



Entertaining Angels

**A play by
Richard Everett
Directed by David Cox**



5, 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 26, and 27 June 2015
Theater Rampe, Borromaeum, Byfangweg 6, 4051 Basel



This amateur production of "Entertaining Angels" is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.



Young King Arthur, the Panto

December 10, 11, 12, 13 Scala Basel. More information www.baselpanto.org
Tickets available from Ticketino in September

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Welcome from the President

Welcome to Theater Rampe, and to our production of *Entertaining Angels* by Richard Everett!

On behalf of Semi-Circle's many talented, enthusiastic, and energetic members, I take this opportunity to thank you for being in our audience tonight. Your dedicated and continued support allows us to indulge our passion and, in return, we offer you that dizzy cocktail of emotional and intellectual ingredients called "Theatre".



This year Semi-Circle celebrates its 40th Anniversary, which makes us the longest-running English-speaking amateur theatre group in Basel. As a not-for-profit organisation, our aim is to offer a high standard of theatrical entertainment in the English language. With more than 90 productions behind us, we present two programmes every year – a full-length play in June at Theater Rampe and a collection of short plays with a common theme in November at Theater Arlecchino. We also hold monthly play-reading sessions – for readers and listeners alike.

Take a look at our website www.semi-circle.ch and, if you would like to be more involved in our activities, you will be most welcome, whatever your level of experience. But for now, sit back, relax, and enjoy the evening.

Sue Newstead



Entertaining Angels in rehearsal.

Photos by David Cox, Jon Apted, Rita Felder

"A sure-fire hit which provides a showcase for new and familiar Semi-Circle talents"



Director's Note

The British actor Kenneth Haigh once said: *"You need three things in the theatre - the play, the actors and the audience, and each must give something."* So let's begin with the play.

It has been a while since I directed anything for the Semi-Circle. However last autumn I felt enthusiastic - all I needed was the right script and an interesting concept for the stage design; something thought-provoking, emotional and full of comedy moments. Something quintessentially English, and something which would provide challenging roles for at least five actors - mostly women.

Fortunately I did not have to search far. Richard Everett's *Entertaining Angels* gives us all this and more! Set in the deceptive quiet of an English vicarage garden, and with four women and a ghost as the characters, this award-winning, thought-provoking, off-beat comedy addresses the themes of love, grief, denial, acceptance and moving onward. It is filled with sharp-edged comedy, healthy irreverence, probing wit and tremendous emotion. A truly wonderful and well-written play.

Next come the actors.

Kevin Bacon noted that *"a good director creates an environment, which gives the actor the encouragement to fly."* All five actors you'll see on stage tonight have not only learned to fly in their roles, but have soared high during the 35 rehearsals which have taken place since the auditions back in January. I'd like to say a huge 'thank you' for all their hard work and commitment which they have given during rehearsals - I've loved every minute spent working with them all! Make sure to look out for each of their favourite lines from the play, as indicated in their biographies!

Of course it's not just about the actors - many more people were needed to make this production possible. So I'd really like to take this opportunity to personally thank the production and stage management teams, plus all the helpers and sponsors for their tremendous effort and support. Many thanks also to Andreas Rasp and the Borromäum staff for their wonderfully warm welcome at the Theater Rampe – our home now for the last 3 full-length Semi-Circle productions!

... And last but not least, you, the audience.


Entertaining Angels opened at the Chichester Festival Theatre in 2006 with Penelope Keith in the role of Grace, and played to a record-breaking audience of 26,000 people in three weeks. The play has subsequently proved to be a big hit with amateur theatre companies and audiences around the world. To my knowledge this is the first time that *Entertaining Angels* has been performed in front of an audience in Switzerland. I hope you will sit back and enjoy tonight's show – and give your blessings and appreciation for the fine drama and comedy which is about to unfold on stage!

David Cox Director

The phrase "Entertaining Angels" refers to the practice of treating all guests – be they royalty or ordinary folk – as if they were visiting angels!

40 Years of Semi-Circle...

From one of our first Semi-Circle productions - a play-reading of George Bernard Shaw's *Heartbreak House* in December 1976 - this programme preserves the autographs of several of the cast.



