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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Semi-Circle is delighted to welcome you to our spring 2012 production, The Shadow Box by Michael Cristofer. The past 12 months have been very busy; the musical RENT, the award-winning FEATS entry, Death of a Clown and the autumn production Looking Back Falling Forward have all been extremely well received and brought in a number of new members alongside some of our longer-serving performers and production team. In November 2011, we appointed Eleanor Low as publicity officer. Since then she has changed our approach with some attractive and sophisticated designs along with new methods of getting our message out via new media and other channels.

When we asked our audience 18 months ago, the overwhelming request was for us to find a performance space near to the city centre. With the continued unavailability of the Schönes Haus, our search narrowed down to the Berufsfachschule Theater as the only regularly available and affordable city-centre option at present. Though this space is obviously an aula and does not have a modern lighting or sound system, we are experimenting and trying to bring the best out of it. We are learning about how to deal with the snags and difficulties but welcome your comments and suggestions on how it could be improved. We will be performing another set of one-act plays here in September.

So what is next? We have met the goals that we set for the Verein two years ago and the committee will be conducting a strategic review in May to set the direction for the next three years. We welcome any suggestions and views about what you would like to see us doing via our website, www.semi-circle.ch, under the "Welcome" and then "Contact us" tabs. We are always looking for new ideas and people to join us in the technical aspects of our productions as well as directors and performers. We are putting a particular emphasis on building strong production teams before auditioning for acting roles. So if you have an interest in stage design, stage management, carpentry, sound, lights or video, we are always delighted to hear from you along with those interested in acting and directing. Thank you for your support and hoping that you find The Shadow Box a rewarding experience.

Richard Brown, President



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"There are five different stages that a person will go through when they face the fact of their own death:

DENIAL Anger Bargaining DEPRESSION Acceptance

These stages will last for different periods of time, they will replace each other, or exist at times side by side...
But the one thing that usually persists through all these stages is hope."

- E. Kubler-Ross, M.D.

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

One of the characters in The Shadow Box asserts at the outset of the play: "The trouble is that most of us spend our entire lives trying to forget that we're going to die." Modern Western culture promotes an "invisible death": feelings and emotions are kept private and much of the entire process of dying is orchestrated by institutions whose interest is financial, not personal or spiritual. We are practically encouraged to view death as some sort of failure.

Many tribal societies see death as an integral part of life and take care to prepare well in advance for this important transition. The much misunderstood phrase "It's a good day to die" is not a defiant assertion of embracing death but an acknowledgement that all things from the past have been resolved and cleared so as not to be an impediment to the future, come what may.

There is never a better time than right now to challenge ourselves to live the life we were born to live, to give the gift of ourselves to this world and the people who love us. Too often we wait until tragedy strikes to begin the search for what is most important to us in life. Everyone who has ever experienced tragedy will tell you: "Someone should have said it sooner."

The characters in The Shadow Box hold up "little mirrors" in a powerful way: are we living our lives, or are they living us? Are we truly alive, or simply the walking dead, unaware of anything around us but our fears and desires until something happens to lay us bare? We are encouraged to wake up to who we are and the life we are living, before we find we can't.

What a folly to dread the thought of throwing away life at once, and yet have no regard to throwing it away by parcels and piecemeal. – John Howe

Jerome Salyers, Director

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Our director Jerome Salyers and I have cooperated on a number of different projects over the last few years. So I was delighted when he suggested that he direct The Shadow Box for us. Jerome has a strong connection with this play on a professional and emotional level and has been able to bring his particular appreciation of this beautiful piece to life. We have also been generously supported by our sponsors, some of whom are exhibiting in the foyer. So please take some time visit them in the interval.

Given the off-stage demands of the show, I had no intention of acting but had to step in to the role of Brian due to a change in availability. Likewise, Anthony Hehir had to step in to the role of Mark a month before the show opened, which has been difficult but also very rewarding. Despite these challenges, the cast and crew have devoted a huge amount of time and energy into making this a very special event. I hope that you also find it a rewarding experience.

Richard Brown, Producer



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COTTAGE 1



David Laurie - Joe

David Laurie first took to the stage in the 1980s, singing in the chorus of amateur operettas in sunny south-west Scotland in Carmen, Merry Widow, Turandot. After a short (20-year!) gap to focus on pharma R&D work, he has finally got his priorities right and has come back to performing, singing in the chorus of Semi-Circle's performance of RENT (June 2011), and experiencing his acting debut as evil, randy King Claudius in Ruby of Elsinore (October 2011).



