



GREENER GRASS

A simple line drawing of a flower with five petals and a stem with two leaves.

AN EVENING
OF ONE-ACT
PLAYS

JOURNEY THROUGH HOPE, DESIRE, INTRIGUE AND RECONCILIATION

MIXED
DOUBLES
by Georges Feydeau

LOSING IT
by Derek Webb

DMV
TYRANT
by C. Durang

The Extraordinary
Revelations of
Orca the
Goldfish
by David Tristram

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The Basel English Panto Group presents:

Beauty AND THE BEAST

Script by Janice Dunn

Directed by Richard Brown

PANTO 2013

Scala Basel, Freie Strasse 89

| | | |
|---------|---|--------------|
| 5.12.13 | - | 19:30 |
| 6.12.13 | - | 19:30 |
| 7.12.13 | - | 14:00, 19:30 |
| 8.12.13 | - | 13:00, 17:00 |

Last year's prices on the 5.12.13

*Tickets from Ticketino.com or over
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WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

A very warm welcome to the Semi-Circle Autumn Production 2013, a collection of four short plays entitled "Greener Grass", a journey through hope, desire, intrigue and reconciliation. The Semi-Circle is a community theatre which aims to provide high-quality English-language theatre events to a wide audience through the development of skills and participation of members in all aspects of production. We present a full-length play in the spring or early summer and a collection of short plays in the autumn from which we may choose to take one forward to the Festival of European Anglophone Theatre Societies (FEATS) at the following year Pflingsten weekend. This year our spring production was Agatha Christie's "A Murder is Announced", directed by Eva Mann at the Theater Rampe. With this production we aimed to improve the overall experience of the evening, paying particular attention to the Front of House well as the authenticity of this period piece. The audience response was terrific, with around 950 seats sold and full houses on many evenings. After this show closed, Eva Mann went on to take her adaptation of "Penthesilea" to London in July and to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August, where it was extremely well received.

This is my last production as President of the Semi-Circle and I will be standing down at the AGM in 2014 after four years in the chair. When I took on this role, the society was challenged by many external changes, was losing money, members and had lost access to its regular venue at the Schönes Haus. Since then, with the support and hard work of the committee, we have been able to find new venues, grow the membership, enhance the communications and publicity, bring the society back into profit and also put on shows such as "The Death of a Clown", "RENT", "The Shadow Box" and "A Murder is Announced" that have raised the bar in terms of artistic standards and the recognition of the Semi-Circle both locally and internationally. Perhaps most importantly, we have developed skilled and motivated production teams as the foundation on which the shows can be built and allowed the management of the productions to be more professional and less of a distraction for the directors. Finally, we have been able to move and rationalize our store of sets, props and costumes from the inconvenient Bäumlihof cellar to a more convenient but equally affordable cellar at Spiegelfeld.

This has been a hard but rewarding journey and I would like to thank the committee in its various guises for working with me through these changes and in particular Peter Hilton for his unwavering support as Secretary. The Semi-Circle is going forward with a plan for the future, an energetic committee and a the resources necessary to keep to keep putting on interesting shows and giving people a chance to become involved. I look forward to seeing you again at our spring production 2014, "Calendar girls" by Tim Firth (June 13 to 28 2014), as part of the audience, production team or at the auditions in the second week of January. Now please sit back and enjoy the show!

Richard Brown

MIXED DOUBLES

by Georges Feydeau

Synopsis: Set at Chez Dominique, a fashionable restaurant. The action takes place in the private dining room. Couples collide in this comedic one-act when two would-be seducers decide to share a dining room. But are their companions really who they seem? From the mind of Georges Feydeau, an undisputed master of farce springs a portrait of a double date gone hilariously awry. Pompe-Nicole and Bordeleau arrive at Chez Dominique, where they encounter an overly-friendly maitre d' and his winsome wife. But madness ensues when their dates turn out not to be the ladies they appear. . . Everyone is a target and no one escapes unscathed from Feydeau's hilariously biting critique of class and seduction.



Suzan Wilson-Sladek - Director

Suzan has been a member of the Semi-Circle for many years and has been involved in many roles within the club; administrative, acting and working behind the scenes but has never directed. Having been inspired at a recent play reading of several Georges Feydeau one-act plays, she is now trying her hand at whipping her talented cast into action.



Fabrice Borruat - Albert

Born and raised in the Swiss Jura, Fabrice Borruat graduated from Lycée cantonal Porrentruy, where he has been a French and English teacher since 1989. Studied French and English literature at Paris III, where he mastered in contemporary American literature and semiology of film. Except for a semester of Drama he took at the Sprague High School in Salem, Oregon and his taking part in two shows with the Lycée cantonal Drama club in the early eighties, has had no experience of acting whatsoever.



