

Semi
circle

Quartet

A Comedy by Ronald Harwood
directed by Richard Levitt



Baseldytschi Bihni

February 11 - 13 & 18 - 20, 2010

WELCOME

Welcome to the first production of the Semi-Circle, the English-speaking theatre club of Basel, in 2010. We are very fortunate to be able to start the year with 'Quartet' by Ronald Harwood at the Baseldytschi Bihni. It is always a great pleasure to be guests in this wonderful theatre and we wish to thank the theatre committee for enabling us to perform here. As most of you who regularly come to our productions know, it is a major problem to find a theatre which is not only suitable for our productions, but is also within the limits of our small budget.

After some fairly serious teething problems, including a change of director and great difficulty finding production assistants, we hope that all the hard work has paid off and that we have produced the best show possible under the circumstances.

I would particularly like to thank the following people, without whose help we probably would not have been able to get this production onto the stage. Firstly, thank you and welcome back to the director Richard Levitt, who has stepped in after a long absence to take over as director. Secondly, Angela Robinson agreed to co-produce and has done a fantastic job as usual, particularly with the costumes. Robi Pipoz has taken charge of the set in his usual efficient manner and Conny Heim has done a marvellous job with both the flyer and the programme. Lastly, thank you to the cast who have worked really hard under difficult circumstances.

The Semi-Circle's future productions include the next production which will be at Dornach Neues Theater am Bahnhof on October 21, 22, 23 and 28, 29 and 30 and we are planning a musical for 2011.

Finally, I would like to thank our loyal audience, some of whom have been coming to our productions for many years- thank you for your support. Now sit back and let yourself slide into the world of opera and Giuseppe Verdi (alias Joe Green).

Suzan Wilson-Stadek
Production Manager



PROGRAMME

QUARTET

By Ronald Harwood

Directed by Richard Levitt

Cecily	Elizabeth Shaw
Reggie	Norman Koeth
Wilfred	Eric Collino
Jean	Diana Zuger

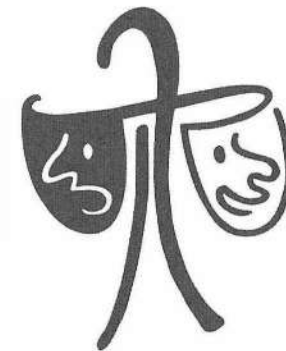


Cecily, Reggie and Wilfred are in a home for retired opera singers. Each year, on 10 October, there is a concert to celebrate Giuseppe Verdi's birthday. Jean, who used to be married to Reggie, arrives at the home and disrupts their equilibrium. She still acts like a diva and refuses to sing. But the show must go on ...

There will be an interval of 20 minutes
with bar service after Act I

Ticket Prices

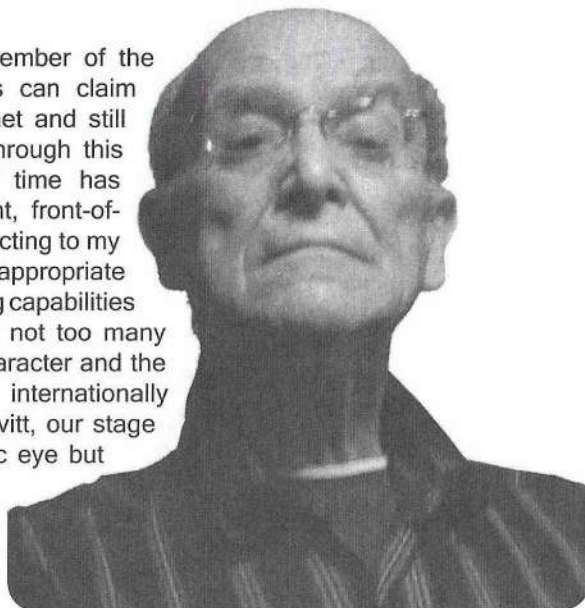
The Baseldytschi Bihni was one of the first small theatres in Europe with no fixed ticket prices. There is a box for voluntary donations. Please keep in mind that there are many expenses involved in the production of a play. We suggest to donate a minimum of CHF 25. Many thanks!



Baseldytschi Bihni
Kellertheater im Lohnhof

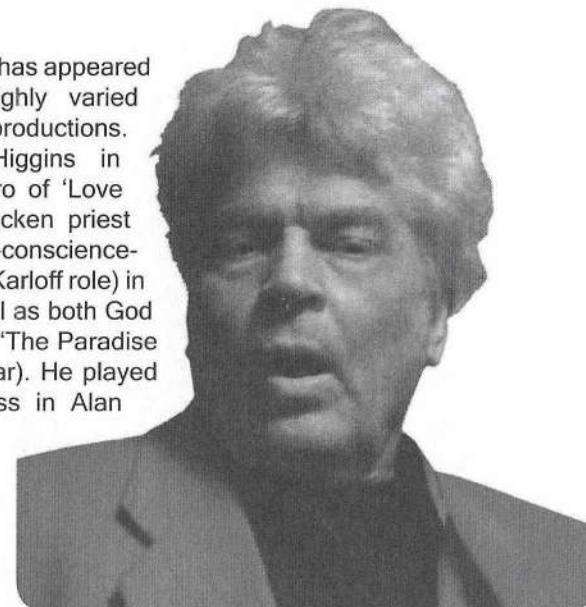
Eric Collino

I'm happy to have been a member of the Semi-Circle for years. Others can claim an even longer tenure. I've met and still treasure many good friends through this association. The passage of time has brought backstage involvement, front-of-house, acting and a spot of directing to my lot. In this play I assume a role appropriate for a person of my age and failing capabilities but I hope our audience sees not too many parallels between my stage character and the way I behave off-stage! Our internationally renowned director, Richard Levitt, our stage support team (not in the public eye but without whom we could not appear before you) and we, the cast, hope that you, the audience, enjoy the work that we bring for your delectation.



