





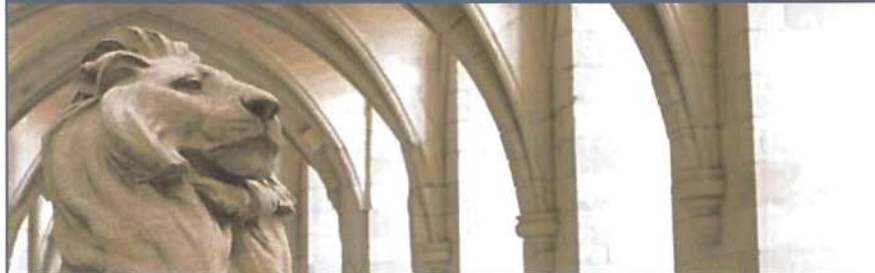
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Bouncers



& Shakers

Two Comedies by John Godber and Jane Thornton



October 20-21 &
November 3-4 at 19:30
& November 8 at 18:30

Helmut Fölnbacher Theater

WELCOME

The Semi-Circle is an amateur theatre group which has brought theatre in the English language to the Basel stage for many years. As with most groups, we started with a small group of enthusiasts who had a common passion - in this case theatre. Since then The Semi-Circle has matured and developed into an English language institution in the Basel area.

Over the years we have presented 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. At these festivals we have done very well, bringing back various prizes for acting and production.

We thank you for coming to our evening of plays tonight, as you, the audience, are helping provide both moral and financial support for our club. Without this support we would not be able to continue to realise our productions or to offer subsidised workshops and training courses for our members.

We would like to thank Helmut Förbacher for allowing us to use his wonderful theatre, and we extend a warm welcome to all of you and hope you enjoy the evening.

Suzan Wilson-Stadek
President



PROGRAMME

BOUNCERS AND SHAKERS

By John Godber and Jane Thornton

Directed by Michael Clarke

Assistant Director: Eric Collino

SHAKERS

Adele: Fliss Wright
Carol: Eva Mann
Mel: Jasmin Kossenjans
Nicki: Vinka Arellano

Interval of 20 minutes with bar service

BOUNCERS

Lucky Eric: Richard Brown
Judd: Steve Martin
Ralph: David Cox
Les: Jacob Dixon

It's Friday night and time to hit the town - starting out at a posh cocktail bar and finishing up at the local disco. Every town has its "Shakers" - that oh-so trendy cocktail bar where everyone wants to see and to be seen: from the supermarket checkout girls to yuppies to the local lads tittering about "Sex on the Beach". We start with a glimpse of the world of the long suffering waitresses and discover the reality that lurks behind the plastic palms and Pina Coladas. Then we move on to the disco with its bouncers, giggly girls, lads on the make, smooth talking DJ and many more, where the flashing lights and the pulsating beat meet with seedy, tatty reality.

Some months ago, Susanne Thommen (The Semi-Circle committee) lent me a slightly worn out copy of a book of play scripts to read. As it happens, I read quite a lot of play scripts and had no particular expectations. Revelation: I found I was reading one of the funniest scripts I had come across in a long while: "Bouncers & Shakers" by John Godber and Jane Thornton!

Of course, I had heard of John Godber, but I had to admit that I was unfamiliar with his work. So like all good internauts, I went to Google to find out more. There, I found the following Wikipedia entry (excerpts):

"John Harry Godber (born 18 May 1956 in West Yorkshire) is an English dramatist, known mainly for his innovative theatre and observational comedies with an edge. In a government policy document of several years ago he was calculated as the third most performed playwright in the UK narrowly behind Shakespeare and Ayckbourn. He became artistic director of Hull Truck Theatre Company in 1984. In 2005 won 2 BAFTA'S for a film he wrote and directed. His plays are performed across the world - "Bouncers" being the most popular. John Godber is married to Jane Thornton."

Luckily for me, The Semi-Circle had not yet chosen a play to put on for its Autumn Production. I proposed "Bouncers & Shakers" and the play was quickly approved by the committee. I asked Susanne Thommen if she would also like to be involved in the production, but it turned out that she was very heavily involved in her own small production (3.2 kg - and growing fast).

We hope you have as much fun watching "Bouncers and Shakers" as we did producing it for you.

Michael Clarke
Director

This amateur production is presented
by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Limited

Vinka Arellano - Nicki



Vinka, a Norwegian Chilean, was 5 years old when she fell in love with the theatre and its magical world, as a Tree in a haunted forest. She has since then played in different free theatre groups touring in Norway. Love brought her to Switzerland and she has for the past five years been a member of The English Drama Group of The University of Zurich. This is her second role as a member of The Semi-Circle.