Stephanie Németh Parker - Maggie

Stephanie Németh Parker has been acting in Basel for over 10 years. Most recently she's had roles in A Streetcar Named Desire, Closer and Doubt (the latter two with Upstart Entertainment). Stephanie also does voiceover work for Omega Watches, Audi and Die Post to name a few. She'd like to thank her family for allowing her the freedom to live her dream. These performances are dedicated to her Granny and Abuelita who both died in hospice. It's one life, let's live it!



Daniel Sims - Steve

Daniel Sims, who has been in Basel since the age of 3, is originally from Aylesbury, England. He acts on a regular basis. Having been involved in Bugsy Malone as Dandy Dan, A Midsummer Night's Dream as Bottom and a monologue series at school, he has also taken part in six pantomimes and the recent production of RENT as The Man, finally deciding to turn his hand to more serious acting, and auditioning for The Shadow Box.

COTTAGE 2







Richard Brown - Brian

Richard Brown is from Norfolk, UK, and came to Basel via Wilmington, DE, and Walnut Creek, CA. Richard is the president of Semi-Circle and was the producer of the musical RENT in June 2011. Recently he directed Night by Harold Pinter at the autumn production 2011 and has played numerous roles for the Semi-Circle, including Lucky Eric in Bouncers by John Godber and a cameo role as Mr Grey in RENT. Richard is also treasurer of the Basel English Panto Group and has played both many roles and in the band for the Basel Panto. Richard has three beautiful daughters who live in California and London.

Kate Michaels - Beverly

Kate Michaels is a singer, actor and director. Kate's training includes the American Institute of Musical Studies in Graz, Austria. In 1994 she received an Irma Cooper Scholarship for opera studies in Austria. Her performance credits include Evita in Evita, Hunyak in Chicago, Annie in Annie Get Your Gun, Luisa in The Fantasticks, Beauty in Beauty and the Beast, Audrey in Little Shop of Horrors, Ann in A Little Night Music, Grace in Annie, Lily in Carnival, Nancy in Oliver, Sonia/Joanne in Godspell, Nicki in Sweet Charity, Valencienne in The Merry Widow, Papagena in The Magic Flute and Diane in My Bitchy Witchy Paris Vacation.

Anthony Hehir - Mark

Anthony grew up in Botswana and has been in Switzerland since 2008. He has always had a passion for theatre and continues to nurture his interest in the performing arts. Recent stage credits include Michael in tick, tick...BOOM!, The Dame in Treasure Island – the Panto and Tom Collins in RENT. Aside from performing, Anthony is a qualified dietitian and holds a global marketing position at a nutrition company in Switzerland. "I love this play. Thanks to Jerome and his team, the cast and of course my wonderful Alex for all the support. Enjoy the show!"

COTTAGE 3



Diana Zuger - Felicity

A founder member of the Semi-Circle, Diana Zuger has been involved in many productions over the years. Thirty years ago she was playing young ladies, such as Gwendoline in The Importance of Being Earnest, and as she matured, took on many other wonderful roles. With time, she tried her hand at directing and had great fun telling others what to do. Her most recent role was in The Quartet as an ageing diva. But now, she says, this really is the end!



Eva Mann - Agnes

Eva Mann has a master's in theatre directing from East 15 Acting School, London. Dividing her time between the UK and Switzerland, she works as both an actor and director for various projects. Eva's acting roles and projects include Köstliche Quelle, Erifila in Tumult im Narrenhaus, Princess in The Soldier's Story, Polly Peachum in The Beggar's Opera, Beatrice in Much Ado about Nothing and Julie-Ann in Roleplay. Eva was awarded best actress for her portrayal of John Augustine's Siobhan at the International English Theatre Festival in Lublin, Poland.



Belén Navarro - Interviewer

Belén Navarro is from Madrid, Spain, and came to Basel through love last summer. She studied physical theatre in Mar Navarro's and Andrés Hernandez LeCoq's School in Madrid and co-wrote, directed and performed in the theatre companies Oui C'est Moi and Filulas de Cariaconcia in Madrid. She is also a music composer/songwriter and a butoh dancer. Her most recent venture was to start a Women's Creation Group in Basel, guiding women into an artistic exploration of movement.