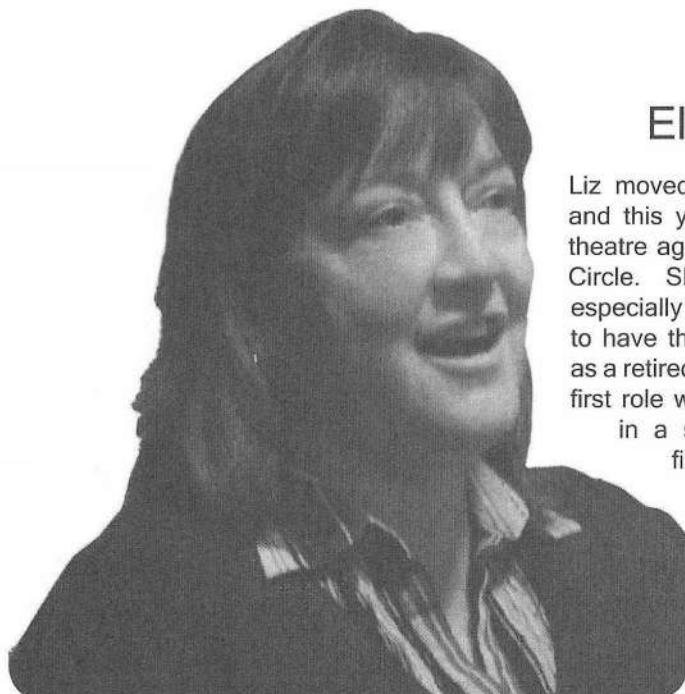
Norman Koeth

Norman, a native New Yorker, has appeared in a goodly number of highly varied parts in major Semi-Circle productions. These include Professor Higgins in 'Pygmalion', the romantic hero of 'Love for Love', the conscience-stricken priest in 'The Crucible', the very non-conscience-stricken serial killer (the Boris Karloff role) in 'Arsenic and Old Lace', as well as both God the Father and the Serpent in 'The Paradise Pageant' (not in the same year). He played the diplomat/spy Guy Burgess in Alan Bennett's 'An Englishman Abroad', the first show which Semi-Circle sent to FEATS and for which he received a double nomination, for best actor and for best theatrical moment. More recently Norman played the part of the doctor in 'A Streetcar Named Desire'.



Elizabeth Shaw

Liz moved to Basel 5 years ago and this year decided to take up theatre again and joined the Semi Circle. She loves all theatre but especially musicals and is pleased to have the opportunity to appear as a retired opera singer in this, her first role with the group. Working in a science based job she finds it a great contrast to release her creative side through acting.

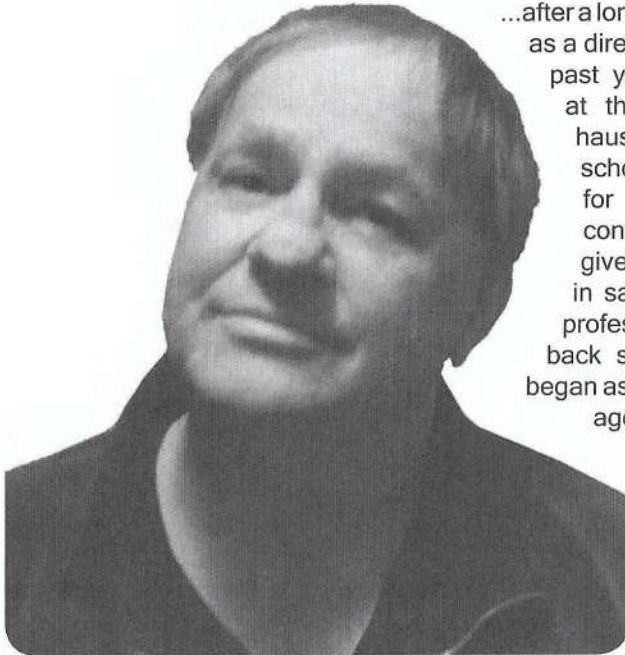


Diana Zuger

Being a founder member of the Semi-Circle I have been involved in many productions over the years. Thirty years ago I was playing young ladies, as Gwendoline in "The Importance of Being Ernest" and then there were the many other wonderful roles maturing as the years went by. With the time, I tried my hand at directing and had great fun telling others what to do. Now it's time to end my days in the retirement home for theatrical artists and that's just what I'm doing. Things tend to go in circles, I began my career with Richard Levitt and I'm ending it with him. Enjoy the show!



Richard Levitt



...after a long hiatus, richard levitt returns as a director for the semi-circle..... in past years richard directed plays at the baumlihof and schönes haus... richard taught at the schola cantorum basiliensis for 27 years... now retired he continues his teaching and gives courses on a regular basis in salamanca, spain..... richards professional background reaches back some seven decades.... he began as a professional at the ripe old age of 5..... he has recorded for capitol, and many european companies.... his repertoire extends from the 12th century through musical theatre.....

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PRODUCTION TEAM

Production Managers	Angela Robinson and Suzan Wilson
Stage Manager	Suzan Wilson
Director	Richard Levitt
Prompter	Penny Rettig
Set Design	Mark Giesser
Set Construction	Robi Pipoz
Publicity	Michael Clarke
Advertising	Tony O'Sullivan
Make - up	Zuzana Cox, Nina Meier-Bradlin
Graphic Design & Programme	Conny Heim
Printing - Graphic services	WBZ Reinach

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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 visit our website www.semi-circle.ch.

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