David Laurie - Pompe-Nicole

Coming relatively late (back) to the dramatic side of life, David has been trying to make up for lost time. Since joining Semi-Circle in 2011 to take part in 'RENT' (chorus and Mr. Jefferson), he has played roles in several productions; as evil randy King Claudius in 'Ruby of Elsinore', poor dying Joe in 'Shadowbox', and sleazy Hoover in 'Creep'. Whilst in-between performing in the G&S Society's production of 'Trial by Jury'. To play M. Pompe-Nicole in 'Mixed Doubles', he has had to research seduction techniques and visit seedy nightclubs. 'It's a tough job, but someone's got to do it'.



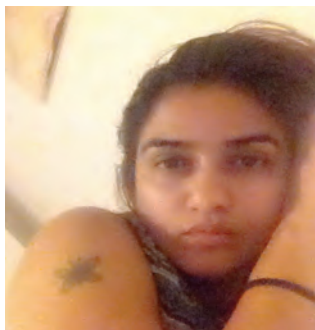
Edward Atkinson - Bordeleau

Edward Atkinson has lived in the Basle area for over 20 years, where he worked as a bank's archivist. He was in several Semi-Circle productions in the 1990s, including playing Bernard in "Season's Greetings" and the leading role of George in "The Actor's Nightmare". His most recent role was Sergeant Mellors in "A Murder is Announced". He is delighted to play Bordeleau (get the play on words?), having spun around on a revolving bed in a Feydeau farce at school at the age of 16!



Wendy Monard - Clémentine

Wendy was born in Basel and lived there most of her life. She discovered her love for music and acting early though she never had a professional education. After being in a school play and 2011's Semi-Circle production of the musical "Rent" she longed to return to the stage. When she heard about the auditions for "Mixed Couples" she saw the perfect opportunity and is delighted to be part of the team!



Preeti Desai - Philomèle

Preeti moved to Basel last year after having lived in NY & LA. She makes her debut in Semi-Circle with the role of Philomèle in the play 'Mixed Doubles'.



Katharine Wuscher - Aphrodite

Katherine Wuscher was born in Schaffhausen, Switzerland. She was bitten by the acting bug at an early age and took part in local productions. Much later, after having pursued a different line of work, she spent an exciting, intense and transformative year at the Neighborhood Playhouse School of the Theatre in New York. Upon her return to Switzerland she discovered Semi-Circle and was very excited to have been given the role of Phillippa in their production of Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced. She is thrilled to take part in another Semi-Circle production.

Auditions in Jan 2014



Calendar Girls^{by} Tim Firth

Calendar Girls

June 13, 14, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28 2014, at the Rampe Theatre

Audition dates:

Weds. 8th Jan. 2014 – 19.00 to 21.30

Sat. 11th. Jan 2014 – 09.30 to 12.00 at the Rampe Theatre.

Contact calendargirls2014@gmail.com to know more, or check our website:

www.semi-circle.ch

LOSING IT

by Derek Webb

Synopsis: Jack is an actor who's lost for words. Now he's also lost his leading lady – and the way things are going, he's also losing the plot and he feels he might be on the verge of losing his mind too. Things start off well enough until it's clear that Jack's other actor has not turned up. His attempt to keep the play going soon gets too much for one member of the audience, who begins remonstrating with him then gets sucked into appearing in the play herself.

Diana Zuger - Director

Having just solved a murder as Miss Marple in "A Murder is Announced" I am now back stage trying to solve the mystery of a missing leading lady for Jack who is "losing it" slightly!! It's been a few years since I directed so am looking forward to once again cracking the whip.



Cathy Barker - Female

Cathy Barker hails from the North of England, and has been living in Basel for nearly three years now. Previous to this move, she spent three years in Peru (and can consequently speak poor Spanish) and one year in Kenya (very poor Swahili) and is now at last embarking on lessons to improve her extremely poor German. As a teacher of English, she hopes that she is proficient in that language, at least! Up to now, choirs and musical societies have been her main excuse for treading the boards, but she is very excited to be taking on a role that doesn't involve her suddenly bursting into song (and the audience will probably be relieved, too!) . "Losing It" is her first acting role with Semi-Circle.



