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# DISTRACTION

AN EVENING OF CONFUSION, DELUSION AND HYSTERIA



**1-900-  
DESPERATE**  
BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG

**MARIGOLDS**  
BY JOHN CHAMBERS

**NAOMI IN  
THE LIVING ROOM**  
BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG

**LATE  
ENTRY**  
BY DAVID TRISTRAM

**6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 NOVEMBER 2014**

**THEATER ARLECCHINO, AMERBACHSTRASSE 14, 4057 BASEL**

**DOORS OPEN 19:00, PERFORMANCE 20:00 | PRICES CHF 30, CHF 25**

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## December 2014 Panto

4th	Thursday	19:30
5th	Friday	19:30
6th	Saturday	14:00 & 19:30
7th	Sunday	13:00 & 17:00

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## WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the Theatre Arlecchino where, in our Autumn Production 2014, we will entertain you with an assortment of short plays and TV sketches about crossed lines, crossed loves, cross-dressing – and just being cross!

In case you don't know about us, The Semi-Circle Basel is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes English-speaking theatre in the Basel region and the public performance of dramatic works in the English Language. Do take a look at our website [www.semi-circle.ch](http://www.semi-circle.ch) for more information. We present two programmes every year – usually a full-length play in the spring or early summer, and a collection of short plays with a common theme in the autumn. When selecting our programmes, we aim not only to entertain you, but also to give opportunities to as many of our members as possible, both on- and off-stage. This Club has so many talented, enthusiastic, energetic and committed members that every year sees the bar going higher and higher, and 2014 has been no exception.

Our Spring Production this year was “Calendar Girls” (director Peter Hilton). This challenging production was a huge success, with packed audiences sharing our own roller-coaster of joy and suffering, tears and laughter. Semi-Circle's Calendar Girls calendar 2015, with our own take on “fabulous concealment”, is on sale in the lobby today – all profits go to Cancer Research in Switzerland (Krebsliga). Please do buy one to support this cause.

While rehearsals for Calendar Girls were underway, Semi-Circle was invited to participate in the 2014 Festival of European Anglophone Theatre Societies (FEATS). So, calling on all our resources, we took “The Revelations of Orca the Goldfish” (director Zuzana Cox) to Luxembourg in June and achieved an amazing second place overall, with nominations for Best Actor and Best Actress. Because of this success, we were invited to go on to the British All Winners' Festival, Isle of Man, in July. There we won two of the five awards for one-act plays, including the award for best individual performance and for technical and backstage work.

All of this is a testament to the excellent theatrical standards of our Club. We are all amateurs, but we are amateurs with a passion for all things relating to the theatre, and this drives us to find the time in our busy schedules to plan, organise, set up, rehearse, rehearse, and rehearse again, perform and enjoy the fruits of our labours. As we dim the lights in the Auditorium tonight, all we ask you to do is sit back, relax, take a deep breath, and allow us to drive you to “Distraction”!

Sue Newstead

# 1-900-DESPERATE

BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG

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## GEORGINA ROTTER - DIRECTOR

Georgina Rotter graduated in Film and Video at CalArts, USA. Her acting skills got fired up at Santa Monica College where she also directed for the stage. In New York, she trained in Impro at the crazy PIT. Back in Basel, Georgina had the honor of directing the comedy Medea in Semi-Circles's Duplicity. Next, she acted the mad and wonderful role of Mitzi in A Murder is Announced. Georgina is extremely thrilled to direct for Semi-Circle again. She greatly enjoys working with her highly enthusiastic and wonderfully fun 1-900-Desperate cast!

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## DENISE HARNEY - ZELDA

Denise is delighted to be making her acting debut with Semi-Circle this November. Not exactly a stranger to the stage, she has had many years in musical variety shows in Ireland. Denise has been in the Basel region for the past six years and loves it!

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## CATHERINE MATTER - SCUZZY

Though born in England, Catherine has lived in Switzerland since she was nine and first moved to Basel for university. She was last on stage as part of the chorus in a high school production of "Carousel" during her exchange year in America. After a good long break, 1-900-DESPERATE is her first attempt at a speaking role. If it goes well, she may even consider playing a woman at some point in the future. Putting on this play has been an exciting and rewarding experience, the many laughs well worth the effort.

