walks of life and, contrary to popular belief, perfect English is not a prerequisite to acting for our club. Active members can also be found not just on stage, but also working hard back or front of house, as well as helping with the preliminary preparations for our productions.

This season we are proudly presenting an ambitious project, "A Streetcar Named Desire", which we hope you will enjoy.

On behalf of the Semi-Circle, I would like to thank you, the audience, for supporting us, as well as all the sponsors who have kindly contributed to the staging of this production.

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


Suzan Wilson
President



Programme

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

Directed by Krista Jaquet

A Streetcar Named Desire was written in 1947 by Tennessee Williams. The play received the Pulitzer Prize in 1948. The story of gentility versus brutishness and sexuality, putting love and loyalty to the test, is one that has thrilled audiences worldwide for the last sixty years.

Blanche DuBois is a fading, but still-attractive, Southern belle with pretensions to virtue and culture, thinly masked is her alcoholism. She arrives at the New Orleans apartment of her sister Stella and brother-in-law Stanley Kowalski on the streetcar named "Desire". Blanche's arrival brings disruption to her sister's household. Stella's concern for her sister's well-being infuriates Stanley leading to conflict between the two of them. Stanley's bachelor friend Mitch is highly attracted to Blanche and inevitably becomes embroiled in the conflict. Stanley discovers Blanche's past and he confronts her with the things she has been trying to put behind her. His attempts to "unmask" her are both cruel and violent. The consequences are as inevitable as they are horrific.

Cast in Order of Appearance

Jamie Sievert	Pianist
Susan Aeschbach-Jagger	Negro Woman
Zuzana Cox	Eunice
Frédéric Anklin	Stanley
David Cox	Mitch
Stephanie Nemeth-Parker	Stella
Nina Meier - Bradlin	Blanche
Jacob Dixon	Steve
Pablo Wunsch Blanco	Pablo
Felix Moser-Boehm	Young Collector
Anabel Rodriguez-Velasco	Mexican Woman
Christine Gould	Prostitute
Norman Koeth	Doctor
Yasmine Fernandez	Nurse
Understudies: Stephanie Feddern, Suzan Wilson, John Hyland & Michael Clarke.	

Scenes

Scene 1	An evening in early May .
Scene 2	The following evening.
Scene 3	The Poker Night

I Interval of 15 minutes with bar service

Scene 4	The following morning.
Scene 5	Later in the day.
Scene 6	Two o'clock next morning.

II Interval of 15 minutes with bar service

Scene 7	Late afternoon in mid-September.
Scene 8	Later that afternoon.
Scene 9	Same evening.
Scene 10	Later that night.
Scene 11	Some weeks after.



Tennessee Williams
1911 – 1983

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Cast - in order of appearance



Jamie Sievert

Jamie directed and acted in numerous Semi-Circle productions. He is also a writer; his play "Guts" was staged in Basel and Brussels in 2002, "Homecoming" in Basel in 2005. His short story "The Man Who Would Sing" was a finalist in the Carve Magazine Raymond Carver Short Story Contest in 2007. His play "The Hope and Heartbreak of the Day Trader" was performed at the Pittsburgh New Works Festival in September, 2008. For "A Streetcar Named Desire" he composes and plays the musical score.

Susan Aeschbach-Jagger is Vice President of Semi-Circle for which she has acted as Hetty Pimble in "As Good As New", Hilda in "Shop for Charity" and May in "Time Flies". She directed "Fear of Heaven" and been assistant director of "Arms and the Man". She was also production manager for Basel Panto Group's "Frankenstein – the Panto" last year, previous to which she has acted in each panto from 2000-2006.

Susan Aeschbach-Jagger



Zuzana Cox

Zuzana's stage experiences have been diverse and varied. Her first role was that of the Virgin Mary in her school nativity play but she has typically been cast as the elegant, career minded, bossy "power frau", including Mary in "Memory of Water" and Coral Brown in "An Englishman Abroad". Last she was seen on stage as Sonia in 'Expert in Flowers'. This is why she so relishes the role of Eunice – white trash, warts and all.

Half Swiss, half Norwegian, Frederic started doing English theater as a student in Basel, mostly with the Gay Beggars theater group. He has played Soranzo in "Tis Pity She's a Whore", the king of England in "Henry V", Algernon Moncrieff in "The Importance of Being Earnest" and a lecherous critic in "The Real Inspector Hound". His latest and first stint with the Semi-Circle saw him being dumped by his girlfriend at her "Homecoming".

Frédéric Anklin

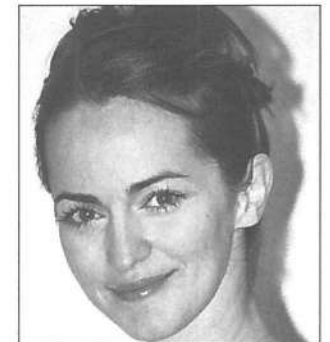


David Cox

A familiar face from many past Semi-Circle productions - favourite roles including Jeff in "Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell", Sganarelle in "The Doctor in Spite of Himself", Leonard in "Rumours", and most recently as the rugged war reporter Pascal in "Expert in Flowers", David now looks forward to appearing on stage as Mitch. In contrast to all of his previous roles, mainly in Shakespearean, classic and modern comedy plays, David's "beard-free" portrayal of "Mitch" may present a somewhat different face to tonight's audience!