 THE SEMICIRCLE
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 presents

H E A R T B R E A K H O U S E
 by
 GEORGE BERNARD SHAW
 A playreading in three acts

Cast in order of appearance :

Ellie Dunn	Diana Zuger
Narrator	Iris Linsi
Nurse Guinness	Barbara Häner
Captain Shotover	Bob Fillington
Lady Utterword	Barbara Clark
Mrs. Mushabye	Muriel Taylor
Mazzini Dunn	Bruno Mazzotti
Hector Mushabye	Bryan Taylor
Boss Hangan	Tony Christ
Randall Utterword	Ron Hill
Burglar	Jan Holmes
* * *	
Producer	Peter Droberg
Makeup	Elizabeth Seiler
Stage Manager	Peter Nixon
* * *	

The play takes place in a house in the hilly country
 in the middle of the north edge of Sussex.
 Act 1: Early one fine September evening
 *** Interval (20 minutes) ***
 Act 2: The same evening after dinner
 Act 3: In the garden later that night

Handwritten signatures and notes:
 - Top left: British Circle logo
 - Top center: THE SEMICIRCLE sponsored by THE BRITISH CIRCLE presents
 - Top right: Nixon
 - Middle left: Ra Hill, Can Hill
 - Middle right: Barbara Häner, Jane Zuger, Bob Fillington, Muriel Taylor, Bryan Taylor, Tony Christ, Ron Hill
 - Bottom left: Barbara Clark, Iris Linsi
 - Bottom right: Elizabeth Seiler, Peter Nixon





Semi-Circle's Next Autumn Production 2015

An evening of short plays
November 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14

Auditions:

Sat 13th June (09:00 – 13:00)
Wed 17th June (18:00 – 22:30)
Theater Arlecchino, Walkeweg 122,
4052 Basel

For more information: www.semi-circle.ch



Pictures from the 2014 production *Distraction*. Photographer: Martin Spedding

Entertaining Angels Cast



Zuzana Cox

Grace

Backstage, front of house, on stage and directing, Zuzana has been involved in numerous Semi-Circle productions over many years. Her most recent stage appearance was for the Basel Panto Group where she realised two of her life-long ambitions: to play a true villain and to sing a Pink Floyd song on stage. Zuzana also directed the very successful one act play *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish* which was not only enjoyed by audiences in Basel, but went on to win a total of four prizes at two major international theatre festivals in 2014. She is treating the part of Grace with the respect it deserves. It is her most challenging role to date.

Favourite line: "The world is full of words Bardy, we're drowning in the bloody things."



Catherine Matter

Sarah

Catherine has lived in Basel for quite some time but only got up the nerve to audition for a Semi-Circle production last year. *Entertaining Angels* is her second play, and at least this time she got to play someone roughly her own age – and a woman at that. Relating to Sarah's insecurity was not a huge challenge – *Oh dear, what have I let myself in for?* – but surrounded by such a positive, generous, and funny cast, most of her fears soon abated, all except the one about learning all those lines... Let's hope you don't notice any mistakes tonight!

Favourite line: "I hope I'm up to the task – I'm not at all sure I'm ready."

