



DOWN & OUT

The Semi-Circle presents four One-Act Plays

Schönes Haus, Nadelberg 6, Basel
on May 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 30 & 31, 2008 at 19.30

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WELCOME

The Semi-Circle is an amateur theatre group which started over thirty years ago to bring theatre in the English language to the Basel stage. As with most groups, we started with a small group of enthusiasts who had a passion – in this case theatre.


Over the years we have managed to present at least two productions a year – an evening of short plays and a full-length production, as well as participating in local and international festivals. These festivals provide an opportunity for our club members to gain valuable experience and improve their acting skills.

This year we will again take part in FEATS, a Europe-wide amateur drama festival, which will be held this year in Stockholm. With the play 'The Cavern', directed by Diana Zuger, one of our founder members, we hope to follow in the footsteps of some of our previously successful groups and bring home some awards.

FEST (Festival of English Theatre in Switzerland) has been resurrected and will take place in Cham in June. Seven English-speaking theatre groups around Switzerland have organised this year's festival and the Semi-Circle will be presenting 'The Author's Voice', directed by Jamie Sievert.

By coming along to our evening of plays tonight, you the audience are helping provide both moral and financial support for our club. Without this support we would not be able to continue putting on productions or to send our groups to these festivals.

We extend a warm welcome to you, thank you for your support and hope you enjoy the evening.


Suzan Wilson
President



PROGRAMME

Rabbit

by David Foxton
Directed by Angela Robinson

A thought-provoking play about a group of teenagers left to grow up without adults "after the bomb". What do they remember of life "before"? Will their society reflect that of their parents?

CAST in Order of Appearance

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|--------------------|
| Tark | Cecilia Mihaljek | Lob | Cat Thomas |
| Sin | Daniel Billingham | Gray | Shannon O'Hara |
| Tib | Rachel McMurray | Ock | Georgie Crawley |
| Vid | Sydney Muckett | Ree | Laura Billingham |
| San | Abi Crawley | Mig | Marit Schep |
| Tran | Charis Billingham | Kron | Sebastian Gebhardi |
| Fash | Owain Wadham | | |

The Author's Voice

By Richard Greenberg
Directed by Jamie Sievert

Smitten with her latest protégé, the handsome young writer named Todd, the pretty editor Portia accompanies Todd back to his New York apartment to see from whence his inspiration springs. Though captivated by the writer's good looks and low-key manner, she begins to wonder at the banality of his conversation. The only time he isn't boring is when he is quoting poetic passages from his novel in progress. In fact, Todd is not the real author of this novel. The author is -- a surprise!

Cast in Order of Appearance

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Portia | Marieluise Maiwald |
| Todd | Jacob Dixon |
| Gene | Marcel Halid |

Interval of 20 minutes with bar service

The Cavern

by Dilys Gates
Directed by Diana Zuger

In an underground cavern a modern woman, Anne, meets the mysterious figure of Jennet who claims she died as a witch. But what is the real secret of the cavern? When light meets dark, good and evil come face to face, will one woman's faith and courage be enough to save her from another's ancient retribution?

Cast in Order of Appearance

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Anne | Deirdre Hertog |
| Jennet | Stephanie Nemeth-Parker |

As Good As New

by David Perry
Directed by Peter Hilton

A comedy set in a London basement flat where time is regulated by the trains passing nearby. Mr. & Mrs. Pimble's daughter, June, has met a new young man called Sid and he may be her last chance at marriage before being left on the shelf. Her unfortunate experiences with pets (they all seem to die with unceasing regularity) fulfil her Grandfather's hobby of taxidermy. When we discover that Sid is not as healthy as he might be is the outcome inevitable? Will Grandma be able to eat all of the sherry trifle before Sid arrives? Will June actually make it to the altar this time?

Cast in Order of Appearance

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| Mrs Pimble | Susan Aeschbach |
| Mrs Flower | Susan Stafford |
| Mr Pimble | Peter Hilton |
| June | Natacha Bertelon |
| Sid | Scott Holland |

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RABBIT



Angela Robinson

DIRECTOR, 57, English
Angela went to school in Nottingham and to Universities in Bradford and Cardiff. She likes making jam, directing pantomimes, genealogy, going to flea markets and playing Scrabble. Her two worst experiences were: a 40m cave dive in Zimbabwe; and a very bumpy landing in a storm at Basel airport. Her best experiences.... hmmm, there have been so many!