Stephanie Nemeth Parker graduated with a degree in Theater from the University of Georgia and shortly thereafter moved to Los Angeles where she had the great opportunity to study and act with Sir Anthony Hopkins. Stephanie has been in several plays, both in Los Angeles and here, has done independent films, and can currently be heard on The English Show, on Radio X.

Stephanie Nemeth- Parker





Nina Meier-Bradlin

Nina Meier-Bradlin is from Detroit. She studied acting at Cranbrook Theatre School and at the University of Michigan. Her roles with the Semi-Circle include: Varinka in "The Man in a Case", Alice in "You Can't Take it With You" and Desdemona in "Will Power". She recently appeared with Upstart Entertainment as Gloria in the rock and roll musical "Return to the Forbidden Planet" and she directed and acted in "Stuck" last year. Nina is also the voice of the Basel Personenschiffahrt's recorded Rhine River tour.

Jacob Dixon, while in the States, performed in various types of productions. He has hosted and produced a radio show, "Metal Casserole" and performed, produced and edited an audio movie "The Comedian". When he moved to Switzerland he landed The English Show on 94.5 Radio X in Basel. He has also made stand up comedy appearances and was special guest ring announcer for Swiss Championship Wrestling. He played the lead role as Todd for Semi Circle's production of "The Author's Voice".

Jacob Dixon



Pablo Wunsch Blanco

The spanish born photographer grabs deep in his mexican roots to honor the maternal side of his family and play what else? a mexican guy named Pablo. This will be his first appearance with the Semi-Circle and the second of his short theatre career after a small roll in 2006 Gay Beggars' production "The Difficult Man". Pablo has been living in Basel since 1998.

Felix Moser-Boehm was born in Innsbruck, Austria. Shortly after he moved to Ottawa, Canada where he lived for five years, before moving to Basel at the age of six. He attends to the International School of Basel where he has participated in several school plays. His role in the "A Streetcar Named Desire" production is the first time he has been part of a theatre production outside of school.

Felix Moser-Boehm



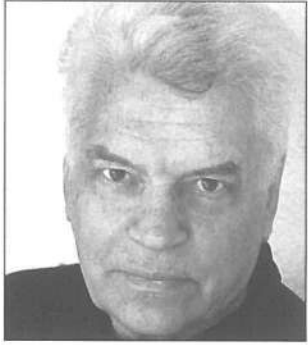
Anabel Rodriguez-Velasco

There is always a first time for everything in life...this my first one in acting...or maybe not? Are we totally sure that life is not just a continuous stage? Is it me? Is it really me the one who wakes up everyday and has the capability of smiling and say Hello? Philosophy apart, I feel so good for sharing this experience with you all, that I really want to play it again. "Tócala de Nuevo Sam"!

Christine Gould, from Florida, USA, has acted and danced from a young age. She has appeared in community theatre productions in Illinois, Florida, and Washington, DC, and has taught hip hop and jazz dance classes for children. She attended Columbia University in New York City, where she studied another type of "theatre"- politics. Having recently relocated to Basel after spending six years in Brussels, Belgium, this is her first production with the Semi-Circle.

Christine Gould





Norman Koeth

Norman Koeth, a native New Yorker, majored in Theatre, later studying acting with Tamara Daykhanova, a pupil of Stanislavsky's. His acting credits cover an enormous range of parts, from God, the Father Himself to the Devil, to Henry Higgins in "Pygmalion" and Guy Burgess in "An Englishman Abroad", for which he was nominated as Best Actor at FEATS in Geneva. He has also appeared in documentaries and films.

Yasmine Fernandez was born in Bielefeld, Germany. Over the years she has played in several theater productions, workshops and projects. Her most memorable roles include Rosa Berardi in "Trumpets and Raspberries" by Dario Fo, Julia in "Romulus the Great" by Friedrich Dürrenmatt, Widow Begbick in "Man Equals Man" by Bertolt Brecht and Judith Keith in "The Private Life of the Master Race" by Bertolt Brecht. She also studied acting with Hellmuth Westhausser and Jean Randich.

Yasmine Fernandez



The Helmut Förbacher Theater Company

The Helmut Förbacher Theater Company is one of the oldest independent theater companies in Switzerland. It was founded in 1980 by director and actor Helmut Förbacher and his actress wife, Kristina Nel. Their opening play "Jedermann" of Hofmannsthal was performed in the Elisabethenkirche in Basel. Today, The Helmut Förbacher Theater Company is one of the most popular independent theatres in the Basel region with a faithful and supportive audience. Over the years the Helmut Förbacher Theater Company has performed more than a hundred highly rated productions with an established team of professional actors. Originally the company performed in various venues in Basel. 11 years ago they finally established their 'own home'. Situated right in the heart of Basel in the old passenger hall of the 'Badische Bahnhof', this location is used for a versatile and intensive program of more than 10 productions each year.