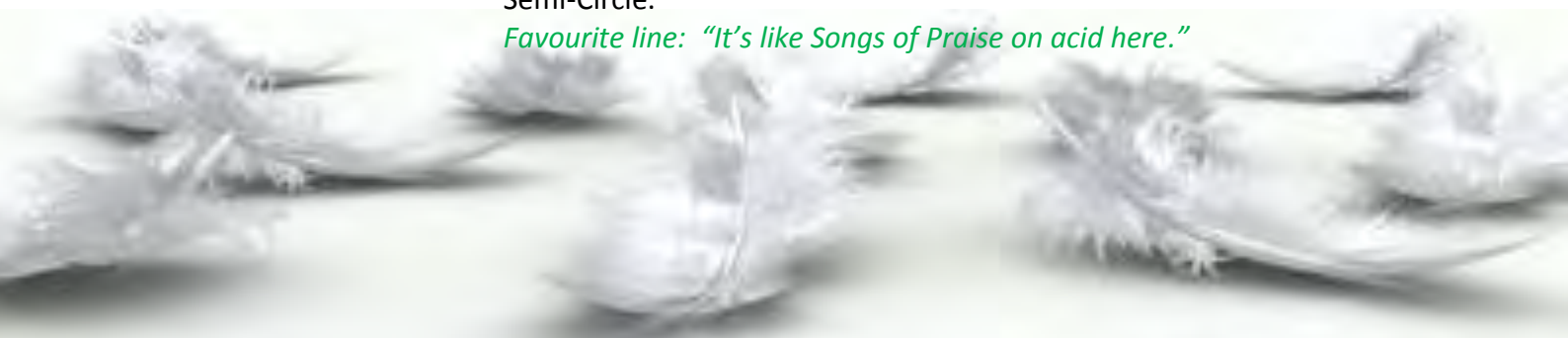


Rita Felder

Jo

Having studied Theatre and Theatre Pedagogy in Australia, Rita has a strong passion for all facets of the performing arts. Being a Drama teacher, Rita tends to be in the director's chair, with her most recent directing credits including *Aladdin – The Musical*, *Over The Wall* and *The Gift of the Magi* (South Korea). Her theatre credits include *Othello*, *The Crucible*, *The Tribunal*, *Shakespeare*, *bloody Shakespeare*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Cosi* and *Macbeth*. Rita has also performed with Basel's Theatresports Troupe 'Die Impronauten.' *Entertaining Angels* is Rita's first production with Semi-Circle.

Favourite line: "It's like Songs of Praise on acid here."





Carol Rees Ruth

Carol has enjoyed being a resident of the Basel region for the last 15 years and has spent many of those back stage wielding either paint brushes or makeup brushes. However, she has now been well and truly bitten by the performance bug and is enjoying life on stage as well. Her performance life started with a role in *The Memory of Water*, and more recently she bared all for *Calendar Girls*, interestingly again playing a character by the name of Ruth.

Favourite line: "Fear not, we'll have washed the blood off the walls by the time you arrive."



Michael Clarke 'Bardy' / Bardolph

Born in the UK and a resident of Switzerland for over 30 years, Michael has been involved in amateur dramatics for over 20 years. He has been both on-stage and back-stage in numerous theatre productions including a number of full-length plays, one-act plays and pantomimes. As well as acting and directing, he has also been responsible for sound design, stage management, production management and publicity. He has also appeared in short films and worked as an extra in full-length films. He finds working on theatre productions with teams of talented, creative and motivated people to be challenging and rewarding.

Favourite line: "It was a nasty bang on the head old thing."



Lisa Kerwin Singer

Lisa Anne Kerwin teaches middle school German, English, and Drama at the ISB. She is originally from Upstate NY (nowhere near NYC), but has lived overseas for almost eight years. In her previous theatre life, she was a member of the St. Mark's Players in Washington, DC, and was involved in dozens of their performances, both on and offstage. She has spent the last six years coaching 11-to-14-year-olds not to bump into the furniture or play in the curtains, so she is incredibly grateful to David for giving her this opportunity to be onstage again herself.



Christine Archer-Lockwood Musician

Usually seen and heard around Basel playing the piano or acting as a music director Christine has been MD for 11 pantos, *Twist and Shout* (2009), *Café Brel* (2010), *RENT* (2011, 2013); *Don Juan in Soho* (2014); conductor of the English Seminar Choir (2005-2008); pianist for Gilbert and Sullivan events (*Trial by Jury*, 2013) and the multimedia show *Inga Svensson* (2012-2013). In 2011 she had her acting debut in Semi-Circle's *Ruby of Elsinore*; 2012 *Game Theory*; and her acting career high in 2014 playing Alice Smith with the award-winning *The extraordinary adventures of Orca the Goldfish* where she picked up a nomination for Best Actress at FEATS 2014.