Jacob Dixon - Male

New York native Jacob Dixon has lived in Switzerland for over 8 years. During that time he has performed stand up comedy in Basel and Zurich, been a ring announcer for Swiss Championship Wrestling, Swiss Power Wrestling and World Wide Pro Wrestling. He can also be heard on The English Show on 94.5fm Radio X every Tuesday night from 6:30pm to 8pm. "Losing It" is his sixth appearance in a Semi-Circle production. He has also performed in "The Author's Voice", "A Streetcar Named Desire", "Surprise", and "Bouncers" Mr. Dixon is looking forward to entertaining you, and he hopes you enjoy the show.





Wishing you an enjoyable performance!

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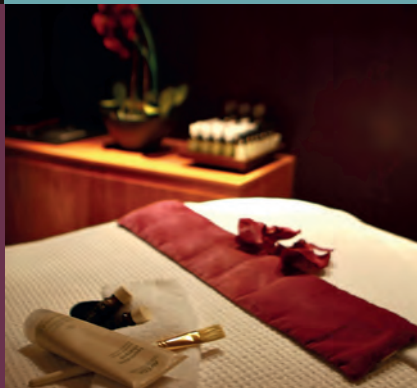
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DMV TYRANT

by C. Durang

Synopsis: A customer wishes to renew her driving license, though all proof of her ever taking the test has disappeared. Sadly her helper at window no.7 is too interested in just about anything else other than helping her.



Josh Malik - Director

After being on stage quite a few times, this is the second time for me to direct a play, though the first time with Semi-Circle, and I must say I do enjoy directing just as much, if not even a tiny bit more, than acting. Though *The DMV Tyrant* is a short one, to me it is like a shot of Whiskey, or one of those extremely rich little chocolates, small, but very intense. In this case, intensely funny. Thankfully, finding a cast wasn't difficult at all. Both girls read it almost perfectly at auditions, so to me, the play was already finished in my head, even before the very first rehearsal. Working with Danielle and Maureen was a wonderful and fun experience and maybe we'll have an opportunity to team up again some day.



Maureen Vittery - Customer

Maureen Vittery is proud to say this is her first on-stage performance! A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Maureen has been living and working in Basel for over seven years.



Danielle Zammit - Employee

A citizen of the world, born in Malta and at home in Switzerland, Danielle has lived in Basel for four years, discovering the joys of stage-acting just last year. Her first role was that of Ruth, in the performance of the short play *Foul Territory* during Semi-Circle's 2012 production "Duplicity". She also played a verse-spouting, dancing gypsy in the *Gay Beggars' The Hypochondriac* earlier this year. In her own words, "I definitely caught the acting bug, and I'm thrilled to have this role in *Greener Grass*".

GREENER GRASS LINEUP

MIXED DOUBLES

by Georges Feydeau

Synopsis: Set at Chez Dominique, a fashionable restaurant. The action takes place in the private dining room. Couples collide in this comedic one-act when two would-be seducers decide to share a dining room. But are their companions really who they seem? From the mind of Georges Feydeau, an undisputed master of farce springs a portrait of a double date gone hilariously awry. Pompe-Nicole and Bordeleau arrive at Chez Dominique, where they encounter an overly-friendly maitre d' and his winsome wife. But madness ensues when their dates turn out not to be the ladies they appear. . . Everyone is a target and no one escapes unscathed from Feydeau's hilariously biting critique of class and seduction. **Directed by Suzan Wilson-Sladek**

Fabrice Borruat - Albert
David Laurie - Pompe-Nicole
Edward Atkinson - Bordeleau
Wendy Monard - Clémentine
Preeti Desai - Philomèle
Katharine Wuscher - Aphrodite

LOSING IT

by Derek Webb

Synopsis: Jack is an actor who's lost for words. Now he's also lost his leading lady – and the way things are going, he's also losing the plot and he feels he might be on the verge of losing his mind too. Things start off well enough until it's clear that Jack's other actor has not turned up. His attempt to keep the play going soon gets too much for one member of the audience, who begins remonstrating with him then gets sucked into appearing in the play herself. **Directed by Diana Zuger**

Cathy Barker - Female
Jacob Dixon - Male

There will be an interval of 15 mins

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DMV

TYRANT

by C. Durang

Synopsis: A customer wishes to renew her driving license, though all proof of her ever taking the test has disappeared. Sadly her helper at window no.7 is too interested in just about anything else other than helping her: **Directed by Josh Malik**

Maureen Vittery - Customer

Danielle Zammit - Employee

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The Extraordinary
Revelations of