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### **GINA MOROSEY - GRETCHEN**

This is my first production with Semi-Circle. Performing arts has been my passion since I was thirteen years old. I feel very blessed to be involved with such a welcoming group of people and to be a part of an extraordinary cast of lovely women. This has been an exciting and unforgettable process and I look forward to many more shows to come!



### **JOCELYN PRICE - SALLY**

A Californian enjoying a few years in Zurich, Jocelyn grew up with musical theater and trained under Ed Claudio at the Actor's Studio and Jesse Merz at the Columbia Gorge School of Theater. Some favorite roles include Rizzo in Grease and the Scarecrow in The Wizard of Oz with the Davis Musical Theater Company. She owes a great deal to director Allen Schmeltz for his excellent direction at Garbeaus' Dinner Theater. After performing in and choreographing over 50 productions, she delved into languages and non-profits. She happily returns to theater and thanks Georgina and the cast for the fabulous process.



### **RUBEN WULFERS - BOY**

Ruben Finn Wulfers was born on September 5, 2005 in Arlesheim, Switzerland. He could talk before he could walk, but he could dance before he could sing. Ruben enjoys time in the outdoors with his family and has paddled more kilometers of the British Columbian coastline than most adults who live in Canada. He climbs, he runs, he jumps and, despite his outdoor expeditionary skills, he still likes to play with Lego. He is very excited about being part of semi-circle and looks forward to his illustrious career in acting.

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# LATE ENTRY

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BY DAVID TRISTRAM

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## PENNY RETTIG - DIRECTOR

Penny has been a Semi-Circle member for over ten years, occasionally treading the boards but more often to be found 'on the book' backstage or selling tickets on Front of House. Although she has directed larger productions, such as *An Inspector Calls* in Botswana many years ago, she likes the close team work of short two-handers and has thoroughly enjoyed working with Edward and Erin.

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## EDWARD ATKINSON - ADJUDICATOR

Edward has lived in the Basel area since 1989, and was the archivist for a bank. He appeared in several Semi-Circle plays in the 1990s, including playing George in *"The Actor's Nightmare"*. He returned to the Semi-Circle stage last year, and his latest role was Liam in *"Calendar Girls"*. He is pleased to be appearing in a David Tristram play again, his first Semi-Circle performance having been in Tristram's *"What's for Pudding?"* in 1992 - you're right, he was a child star.

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## ERIN O'BRIEN - LISA MCTAVERTY / SARAH RAYMOND

Erin O'Brien is proud to be joining the cast of *'Last Entry'*. Erin has been involved in theatre and performance from a young age and graduated from the Media and Theater Arts program in University. Erin has been recently working back stage as a make-up assistant on such productions as *Rent* and *Greener Grass* and worked with props and make-up for *Calendar Girls*. She is excited to be back on the stage and would like to thank her director, Penny Rettig, for this opportunity and her guidance. Erin also thanks her husband and son for their love and support.

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SPRING 2015 PRODUCTION

## ENTERTAINING ANGELS

BY  
RICHARD EVERETT

DIRECTED BY DAVID COX

PERFORMANCE DATES:  
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# PROGRAM

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## OVERVIEW

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### **1-900-DESPERATE, BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG**

35-year old Gretchen calls the 1-900-Desperate line to meet other singles. But except for a five-year old boy and an egotistical teenager, it's all just women again. Is there any hope?

Georgina Rotter - Director

Denise Harney - Zelda

Catherine Matter - Scuzzy

Gina Morosey - Gretchen

Jocelyn Price - Sally

Ruben Wulfers – Boy

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### **SKETCH ('TOOTH FAIRY') BY LEE MACK**

Comedy sketches performed by the cast and crew that took 'Orca the Goldfish' to FEATS and BAWF in 2014.

Zuzana Cox - Director

Cast: David Cox, Christine Archer, Joy Scherer, Susan Aeschbach, Ann Apted, Jonathan Apted, Clare Austin, Zuzana Cox, Sharon Marshall

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### **LATE ENTRY, BY DAVID TRISTRAM**

If you were judging a play festival, could you give honest feedback and face the consequences? Or would it drive you to distraction?

Penny Rettig - Director

Edward Atkinson - Adjudicator

Erin O'Brien – Lisa McTaverty / Sarah Raymond

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# INTERVAL (15MIN)

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## **SKETCH ('PHOBIAS') BY LEE MACK**

Zuzana Cox - Director

Cast: David Cox, Christine Archer, Joy Scherer, Susan Aeschbach, Ann Apted, Jonathan Apted, Clare Austin, Zuzana Cox, Sharon Marshall

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## **NAOMI IN THE LIVING ROOM, BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG**

Naomi is a psychotic mother who takes us on a hysterical roller-coaster ride when her confused son and his neurotic wife decide to pay her a visit.

