

# Hidden Lives



[www.semi-circle.ch](http://www.semi-circle.ch)

April 2 - 8, 2009

Das Neue Theater am Bahnhof Dornach







We wish the Semi-Circle Basel good luck for its production.

[www.syngenta.com](http://www.syngenta.com)

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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. One an evening of short plays and the other full length. Semi-Circle also participates in local and international festivals which 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 Brussels. With the play *Folie à Trois*, directed by Eric Collino and Stephanie Németh-Parker, we hope to follow in the footsteps of some of our previously successful groups and bring home some awards.

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

Suzan Wilson  
President  
The Semi-Circle

  
[www.semi-circle.ch](http://www.semi-circle.ch)

# PROGRAMME

## FOLIE À TROIS

By Sarah Wooley

Directed by Eric Collino and Stephanie Németh-Parker

Three women, living together in one house, have chosen to minimize their contact with the outside world. Minnie, the only one who goes out (for essential shopping), returns one day, convinced by a street preacher that the world is about to come to its end. Through a series of rambling discussions that throw light on their individual characters and family history they finally and jointly agree to take their future into their own hands. Although the plot is dark, there are frequent passages of humour within the piece. The play's title refers to the psychiatric condition *folie à deux* or induced psychosis - a paranoid delusional system which appears to develop in a person as a result of a close relationship with another person who already has an established and similar delusional system.

Aggie	Joy Scherer
Colleen	Zuzana Cox
Minnie	Amy Wilson

Interval of 20 minutes with bar service

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

By Kay Macaulife

Directed by Conny Heim

*Behind the Curtain* takes place backstage in a village hall, during the dress rehearsal for a new play about Mary and Elizabeth Tudor, written by an amateur playwright and performed by an amateur society. This is the second dress rehearsal for the play because during the first, two weeks previously, one of the actresses became very upset, rushed out of the theatre and had a fatal car accident. Alcohol had been found in her body, yet her friend is convinced that she did not drink it voluntarily. Has there been foul play? Will she solve the mystery? Whatever happens, the show must go on!

Ellen	Nina Meier-Bradlin
Angela	Fliss Wright
Ruth	Marieluise Maiwald
Phyllis	Penny Rettig
Betty	Vinka Arellano

## Three 10-Minute Comedies

Directed by Peter Hilton

### MISS YOU

By David Auburn

Two married couples; a one-night stand; mixed emotions; telephone mayhem. Where will it all end?

Man 1	John Hyland
Woman 1	Stephanie Németh-Parker
Man 2	Flavio de Rosa
Woman 2	Susan Aeschbach

### OUTSOURCED

By Laura Shaine Cunningham

Max is completely maxed out on all of his credit cards but he is desperate for more cash. He telephones his latest card supplier to extend his credit and reaches that dreaded modern phenomenon: the Call Centre. Which country is he calling? Is there a happy end to his crisis?

Max Fischy	Richard Brown
Sonali	Claudia Seper

### SURPRISE

By Mark Harvey Levine

Peter is a "2 minute psychic" – he can foretell the future only of the next two minutes. This annoys his current girlfriend, the latest in a long line of girlfriends who grow tired of the way he always finishes their sentences. Is this the end of his relationship?

Whitney	Christine Gould
Peter	Jacob Dixon
Waitress	Stephanie Németh-Parker



# FOLIE À TROIS



Joy Scherer

Originally from Leicestershire in the English East Midlands, Joy Scherer has lived in Basel for many years and joined The Semi-Circle in the mid-1980s. She has had many roles on-stage, backstage and front-of-house. As the cantankerous but comical Aggie in *Folie à Trois* she has a delightful role. Away from the bright lights she has another delightful role – that of moderately doting grandmother to 1-year old Isaiah, her gorgeous grandson.

Zuzana is a familiar face on Semi-Circle stages having appeared in a number of plays over the years. Last seen as Eunice in *Streetcar Named Desire*, this evening she plays Colleen, the most sensible of the three women in *Folie à Trois*. During the day Zuzana, looking a little less haggard and a little more stylish, tries to instill a love of mathematics into students in the International School.

Zuzana Cox



Amy Wilson

Amy Wilson is originally from Leeds in the UK and moved to Basel in August 2007. Amy has been involved in various amateur dramatic productions in the UK over the past 20 years and has won several awards in dance and theatre. This is Amy's first production with Semi-Circle.