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CREATIVE TEAM



Jerome Salyers, Director/Set

Jerome Salyers' directing credits include Educating Rita, Noises Off, Once in a Lifetime, Our Town, Gypsy and Mame as well as numerous one-acts. In Basel, he joined a group of local directors for the 2007 Gay Beggar's one-act production Stuck, directing the title piece and Helpless Doorknobs.

With degrees in stage management and creative writing from California State University, Chico and Hayward, respectively, Jerome won BATF awards in 1991 and 1993 for directing and lighting design. In stage management, lighting and sound design, some of hiis productions include The Skin of our Teeth, Blood Wedding, The Fantasticks, Diamonds, Woman in Mind, Fallen Angels and The Coloured Museum as well as over 50 additional productions and concerts in the professional and regional circuits for the San Francisco and Northern California area. Since moving to Basel, Jerome works at the BIS and assists his wife, Kate Michaels, a professional singer and actress with her production company, New Arts Paradigm, Gmbh.

He is a 20-year contributing author to the off-beat online e-zine Doorknobs & Bodypaint and self-published his first collection of flash fiction pieces early in 2011, never too clear about where "there" really is. His original recording The Approaching Storm can be found at CDBaby. Jerome is excited to help bring The Shadow Box to Basel and greatly appreciates the support and interest in the Semi-Circle community for making it happen.

CREATIVE TEAM



Christian

Christian Joller, Lighting Design

Christian Joller's lighting design work is widely distributed across all areas of the entertainment industry. Inspired by a deep fascination with lighting from an early age, he first started his own lighting and effects equipment rental business before moving deeper into lighting design for all manner of productions. Nowadays he works full-time for Designlight, one of Switzerland's most influential lighting design firms, based in Zurich. He recently toured Switzerland with Dada Ante Portas. 77 Bombay Street and Red Charly as well as working for Sour Angelica, an opera tour, and supporting Roberts Luftschiff in Friedrichshafen. In the world of theatre, his lighting design for Songs for a New World and the ballet production The Dark Side of the Moon proved his versatility and creativity when it comes to innovative lighting ideas. As a lighting operator he has worked on large-scale shows such as the Thuner-Seespiele and the Schlossoper Haldenstein. He also operates the lighting for Giacobbo/Müller on Swiss television SF1 on a regular basis.



John MacKinnon, Composer, Songwriter, Studio Engineer

Originally from Scotland, John is excited to create the musical score for Semi-Circle's spring production. The Shadow Box. Currently based just outside of London, he collaborates on many different projects from songwriting for bands and TV to scoring films, as well as producing, engineering and mixing for artists with diverse musical styles and backgrounds including Egyptian percussion, heavy metal, country and opera. He has enjoyed working with many talented composers and performers including Hossam Ramzy, B. A. Robertson and Martin Smith, and several engineering projects have had the good fortune to become platinum releases. In addition to building and maintaining several recording studios, John also plays bass, guitar and keyboard. John is an avid photographer, and enjoys travelling and riding motorcycles whenever he gets the chance.

CREATIVE TEAM



Colleen Dunkel, Costume Design

Colleen Dunkel, alias Mrs Crocodile, is a freelance costumer and teacher based in Basel. She studied theatre arts and costume design at Santa Barbara City College and graduated in French at the University of California, Berkeley. She has been involved in numerous productions in Basel and her home town of Santa Barbara. In 2011 she did the costumes for Doubt and Midsummer Night's Dream with Upstart Entertainment, production design and costumes for RENT with Semi-Circle and costumes for Das Kind von Noah with Theater 58 in Zurich. She also contributed to Märchentheater Fidibus and their 2011 production of König Drosselbart. She is also employed at Theater Basel.



Lisa Heggendorn, Movement Consultant

Lisa was born in Switzerland and trained professionally there and in the US. Her versatility as an artist can be attributed to her extensive multidisciplinary dance education as well as her performance experience in numerous dance productions.

Lisa choreographs and produces dance shows in Switzerland and the US. She is the owner of LT Dance & Performing Arts and Pilates Reforming Studio in Switzerland.







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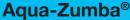
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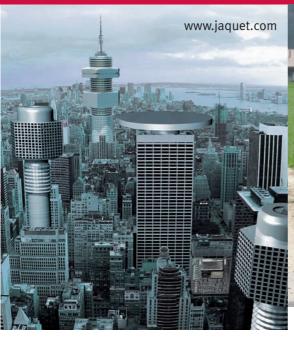
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