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Directors and production management

DIRECTOR

Krista has been involved in numerous theatrical and film productions in Helsinki, Los Angeles and now with the Semi-Circle in Basel. In addition to marketing Swiss high tech products internationally she has directed 2 plays for the Semi-Circle and has assisted several productions in direction, lighting, video and sound designs. Her play "Expert in Flowers", which she wrote in 2007, was Highly Commended by National Drama Festivals Association's One Act Play Writing Competition. "Thank you, Streetcar's dream team. Ah, I got magic!"

Krista Jaquet



Michael Clarke

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Michael Clarke comes from England. He began his career in the pharmaceutical industry and at the age of 27 moved to France and later to Switzerland. Four years ago he retired from permanent employment leaving him much more time to follow his passion for the theatre. Over the past 14 years he has acted in 18 plays, pantomimes and short films – including 2 entries into the international theatre festival FEATS, winning the prestigious Best Actors Award. He has also directed 7 plays and pantomimes.

PRODUCTION MANAGER

Chris Morrison originates from the West of England and emigrated to Switzerland to work in the pharmaceutical industry. Shortly after moving to Basel, he was persuaded to join the Semi-Circle and made his stage debut the same year as vague Ted in "A Chorus of Disapproval". Subsequent appearances as Bristolian Bill in Jimmy Chin's 'Straight and Narrow', the weirdo in "A Talk in the Park", as a singing Mr Bumble in "Oliver!" and most recently as Schipuchin in Chekov's "The Celebration".

Christopher Morrison



Conny Heim

PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Conny Heim was born in a small village in the Bavarian Alps. At Freiburg University she discovered her love of the theatre and directed, designed and produced many plays for the English Seminar Drama Group. After 4 years with the Düsseldorf Kammerspiele, she worked as a director, assistant director and stage manager in Vienna and Erfurt. Since then she has married a professional actor, travelled three times around the world and is now working for the cruise ship industry based in Basel.

STAGE DESIGNER

Dragana Blaser-Dorontic was born in old Sarajevo, and raised amidst an inspiring mix of oriental and western cultures. Having obtained a degree in architecture in Yugoslavia, she moved to the UK and pursued further studies in design, specialized on Retail Design. For 15 years she was based in London and designed over 100 retail outlets. Since 2001, Dragana has lived in Basel with her daughter and Swiss husband. She works as a relocation specialist and is happy to accept private commissions as an Interior Design Consultant.

Dragana Blaser-Dorontic



Stephanie Feddern

LIGHTING

Stephanie's theater experience includes productions in Basel, Vancouver and Berlin. She loves acting and singing and enjoys performing in English as much as in German. This is her first experience in lighting design, and she looks forward to further developing her skills in technical theater in the future.

Jamie Sievert

Stephanie Nementh - Parker

Susan Aeschbach - Jagger

MUSICAL DIRECTOR, see bio on page 6.

COSTUMER DESIGNER, see bio on page 8.

SCRIPT SUPERVISOR, see bio on page 6.

Production team

Director	Krista Jaquet
Assistant director	Michael Clarke
Production manager	Christopher Morrison
Musical director	Jamie Sievert
Production design	Conny Heim, Dragana Blaser
Stage design & production	Dragana Blaser, Robi Pipoz, Carol Rees, Mark Bowen, Gabriel English, Oliver Aeschbach, Tony O'Sullivan, Conny Heim, Christopher Morrison
Props	
Costume design & production	Stephanie Nemeth-Parker, Angela Robinson, Suzan Wilson, Nina Meier-Bradlin
Lighting design	Michael Wolf, Krista Jaquet, Stephanie Feddern
Stage manager	Michael Clarke
Sound design	Collette O'Neill, Michael Clarke
Graphic design	Jetti Myllö, Conny Heim
Script supervisors	Susan Aeschbach-Jagger, Christine Comerci
Prompter	Christine Comerci
Program	Krista Jaquet, Zuzana & David Cox
Publicity	Michael Clarke
Ticketing	Suzan Wilson
Box office	Penny Rettig
Sponsor relations	Christopher Morrison, Suzan Wilson, Krista Jaquet, Christine Gould, Tony O'Sullivan
Production assistant	Maiju Airisniemi
Make-up and hair	Helen Baldemero, Carol Rees, Liliane Carando
Fight director	John Hyland
Smoking coach	Pablo Wunsch Blanco
Ushers	Sebastian Baldemero, Judy Martin
Backstage & set up	Matt Breckenridge, Michael Clarke, Tony O'Sullivan, Flavio de Rosa, Jakub Sovina, Oliver Aeschbach, Natacha Berthelon, Anna Sebestyen, Steve Martin, Christine Comerci, Susan Aeschbach-Jagger
Photography	Pablo Wunsch Blanco, Ute Kessel
Video production	Aidan Bell
Printing	www.wbz.ch

Special thanks to JAQUET Technology Group for rehearsal accommodation and transportation assistance.

Join us!

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 ring Suzan Wilson (the president of the Semi-Circle) - +41 -(0)78 710 1226, or fill in the card in this programme or visit our website www.semi-circle.ch.

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