# BEHIND THE CURTAIN



Nina Meier-Bradlin

Nina Meier-Bradlin is an actress and singer who was born in Detroit, Michigan. She attended Cranbrook Theatre School as a teen and continued her training at the University of Michigan. In Basel, Nina was a Semi-Circle regular in the 90s, as an actress as well as a director. After a long hiatus, she co-directed *Joseph and the Technicolor Dreamcoat* in 2005 and sparred with Prospero in Upstart Entertainment's production of *Return to the Forbidden Planet* as Gloria in 2006. She was *Stuck* on the stage of the Schönes Haus in 2007 with the Gay Beggars. Nina was thrilled to have the chance to revive her portrayal of Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Semi-Circle, November 2008) for an additional performance at the Komediateatteri Arena theatre in Helsinki, Finland in March this year. Nina would like to thank Aidan McGarry for his accent coaching for the role of Ellen.

Fliss Wright started acting at an early age in local pantomime and school productions. At university her credits included *Our Country's Good*, *Jack the Ripper* and *(Sunday is) the New Saturday* (Edinburgh Festival Fringe). Fliss then studied acting and musical theatre at Central School of Speech and Drama where she realised that her skills were better suited to working off-stage rather than on! She spent several years working in the theatre industry in London before moving to Basel in March 2008. Fliss played Flash Charming in *Cinderella - Lost in Space* with Basel's English Panto. This is her first role with Semi-Circle.

Fliss Wright



Marieluise Maiwald

Although she has been in a number of Semi-Circle shows and pantos before, this is Marieluise's first experience of a full-female cast (and producer). "I would never have imagined how relaxed the atmosphere could be, once we had all had a few sips of Conny's delicious white wine and started to discuss how sexy we thought Trevor was, the American vs. British pronunciation of 'corset' and whether or not Ellen should wear a garter in the opening scene. . ."





Penny Rettig

Penny started her amateur dramatic career in Southern Africa, working backstage before finally taking the plunge and actually acting. She has been a member of Semi-Circle for five years, beginning with offering to 'help' backstage during *Oliver*, only to find herself as Stage Manager. She has been involved in some way with most productions since. Stage roles have included Lotte in *Lettice & Lovage*, a pantomime witch and a fairy, and she was most recently on stage as the 'mother-in-law from hell' in Alan Ayckbourne's *Roleplay*. Please do not send any tailoring or alterations to her, as unlike Phyllis, she is severely challenged by sewing on buttons!

Born in Chile, Vinka grew up in Norway where at the age of five she had her first role in the theatre as a tree in a haunted forest. Smitten by love for the stage she has since then been in different free theatre groups touring in Norway. She has studied history, marketing and, in the University of Oslo, restarted studying interpersonal relationships. Love brought her to Switzerland where she has in the past five years acted in The English Drama Group of the University of Zurich. This is her first role as a member of the Semi-Circle.

Vinka Arellano



## OUTSOURCED



Richard Brown

Richard Brown comes from rural Norfolk in England and studied at the University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Imperial College London. He has lived in a number of exotic locations including Slough, Windsor, Putney, Wilmington, Delaware and San Francisco where his three daughters still work and study. Richard has lived in Basel for 5 years and is an enthusiastic member of The Semi-Circle and English Panto, as well as playing in a rock band and teaching and practicing meditation.

A greenhorn on stage in Basel. Director's Comment: Claudia may be a greenhorn, but she has proved an able and valuable member of the cast for a first-time appearance on stage.

Claudia Seper



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# SURPRISE



Christine Gould

Christine Gould, from the USA, has acted and danced from a young age. She has appeared in community theatre productions in several states, and has taught dance classes for children. She studied another type of theatre – politics – at Columbia University in NYC. She recently relocated to Basel after spending many years in Brussels, Belgium, and played a small role in Semi-Circle's production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* in 2008.

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.

Jacob Dixon



Stephanie  
Németh-Parker

See page 13



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# MISS YOU



John Hyland

John is British with Irish heritage. He was born in Slough, Berks in 1963, and has lived in Switzerland since 1993. He moved to Basel in 2000 where he had his first acting experience with a Semi-Circle short play. He has since made a few appearances with other short plays and Basel Panto productions.