John Hyland - Director

Cathy Barker - Naomi

Madeline Del Real - Johnna

Adriano Leanza – John

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## **SKETCH ('MICHELANGELO AND THE POPE') BY LEE MACK**

Zuzana Cox - Director

Cast: David Cox, Christine Archer, Joy Scherer, Susan Aeschbach, Ann Apted, Jonathan Apted, Clare Austin, Zuzana Cox, Sharon Marshall

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## **MARIGOLDS - PILING ON THE AGONY, BY JOHN CHAMBERS**

Harry Street is a pain in the backside - or should that read, 'has'? And his wife Marigold has still to stuff the Sunday chicken...

Peter Hilton - Director

David Laurie – Harry Street

Sue Newstead – Marigold Street

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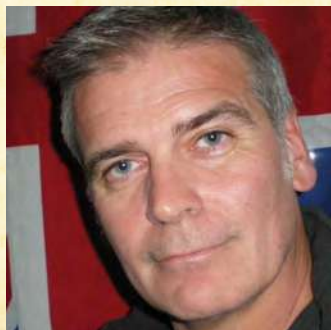
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# NAOMI IN THE LIVING ROOM

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BY CHRISTOPHER DURANG

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## JOHN HYLAND - DIRECTOR

John appeared this year in Calendar Girls & Twelfth Night and will also perform in this year's Panto. Since moving to Basel John had featured in a dozen Basel Pantos and a half-dozen Semi Circle Productions including roles for Upstart Entertainment & Designlight. John additionally took part in two FEATS theatre competitions which won awards; the 2001 "Anthony Cornish Discretionary Award" in Den Haag for Hard Candy, and the 2011 "Tachè Diamond Award" for 3rd place in Geneva for Death of a Clown. John wishes the audience an amazing evening of comedy without too many "distractions".

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## CATHY BARKER - NAOMI

Cathy has been residing in Basel for almost four years, having lived previously in Kenya, Peru and Yorkshire (although she is proud to hail from the other side of the Pennines – you know, where the best music, humour and rugby league come from). In her time, Cathy has been a TV newsroom assistant and researcher, a teacher, proof-reader and a sort-of writer. As a slightly nerdy person, her idea of relaxation is a nice cup of tea and the Guardian cryptic crossword. Recently, she has played Woman in "Losing It", Chris in "Calendar Girls" and Maria in "Twelfth Night".

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## MADELINE DEL REAL - JOHNNA

Born in California, raised in Switzerland, Madeline completed her training at the American Music and Dramatic Academy, and the Pearl Theatre Conservatory in New York City. She now enjoys performing in classical, modern and original works on both sides of the Atlantic. Past performance credits include: Twelfth Night, The Spring, Romeo and Juliet, Recalculating, Don't Do It, The Sandra O'Day Show, Prayers, Rubberneck, Lysistrata goes to Harvard, A different Kind of Love, Between Daylight and Boonville, Months on End, Resurrection Blues, Much ado About Nothing, Down to Sleep, Weird Sisters, Return to the Forbidden Planet and Richard the Third.

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## ADRIANO LEANZA - JOHN

Adriano Leanza had his first stage appearance in 1999 in the multilingual musical production "Villa Bahnhof". He has since been spotted in musical productions with Upstart Entertainment (Rick in "A Slice of Saturday Night") and Semi-Circle (Mark Cohen in "Rent") as well as the rather unmusical Gay Beggars play "Wyrd Sisters". In 2013 he debuted as co-director in "In the Dark". He is very much looking forward to being back on stage again.



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# MARIGOLDS - PILING ON THE AGONY

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BY JOHN CHAMBERS

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## PETER HILTON - DIRECTOR

I have now been in Basel for just over 21 years making my living as a Business English teacher. I have produced, directed, worked back stage and acted in a number of Semi-Circle productions. I have also been involved in and directed a number of Pantos for The Basel English Panto group. This is about the 4th time I have directed a short play for our theatrical group and, as always, it has been a lot of fun. I hope you have enjoyed our contribution to the evening and been well entertained and it has not made you squirm too much!