14, Croatian-American

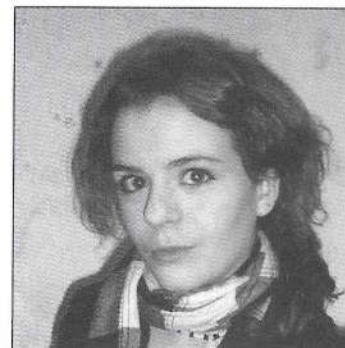
Cecilia is at ISB, speaks English, Croatian and German. Her interests include snowboarding, punk and alternative music, cooking and eating, acting, modern art and architecture. The best experience in her life so far was going to Jerry's Records in Pittsburgh - a cold, smelly, record store hidden from most of the world. She hopes one day to be a professional snowboarder. She fears: THE BIG BUNNY, turtlenecks, mushrooms, eggplants, snakes and several of her teachers.

Cecilia Mihaljek



Daniel Billingham

16, English/Vietnamese/Chinese
A student at the Gymnasium Muttentz, Daniel speaks English, German, French and Swiss German. He likes piano, maths, basketball and loves skiing in fog when you can hardly see the end of your skis. He hopes never having to fear anything!



Rachel McMurray

16, English/Irish/American
A student at ISB, Rachel speaks English, German and some Spanish, and she loves performing, music, friends and parties! She enjoys every life experience and swinging from bridges. She hopes one day to perform on Broadway or in the West End, but is suspicious that playing odd characters seems to suit her.

13, English

Sydney goes to Minerva school in Basel and speaks English and German. She likes theatre, music, sports and drawing and has a passion for the arts. Sydney hopes to become an architect.

Sydney Muckett



Abi Crawley

16, English
Attends the Don Bosco School in Landser, France and speaks English, French and German. Abi likes skiing, music, shopping and cooking, she is a qualified first-aider and rides a scooter. She loved going to a Queen concert and is afraid of sharks and avalanches.

12, English/Vietnamese/Chinese

She attends Spiegelfeld Secondary School, speaks English, German, French and Swiss German. She likes writing, television, computer games, eating and being generally pretty. Her best experience in life so far was being born. Charis hopes to become a published author and fears nothing. She talks to her hamster (as though he understands!)

Charis Billingham



RABBIT cont'd

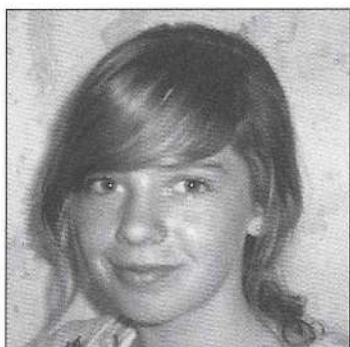


Owain Wadham

11, British
Owain is at ISB, he speaks English and Welsh. He is afraid of heights. His interests include aeroplanes, swimming, snowboarding, scouting and he thinks the world should start giving money to the poor.

16, English (including 1/4 Welsh, 1/4 Polish)
Cat is at ISB, she loves ballet, acting, singing, shopping, laughing! She hopes to go to Drama School in England, but fears that she'll mess up the auditions and get turned down! She's left-handed, she recently had a major role in ISB's production of High School Musical and her great grandmother was a famous ballerina in Poland!

Cat Thomas



Shannon O'Hara

13, English
She goes to the International School of Basel and loves singing, dancing and acting. Shannon would really like to be an actress and has just seen "West Side Story" in Zurich and "Lord of the Rings" in London. As well as being in various school productions, she's been involved in the last 2 Basel pantos, Pied Piper and Frankenstein. She is deadly afraid of spiders and sharks, but loves her pet golden retriever.



Georgie Crawley

16, English
Attends the Don Bosco School in Landser, France and speaks English, French and German. She likes music, piano, rugby and art, but is scared of the dark. Best experience in life so far was going to Guadeloupe. Probably the worst was getting a fish bone stuck in her throat.