Orca the Goldfish

by David Tristram

Synopsis: For Henry Smith - actor; raconteur; sporting hero, leading socialite, business tycoon, secret agent, casanova and acting President of the United States - life was rarely dull. For Alice Smith, housewife - life was rarely anything else. Enter Michel - French waiter - tall, dark and available. Exactly what happened next, no-one's quite sure. Except that it involved a rotting melon, a deckchair and a bottle of neck-rub. Fantasy blurs into reality. Secret passions explode. And two worlds which seem a million miles apart are suddenly on a collision course. It could only happen to Henry & Alice. And only their pet goldfish, Orca, and you, will ever know the true story. **Directed by Zuzana Cox**

Joy Scherer - Orca

Liz Shaw - Alice

David Cox - Henry

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Previous Semi-Circle productions



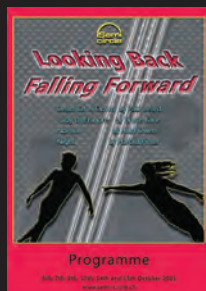
2013: A Murder is Announced



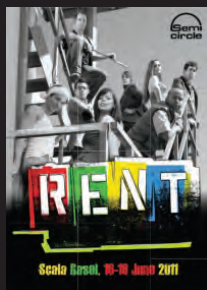
2012: Duplicity



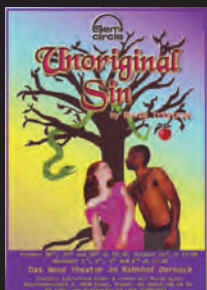
2012: The Shadow Box



2011: Looking Back
Falling Forward



2011: RENT



2010: Unoriginal Sin



2010: Quartet



2009: Bouncers &
Shakers



2009: Hidden Lives



2008: A Streetcar
Named Desire



2008: Down and Out



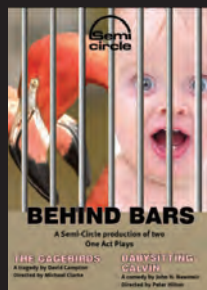
2007: RolePlay



2007: 3 One-Act Plays



2006: Same Time
Next Year



2006: Behind Bars



2005: Memory of
Water



"One of the many drawbacks of living in a house full of women is that a bad haircut cannot easily be downplayed. Thanks to the stand-in barber's failure to speak an intuitive mélange of Italian, Spanish and English as I do and as my normal barber does, I was left one afternoon with a teenage No. 2 on top, shaven ears and straggly 70s greasy locks curling erotically below my collar like a rustle of under-arm hair caught in the sink."

"One of the most bizarre pieces of advice I received while growing up (from a friend's mother) was that polite people always left something on their plates, and did not, as my own parents never failed to enjoin, "finish it up". It is now evident, in the new morality of sustainability, that this advice to leave food uneaten was plain bonkers. "Waste not want not" proves, like many Victorian epithets, to have multiple meanings, most of them true."

"Truth and reality are different perceptions. What companies say is not what is heard. Reputation is not brand, and being clear is not the same as being transparent. Just be honest, helpful and persuasive."

"Some companies get stubborn and self-righteous. They want not only to be right but they want proof and a certificate of it. Deep down, they want their critics to make public grovelling apologies, little realizing that in this they will lose credibility with their real customers and other stakeholders by beating the same drum over and over in a corporate trance like an addled hippy."

"I have never seen so many teenage girls in one place as outside that stadium before One Direction hit the stage at the Hallenstadion. There was 60s-style screaming in the air. Boys of any description were nowhere to be seen. Somehow it felt thrillingly pre-revolutionary."

It felt like the Flood had come to New York: pavements scattered with broken black umbrellas, gathered stark and broken in stricken clusters at swirling crossings. It made me wonder - what actually is the point of an umbrella?

"Celebrity obsession is no longer just a microculture for tired people, it is now the default multi-culture of the world, the filter through which modern morality and behaviour is forged and even politics is conducted."

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The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish

by David Tristram

Synopsis: For Henry Smith - actor, raconteur, sporting hero, leading socialite, business tycoon, secret agent, casanova and acting President of the United States - life was rarely dull. For Alice Smith, housewife - life was rarely anything else. Enter Michel - French waiter - tall, dark and available. Exactly what happened next, no-one's quite sure. Except that it involved a rotting melon, a deckchair and a bottle of neck-rub. Fantasy blurs into reality. Secret passions explode. And two worlds which seem a million miles apart are suddenly on a collision course. It could only happen to Henry & Alice. And only their pet goldfish, Orca, and you, will ever know the true story.