Jasmin Kossenjans - Mel



A gym fanatic who is madly juggling a PhD with a full time job, Jasmin may seem a bit "unsettled". Then again, being born in Hong Kong to German and Persian parents; and having lived in Hong Kong, Germany, Singapore, Australia and Switzerland.... it is no wonder that she may seem slightly schizophrenic. Or, she is just "finding herself". An amateur thespian, who regards life as a stage, Jasmin has finally decided to call Basel home. And finally stop buying new furniture.

Eva Mann - Carol

Eva still wonders how she got a job in a Cocktail Bar whilst being a self-confessed teetotaler - all states of intoxication are usually purely theatre-induced.

Eva joined The Semi-Circle two years ago as Julie Ann in "Roleplay". Other English language roles in Basel include Polly Peachum in "The Beggars Opera" and Beatrice in "Much Ado About Nothing". Recently, she also acquired a taste for directing while staging Arthur Miller's "Resurrection Blues" with The Gay Beggars.



Fliss Wright - Adele

Fliss started acting at an early age in local pantomime and school productions, and theatre has continued to be an important part of her life ever since. She has appeared in university and college productions (including a fantastic summer at Edinburgh Festival Fringe!), and worked in the theatre industry in the UK for several years. Since moving to Basel in March 2008, Fliss has played Flash Charming in "Cinderella - Lost in Space" with Basel's English Panto and appeared in The Semi-Circle's Spring Production earlier this year. She is excited to be part of the Bouncers & Shakers team and to face the challenge of remembering who she's meant to be and where she's meant to be from throughout the play!



Richard Brown - Eric



As a student in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Richard sometimes worked as a bouncer at discos and also enjoyed watching the Hull Truck Theatre Company when they were in town. This is a great opportunity for him to play Lucky Eric, the wise old owl of the bouncers, in Hull Truck's most famous piece; drawing on years of diligent research in the pubs and clubs of the North of England. In addition to the powerful Eric, there's a big lass called Maureen, a buxom Swedish porno actress and Baz, a big lad; is he being type-cast here? He has lived in Basel for 6 years and has recently appeared as Max Fischy in "Outsourced", Captain Jean-Luc Trihard in "Cinderella Lost in Space" and Miss Nelly, the damie in "Frankenstein the Panto". When not involved in drama he enjoys playing guitar and bass, singing and meditation. Richard comes from Norfolk (UK) and

has three beautiful daughters who live in Palo Alto, Oakland and Sonoma in California. "Yes, all human life is inevitably here in a midnight circus and I must make it clear that the beer is pricy, the music pulsating, the atmosphere is intoxicating!"

Jacob Dixon - Les



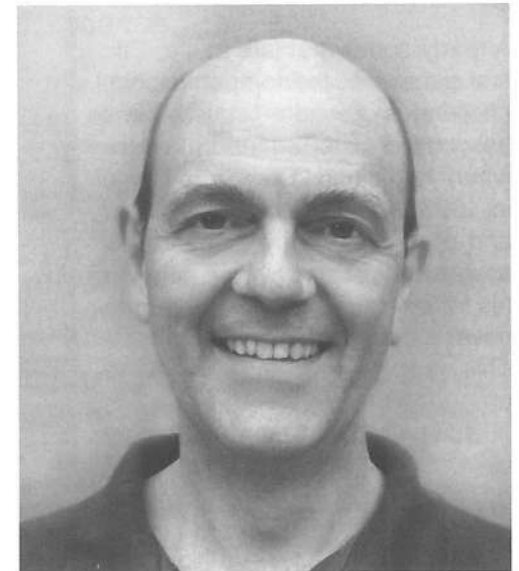
New Yorker turned Basel expat Jacob Dixon has performed in three Semi Circle productions so far and he hopes that his fourth performance lives up to his previous ones. His acting in "Surprise", "The Authors Voice" and "A Streetcar Named Desire" has wowed audiences to the point of hysteria. International entertainment critics have heaped praise upon Jacob, referring to him as "a cross between Denzel Washington and Sir Ian McKellen". A shy kid during school, Jacob has overcome his fear of the public in a big way through punk bands, radio shows, professional wrestling and acting. In his spare time, Jacob loves running, cooking and checking to make sure that every hair is in place. Enjoy the show!