Synopsis

A play about four women and a ghost, *Entertaining Angels* is filled with sharp-edged comedy, healthy irreverence, probing wit and tremendous emotion. **Bardy** – the recently deceased Vicar whose dilemmas and beliefs live on after him. **Grace** - his widow, who battles to come to terms with life, love, death and betrayal. **Ruth** - her missionary sister who has held on to a guilty secret for 30 years. **Jo** - Grace’s psychotherapist daughter who despite her failed marriage becomes a calming intermediary between her mother and aunt. **Sarah** - the new Vicar who discloses her own past and uncertainty. Set in the deceptive quiet of a quintessential English garden, this play is not just about love, grief, denial, acceptance, forgiveness and moving on. It also involves a hamster, a lawn mower, a French polisher and other witty diversions!

ACT1 - 50 minutes



Interval - 15 minutes



ACT 2 - 50 minutes



“Scratch the surface and you’ll find interesting undercurrents rippling the water”



Entertaining Angels Hymnal

I

Dear Lord and Father of mankind,
forgive our foolish ways;
re clothe us in our rightful mind,
in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

II

He who would valiant be 'gainst all disaster,
Let him in constancy follow the Master.
There's no discouragement shall make him once relent
His first avowed intent to be a pilgrim.

Since, Lord, Thou dost defend us with Thy Spirit,
We know we at the end, shall life inherit.
Then fancies flee away! I'll fear not what men say,
I'll labor night and day to be a pilgrim

Direction & Production Team:



David Cox Director / Stage Design

A familiar face on the Semi-Circle stage over the last twenty five years. David was last seen as Henry Smith in *The Extraordinary Adventures of Orca the Goldfish* for which he received a nomination as best actor at FEATS, and was awarded the Amateur Theatre Trophy for best performance at the 2014 NDFA British All-Winners Festival. In the last few years David has also performed in a number of Basel English Pantomime productions, most recently as a member of the Greek Chorus in *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves*. *Entertaining Angels* is his first foray into directing and designing a full-length play for the Semi-Circle.



Clare Austin Assistant Director / Stage Manager

Clare Austin followed a whim in 2012, having been involved with Panto previously, and took her first stage management role for Semi-Circle. She has not looked back since and indeed, following the team's success in the British All Winners Festival last July, she will be moving to the Isle of Man where there is a plethora of theatre, both professional and amateur. She is very much looking forward to helping backstage during August in *Phantom of the Opera*. She is still very proud however, to be known as Alix's Mum :-)



Peter Hilton Production Manager

I have now been in Basel for just over 22 years making my living as a Business English teacher. I have produced, directed, worked backstage 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. For *Entertaining Angels* I have taken on the role of Production Manager - it means that I try to relieve the director (as far as possible) from having to take care of the minutiae that goes into putting on a production in areas not directly involved with the stage. This mainly concerns finding the volunteers to help (we are always looking for people) and setting up a working production team that is the background to any successful show. You will see from the number of helpers listed in this programme that this is a very involved process. If you would like to be part of this team in future productions then please get in touch with us through the Semi-Circle website.

"A warm and glowing serious comedy – like an Ayckbourn play finished by JM Barrie"



Kirsten Gräser Assistant Stage Manager & Lighting

Kirsten first appeared at the Semi-Circle doorstep in 2012, where she worked at Assistant Stage Manager in *The Shadow Box*. Since then she has been involved in the Semi-Circle Spring productions, where she worked in different technical related roles. After having learnt the words of 'Jerusalem' through various rehearsals in last year's production of *Calendar Girls*, she is excited to see what will occupy her mind from *Entertaining Angels*. For the wintertime, Kirsten has discovered the Panto and has largely enjoyed working backstage in the role of Assistant Stage Manager for the last few years.



Chris Jones Assistant Production Manager

Chris was born in England and moved to Basel in 1975. Having seen and enjoyed numerous Semi-Circle productions over the years, after retiring in 2012, and with time on his hands, it seemed natural to offer his help to the Semi-Circle. The bug bit and Chris has been involved in all the Semi-Circle productions since. Apart from the theatre, Chris loves to cook and is happiest when out on a golf course or spoiling his grandsons.



Jonathan Apted Stage Design and Building

Last year, having enjoyed many productions of the Semi Circle, Jon finally decided to get involved. He started by helping out backstage with the award winning production of *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish* and then, much to his surprise, performing onstage in the sketches for the *Distractions* production. For *Entertaining Angels* Jon has returned backstage, where his range of power tools coupled with an interest in gardening and DIY have lent themselves to helping design and build an indoor English vicarage garden in the heart of Basel.