Flavio De Rosa was born in Italy and grew up in the UK, Italy and the US. He has been involved with theatre and radio since university, and was one of the founders of the English Panto in Basel. Flavio has both directed and acted, and admits that whilst he enjoys the applause he also likes "being the boss". Unfortunately, due to work, Flavio has not had as much time to dedicate to the theatre as he would have wished; *Miss You* marks his return to the stage after a rather long gap "resting". Acting credits include *Love for Love* and *The Crucible*, and directing credits include *Sweet Caroline Sweet*, *Aladdin*, *Robin Hood* and *Interior Designs* amongst others.

Flavio de Rosa

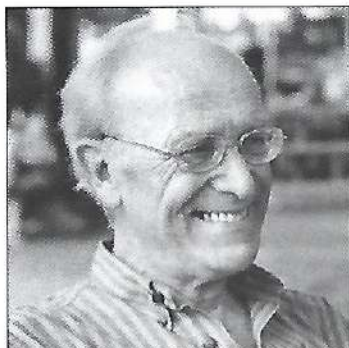


Susan Aeschbach

Susan is finding her role very therapeutic, being able to draw on similar real-life parallels. Fortunately, she is far too polite to use the sort of language expressed by her character! Having been very active on and backstage with every production of the Semi-Circle and Basel English Panto Group over the past few years, she is enjoying just having a short, fun, cameo role this time around.



# The Directors



Eric Collino

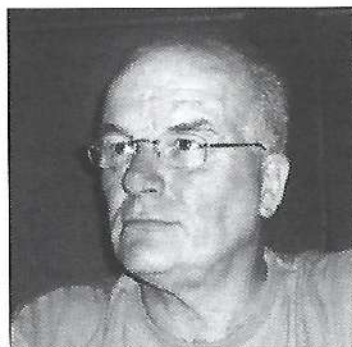
## FOLIE À TROIS

Eric has been active both on and behind the stage for more years than he cares to remember. This is his first foray into the arcane arts of directing, thankfully in collaboration with talented Stephanie. *Folie à Trois*, aired initially on BBC radio some two years ago, impressed Eric so much that he met the playwright in London and finally persuaded her to pen a stage version for us. Our stage performance tonight qualifies as the World Premier!

## BEHIND THE CURTAIN

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 there. 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. This is her first time directing for Semi-Circle and she is very grateful to her cast for their competence and enthusiasm. She would also like to thank Dragana Blaser for her artistic advice on set and costume design, and her grandmother-in-law for writing the play!

Conny Heim



Peter Hilton

## THREE 10-MINUTE COMEDIES

Peter acted and directed for Semi-Circle productions a number of times in the past. This time he has chosen to try three short 10-minute plays for you, the audience. All three are comedies with a slight twist in the tail and are written by American authors. The Semi-Circle membership has again allowed us to pick from an amazing amount of talent, and this evening's production of *Hidden Lives* gives us a chance to showcase that talent yet again. If you would like to act, help back-stage or just support us with your membership, then please join us. Enjoy your evening!

## FOLIE À TROIS

Also Woman 1 in MISS YOU  
and Waitress in SURPRISE

If you're NOT new to the Semi-Circle, then you've seen Stephanie Németh Parker most recently in *A Streetcar Named Desire*, playing the role of Stella Kowalski. This time out, she won't take up 3 hours of your time, just a wee 10 minutes. This is a particularly exciting production for her as it is her first time sitting in the Director's Chair, as Co-Director with Eric Collino for the play *Folie à Trois*. Special thanks to my husband/baby-sitter, for making this all possible. Hope you enjoy the show!

Stephanie Németh-Parker



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# PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Manager	Jamie Sievert
Promotion	Tony O'Sullivan and Eric Collino
Graphic Design	Conny Heim
Stage Managers	Steve Martin and Scott Holland
Stage Crew	Oliver Aeschbach
Photographer	Ute Kessel
Light and Sound	Cornelius Hunziker Peter Hilton and Collette O'Neill
Costume Design for <i>Folie à Trois</i>	Colleen Dunkel-Hardy
Make-up	Carol Rees and Diana Zuger
Bar	John Stafford, Sue Stafford, Penny Tuckwell, Marcel Halid
Box Office	Penny Rettig
Front of House	Penny Tuckwell and Sue Stafford
Printing	www.wbz.ch

## 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 fill in the card in this programme, or visit our website [www.semi-circle.ch](http://www.semi-circle.ch).

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