10, English/Vietnamese/Chinese
Laura goes to Spiegelfeld Primary School and speaks English, German and Lauragerman. She likes music (singing, dancing, piano), feeding animals and generally annoying older siblings. (I wonder who wrote this?!) Her worst fear is of falling off a cliff, but hopes she never will. She is ticklish absolutely everywhere.

Laura Billingham

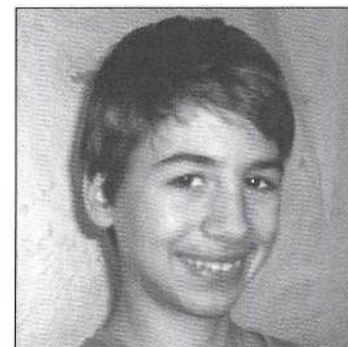


Marit Schep

17, Dutch
Another ISB pupil, who speaks Dutch, English and German. She likes Drama (of course), Volleyball, Animals. She thinks - Life is an experience and so far her experiences are all the best! She hates squashed bugs! Marit is a bit of a party animal - she's the first one on the dance floor and the last one off it!

15, Swiss/Canadian/Italian
He attends Sekondarschule Lärchen Münchenstein and speaks English, German, Swiss German, French and a little Italian. Sporty Sebi loves snowboarding and acting. He is a bit of a joker, but also creative. His dream is to become a secret agent - or a film star!

Sebastian Gebhardi

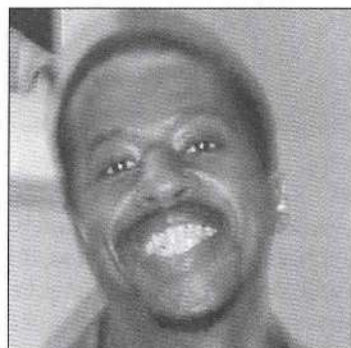
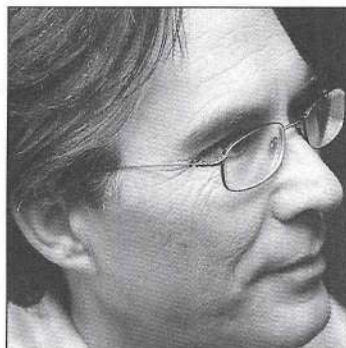


THE AUTHOR'S VOICE

DIRECTOR

Back in the director's chair again! The turnout for the auditions for this year's spring production was huge. So many great actors, so many difficult choices for the director. It was like going to your favourite wine shop – and you love them all! Let's see, shall I start with a Sancerre, follow it up with a Grand Cru Pinot Noir, and then knock all back with a Möet champagne . . .

Jamie Sievert



Jacob Dixon

It all started in 1994 in Long Island, New York. Jacob Dixon grabbed his drum machine, microphone, bass and electric guitar and immediately started making songs about total nonsense with the intent of annoying everybody to tears. After receiving numerous death threats from mainstream music fans he moved to Switzerland with his wife...

Soon thereafter, Mr. Dixon ventured into the radio drama world by creating skits in a vain attempt to bring Radio Theater back to the forefront where it belongs. His creations include: Fistful of Sandwiches, World Pieces and Dial "W" For Whatever. Mr. Dixon's romantic nights out include: walks in the park, dinner by candlelight and professional wrestling.



Marieluise Maiwald

After having played a witch, a neurotic bird and Dracula's grandmother, I was thrilled, when Jamie offered me the part of Portia in The Author's Voice. "Finally a decent-looking part I thought to myself!" Upon receiving the script, however, my excitement turned into bewilderment, when I read the stage direction half-way down page 195: "She turns, laughs in his face and in one elegant but blindingly quick motion, whips her dress off over her head." Well, - this is where the creative interpretation of the director comes into play. Enjoy the show..

Marcel is a new member of Semi-Circle. This is his first acting role after a very long time. He is Swiss with a mixed European background and has regularly travelled and lived abroad. The last 10 years he has been working in inter/national marketing, focusing more on his business than artistic skills. Marcel always thought about writing a book and strengthening his "author's voice" - this has yet to happen. He lives near Basel in a proper flat, neither in a wardrobe nor in Paddies as some rumours have it.

Marcel Halid



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THE CAVERN

DIRECTOR

After directing a few one-act comedies I decided to try something new! The author Dilys Gater is herself a practising psychic and medium for over ten years. She has written many books to guide us through the realms where realities blur and anything can happen.