"Thought provoking English comedy with real emotion – sit back and enjoy with a Pimms !"

Entertaining Angels Competition

So, how well do you know Basel ?

Did you have a close look at tonight's set? Well, we have a small confession to make. Those red granite rectory walls you see on stage were not photographed in "England's green and pleasant land". In fact they can be found at one specific location in Basel-Stadt.



If you can guess the location where these lovely, ivy-covered walls were photographed you can win a pair of complimentary tickets for the next Semi-Circle Autumn Production plus a unique and personalized memento from *Entertaining Angels*!

Just complete the slip shown below and pop it into the box in the foyer before you leave the theatre. The first correct answer drawn after the last performance wins the prize!

Clue: The location is in the middle of Basel, opposite a really 'jazzy' building, however you'll need to have the 'eye' of an eagle (or rather a 'bird') to spot it!

Name:

Address:

E-mail:

The location of the walls is:

"Live theatre, set in an English vicarage garden, in the middle of Basel!"

Acknowledgements

- Prompter:** Joy Scherer
- Sound:** Ann Apted
- Make up:** Erin O'Brien and Helen Baldomero
- Costumes:** Suzan Wilson
- Publicity:** Martin Spedding
- Artwork:** David Cox and Dragana Blaser
- Programme & Advertisers:** David Laurie
- Auditions Organiser:** Tanja Spichty
- Front of House:** Liz Shaw, Sue Aeschbach, Peter Berrie, Veronica Berrie, Sue Stafford, Valerie Walder, Billy Gilbert, Georgina Rotter, Penny Tuckwell, Martina Eberle, Corinna Balfour, Eva Sternkueker, Christina Pirovano, Jan Hawley, Cathy Barker, Luca Manganelli, Tim Seabrook, Ioannis Agalliadis, Jayne Herzog, Simone Schlaepfer, Sarah Nevill, Penelope Rettig, Wendy Monard, Tanja Spichty, Rory Macfie, Sine Diagne
- Help with move-in & strike:** Sue Newstead and Ralf Pfaff
- Tanja Herterich from Ricola for being a generous sponsor and providing us with Ricola drops.
Andreas Rasp and team from the Theatre Rampe, Borromäum.



If you would like to get involved in...

acting,
directing,
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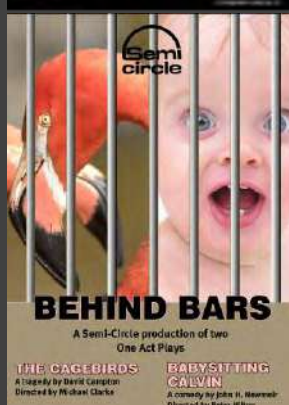
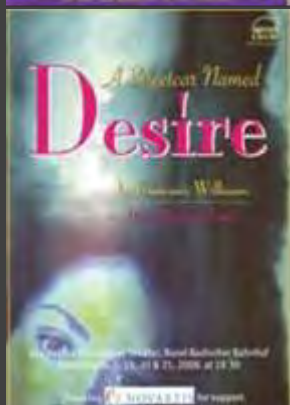
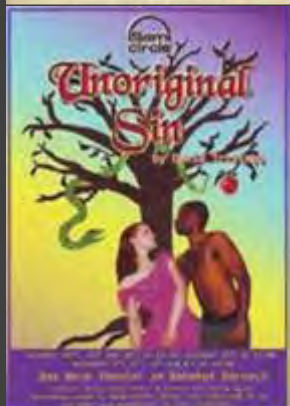
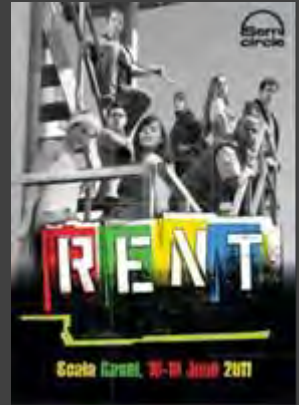
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