David Cox - Ralph



.... and Jerry, Suzy, a DJ, Jock, Ashley the Punk and even Nobby - a Swedish Postman!! David has appeared on many Semi-Circle stages over the years, most recently as Mitch in "A Streetcar Named Desire". Swapping New Orleans for the setting of a northern English nightclub, David's authentic roots are called upon as the basis for the roles he plays in tonight's performance of "Bouncers": "I was never really much into punk or the Swedish Postal service when I were a lad, but evocative memories of clubs in Manchester and Newcastle in the 70's and 80's helped to form (some of) the characters you'll see tonight! A Friday-night world of Placemates, Pips, Tuxedo Junctions and Wigan all-nighter's ... filled with Soft Cell, Frankie goes to Hollywood and Dexy's Midnight Runners" ... and the real world? ... Oh yes, that's the Basel Pharma industry ... and he'll be back in it tomorrow morning ...

Steve Martin - Judd



Steve has had a long love affair with the theatre. He is happy to have indulged his fantasies in several countries before coming to Switzerland five years ago. This is Steve's second stage appearance with The Semi-Circle, having being confined back-stage for the last two years. The bouncer Judd is an intellectually-challenged ex-con with a penchant for violence, a bit like Steve's previous role as Micky in "Roleplay". Not type-cast surely? Steve also plays the dim-witted and plain Elaine, not a million light years away from his ugly sister role in last year's BEPG panto, "Cinderella - Lost in Space".

Director

Michael Clarke



Michael has been active in The Semi-Circle for about 15 years now and probably qualifies for the appellation "Old Hand". Despite that, every new theatre project comes afresh as a voyage of discovery with new authors, new ideas, new insights and - above all - new friends.

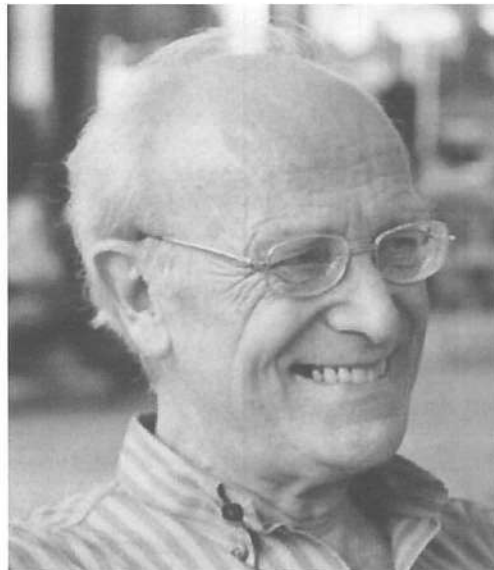
Each time he has directed a play, Michael has been humbled by the creativity, enthusiasm and commitment of the actors and production team members he has been privileged to work with. Bouncers and Shakers has certainly been no exception, for which he expresses his gratitude.

Assistant Director

Eric Collino

Already somewhat late in life, Eric first discovered the companionship, challenges and satisfactions associated with amateur theatre when he joined The Semi-Circle in 1993. Acting, backstage helper and a smidgeon of experience as assistant director have all fallen to his lot over the past 17 years with never a dull moment.

This year, even later in life, he is proud to work once more alongside Michael Clarke, one of our very experienced directors, and eight of our highly talented actresses and actors.



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PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Sue Stafford
Director	Michael Clarke
Assistant Director	Eric Collino
Stage Manager	Susan Aeschbach-Jagger
Set Design	Dragana Blaser
Set Construction	Robi Pipoz
Lighting Design	Krista Jaquet
Sound Design	Michael Clarke, Jacob Dixon
Actor Coach	Nina Meier-Bradlin
Publicity and Advertising	Michael Clarke, Tony O'Sullivan
Ticket Sales Coordinator	Suzan Wilson
Box Office	Penny Rettig, Suzan Wilson
Make-up	Carol Rees, Deirdre Hertog-Buurman
Prompter	Eric Collino
Stage Crew	Oliver Aeschbach, Chris Morrison, Tony O'Sullivan
Graphic Design and Programme	Conny Heim
Printing	Graphic services, WBZ, Reinach



Helmut Förbacher Theater

The Helmut Förbacher Theater Company is one of the oldest independent theatre 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 they have performed more than a hundred highly rated productions with an established team of professional actors. Originally the company performed in various venues in Basel before they finally established their own home in the former customs hall of Basel's German railway station, Badischer Bahnhof, 11 years ago. Situated right in the heart of the city, this location is used for a versatile and intensive programme of more than ten productions each year. These range from modern and new plays to "old favourites", popular comedies and tragedies, musicals, children's plays and operas. Guest companies, such as The Semi-Circle, are also given an opportunity to perform in this wonderful place.



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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 directors. Of course, other than those you see on stage, there are many more less visible team members who help plan, organise and support 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 visit our website:

www.semi-circle.ch



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Save the Date!
The Semi-Circle's Spring Production:

"Quartet"

by Ronald Harwood

at the Baseldytschi Bihni

on February 11th, 12th, 13th,

18th, 19th and 20th 2010