Zuzana Cox - Director

I'm the Director and I have to say, that on a scale of one to ten, we have had loads of fun with this play. The buoys and gills involved are a great team, it's been a joy herring them rehearse. We all hope you enjoy the show tonight and have a whale of a time with Orca. As an added bonus, if you can tell us how many fishy references there are in the biographies of our cast members, The Semi-Circle will make sure that you are amongst the first to be informed about future productions. Just e-mail your answer to info@semi-circle.ch



Joy Scherer - Orca

I'm **Orca**, the goldfish, and at times my life may seem dull, but you won't hear me carp. I know my place and observing Henry and Alice flounder can be very entertaining, especially when they daydream. I can tell you more but it would be a pity to reveal the whole story. P.S. I've never been too hot on spelling – but now I see I'm not the only one!



Liz Shaw - Alice

I'm **Alice Smith** and when I first met Henry my knees turned to jelly, he was such a catch! We got along swimmingly at first but now we're no longer in tuna and I'm always waiting for something exciting to happen. I'm no angel, but if Henry wasn't such a clown I wouldn't be such a snapper. Thank goodness for Orca, my sole source of enjoyment these days - well, Orca and my knitting!



David Cox - Henry

I'm **Henry Smith**. I first met my wife Alice while making a cup of char (or tea). Her charm and beauty had me hooked and I smelted. Though a little koi at first I thought I had the mussel to impress this woman. Sadly, our marriage turned out to be a load of pollocks, she no longer likes to perch on my knee and now I seem to skate from one fantasy world to the next.

CREW



Peter Hilton - Producer

This is my first time producing for Semi-Circle and I have had to rely a lot on others who have done this before me. It has been a rewarding experience which was helped by willing directors who made my life easier replying to my numerous requests promptly and with good humour. I have also been helped by the early volunteering of back stage people which stopped the last minute scramble we often have. I trust you will all enjoy the show and have a good evening out.



Tanja Spichty - Assistant Producer

Tanja has worked her way up the Semi-Circle ladder: Starting off in the audience of Unoriginal Sin, she helped backstage in RENT, worked as a bartender in Looking back, Falling forward and bargained hard for the stage platforms for The Shadow Box. About a year ago, she was co-opted as a committee member: In Greener Grass she helped Peter Hilton, mainly by writing Swiss German e-mails.



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Michael Clarke - Stage Manager

Actor; director; sound effects, lighting, production manager; voice-over; film extra, stage manager, ... , whatever. The important thing is taking part in the production.

But just one thing: do not ask me to dance on stage. You'll be sorry, believe me!

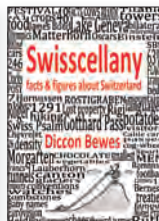
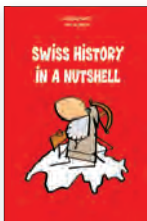


Chris Jones - Assistant Stage Manager

I moved here in 1975 after meeting my future wife while she was au pairing in London. Rose to the position of "Wirtschaftsinformatiker" working for Basel Stadt and took early retirement in 2012. Married 1975, one daughter, Wendy, who happens to be acting in this production, and one 6-year-old grandson, Maxime. I now devote my time to my hobbies which include spoiling my grandson, cooking, playing squash, golf and Jass, hiking, travelling and watching football. Maybe I'll soon be able to include "working in theatre productions" to the list.

Production Assistant
Production Assistant
Production consultant
Sound and lights
Makeup Supervisors
Front of House
Ticketing
Design & Publicity

Scott Holland
Manu Gupta
Eleanor Low
Jeff Wilson
Helen Baldomero, Carol Rees
Penny Rettig, Rory Macfie, Penny Tuckwell
Cristina Pirovani, Rory Macfie
Eleanor Low

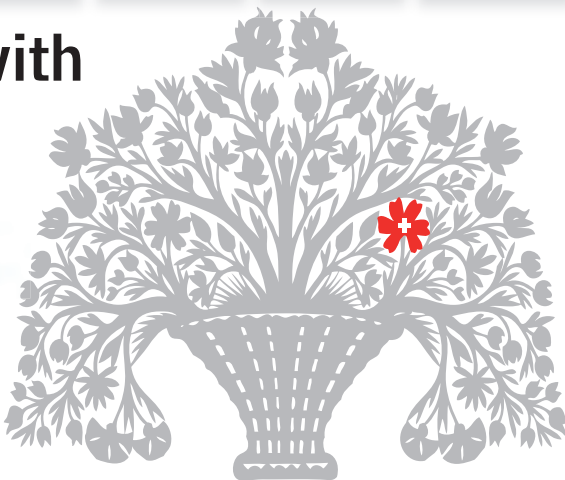


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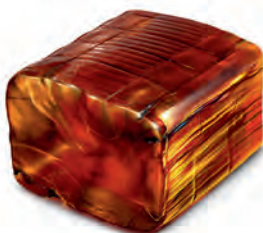
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