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## DAVID LAURIE - HARRY STREET

After being distracted by work for a while (couple of decades), David returned to the stage in 2011 to take part in 'RENT' (chorus and Mr. Jefferson). Since then he has enjoyed playing roles in several productions; as randy King Claudius ('Ruby of Elsinore'), dying confused Joe ('Shadowbox'), party-crasher Hoover ('Creep'), straightlaced Foreman of the Jury ('Trial by Jury'), aging gigolo Pompe-Nicole ('Mixed Doubles') and lovable John ('Calendar Girls'). He's pleased to finally play a thoroughly nasty character, who's driven to distraction. As people say, the bad guys are the most fun to play.

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## SUE NEWSTEAD - MARIGOLD STREET

From the age of six the thrill and drama of School productions had me totally hooked on theatre. Starring in such classics as "The Princess and the Pea" and "Toad of Toad Hall", to name but two, I took my first faltering steps on the long and winding road that brought me at last to the Semi-Circle production of "Calendar Girls" earlier this year. Now I swop the sunflowers of that play for the marigolds of this one . . . enjoy!

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# CONGRATULATIONS...!

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**TO THE DIRECTOR, CAST AND CREW OF DAVID TRISTRAM'S "THE EXTRAORDINARY REVELATIONS OF ORCA THE GOLDFISH" FOR THEIR RECENT AWARDS, WHICH ARE A TESTAMENT TO THEIR EXCELLENT THEATRICAL STANDARDS:**



- ▶ FEATS (Festival of European Amateur Theatrical Societies) - Luxembourg, 6-9 June 2014. Second place overall and nominations for best actor and best actress.
- ▶ British All Winners' Festival - Douglas, Isle of Man, 20-26 July 2014. The production won two of the five awards for one-act plays, including the award for best individual performance and for technical and backstage work.

Director: Zuzana Cox

Cast: David Cox (Henry), Christine Archer (Alice), Joy Scherer (Orca)

Crew: Susan Aeschbach, Ann Apted, Jonathan Apted, Clare Austin, Zuzana Cox, Sharon Marshall

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## CREW



### CHRIS JONES - PRODUCER

Chris is a relative newcomer to the world of theatre. After working back stage on the last two Semi-Circle productions, this is his first attempt at producing. Now retired, Chris is an avid hobby cook and is happiest when out on a golf course or spoiling his grandsons.



### JEFF WILSON - LIGHTS AND SOUND

I'm a "Jack of all trades backstage". Due to a lack of stage presence I have busied myself with such Semi-circle activities as parking attendant, barman, set builder, cloakroom attendant and lighting Johnny. All good fun!

**General assistant  
(Auditions)**

Scott Holland

**Publicity**

Luca Manganelli

**Hair/Make-up**

Carol Rees

David Laurie,  
Eleanor Low

**Stage Hand**

Nadira Bahi

**Treasurer / Cashier**

Rory Macfie

**Artwork**

Wendy Monard

**Usher**

Tanja Spichty

Nicolas Friedli

**Ticket sales**

Penny Tuckwell

(bastardandbitches.com)

**Calendar sales**

Valerie Walder

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Ricola for providing drops

Peter Keller from Theater Arlecchino for being a gracious and kind host.

# PAST PRODUCTIONS

BY SEMI-CIRCLE



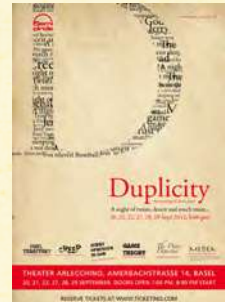
2014: Calendar Girls



2013: Greener Grass



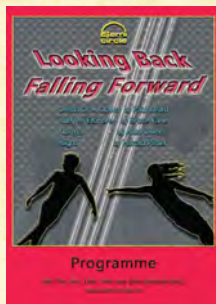
2013: A Murder is Announced



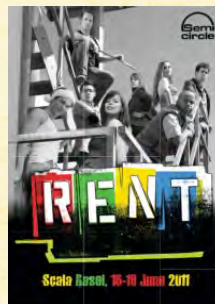
2012: Duplicity



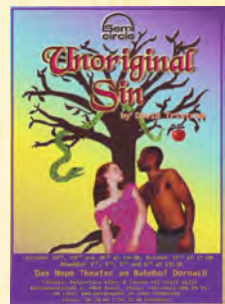
2012: The Shadow Box



2011: Looking Back Falling Forward



2011: RENT the Musical



2010: Unoriginal Sin



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