Diana Zuger

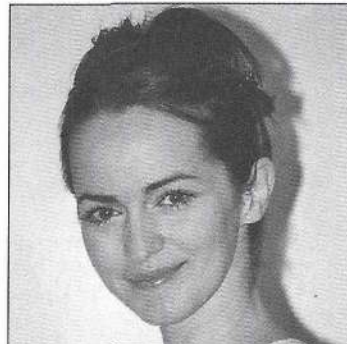


Deirdre Hertog

Deirdre was born in Amsterdam, attended drama school in London, got married in Switzerland, and returned after some years in southern France back to Basel. Her double performance last year allowed her to play both a dead and an alive person on the same evening. This year she went one step further and plays a person that is either dead or alive...who knows? Come and find out...

Having come from a long line of Drama Queens, Stephanie is the first to actually grace the stage. She studied Meisner in Los Angeles, and hopes it hasn't been too long ago now. She is also one of the voices of the Culture Calendar on The English Show. Stephanie has three boys (okay really two, the third is almost 34, but still...), and would like to thank them all for their support and infinite wisdom, especially the oldest one who makes her so happy she walked into Jones that night.

Stephanie Nemeth

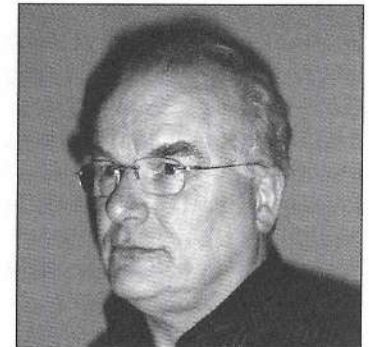


AS GOOD AS NEW

DIRECTOR

I directed and acted in a number of the Semi-Circle plays. This time I am doing both. My last role was a Yorkshire Father. Yet again I am playing a Father – I think typecasting is now becoming a serious possibility! I enjoy both sides of the stage and find directing as rewarding as acting. If you are considering directing a play then please give it a try. If you want to find a play to direct, come to a Semi-Circle play reading.

Peter Hilton



Richard Brown

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

Having spent four years in Basel, Richard returned to the stage last Christmas as the Dame in the Panto. This follows on from a range of roles in plays by Horne, Ibsen, Checkov, Brecht and Shakespeare in the various places that his career has taken him including; Newcastle, Suffolk, London, Berkshire, Delaware and San Francisco. When not trying to earn a living, Richard sings, plays guitar and bass in local bars and teaches meditation.

After being production manager for "Frankenstein the Panto", Susan is relieved that she only has to worry about remembering her lines in this production. Last seen on stage for Semi-Circle as Hilda in "Shop for Charity," she worries that she might become typecast as a bossy woman. Unlike her character in this play, Susan likes to believe that there is a chance of romance AFTER 35 and is still trying to decide what to do with her life when she grows up!

Susan Aeschbach



AS GOOD AS NEW cont'd

Was born and grew up in Gerrards Cross and still feels homesick. She joined the Semi-Circle twenty years ago, has been on stage, back stage, production manager, committee member, and has never regretted it. She loves being part of a team working on a play, and thinks it's great fun to act the role of a grandmother of seventy-nine who's "losing her marbles", as we say.

Susan Stafford



Natacha Bertelon

Peter called me end of March to ask me if I could play June in May. So I said, "Thank you Peter, it could not be a better timing". Before "June", I was Natasha Fiodorovna Merchutkin - my first challenge on stage. Besides having fun with the Semi-Circle, I work for a chemical company in Basel, I enjoy being with my friends and family as well as learning Qi Gong and Tai Chi.

Scott Holland is an American who relocated from Boston, Massachusetts to Switzerland in 2006. He loves Switzerland and all that comes with it. He is excited to be doing his first one-act with the Semi-Circle and honored to share the stage and the pub tab with Susan, Richard, Sue and Cristie. Cheers to Herr Hilton for having the courage to cast a yank again and thanks to Tim for all his support.

Scott Holland



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Kind permission to produce these plays was given by:

Samuel French Ltd. (Rabbit, The Author's Voice)
English Theatre Guild (As Good As New)
Dilys Gater (The Cavern)

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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Anita Erichsen, M. A.
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