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November 2015

Theater Arlecchino

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Young King Arthur

Basel English Panto Group
Scala Basel
 Freie Strasse 89
 Basel

Panto December 2015

10th Thursday 19:30
 11th Friday 19:30
 12th Saturday 13:30 & 19:30
 13th Sunday 12:30 & 17:00

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The power of love will overcome

SCALA BASEL

Welcome from the President SUE NEWSTEAD



Welcome to Theater Arlecchino where we present to you our Autumn Production 2015 *True Colours*. This year marks the 40th Anniversary of Semi-Circle and, with more than 90 productions behind us, we are proud of our rich heritage.

As a not-for-profit organisation, it is our aim to offer a high standard of theatrical entertainment in the English language in the Basel area. We present two programmes every year – a full-length play in June, and a collection of short plays with a common theme in October/November. We also hold monthly play-reading sessions – for readers and listeners, members and non-members, valike.

Take a look at our website www.semi-circle.ch. If you would like to be more involved in our activities, both on- and off-stage, you will be most welcome, whatever your level of experience.

audience.

In return for your dedicated and continued support, it is our pleasure to entertain you with four short plays wherein the characters slowly but surely reveal their *True Colours*.

"A wonderful fact to reflect upon: that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other."
 Charles Dickens – A Tale of Two Cities

All you have to do is sit back, relax, and enjoy the moment as each drama unfolds on stage, and as each private secret and personal mystery reveals itself before your very eyes.

As for tonight, on behalf of the many talented, enthusiastic, energetic and committed members of the Club, I thank you for being in our



**Hold these dates
for Semi-Circle's
next Spring
production!**

**10, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24 & 25
June 2016**

**Theater Rampe, Borromaeum,
Byfangweg 6, 4051 Basel**

For details on the play and
audition dates in January please
visit our website:
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Starring: Marc Storace, Stefan Raab, Daniel Raab, Christoph Wettstein, Anne Maria Schmid, Benjamin Fröhlich, Martin Sommerlatte, Lisa Greslehner and Ariane Wildberger. Book and lyrics: Krista Jaquet and James Sievert, Music: Jakob Vinje, Director: Hannah Price, Musical direction: Christine Archer and Clemens Bötel, Visual direction: Jussi Hyttinen, Producer: Daniel Raab

TEST

THE ROCK OPERA

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Producers Note JASMIN KOSSENJANS

When Tanja Spichty casually mentioned to me after my second (third?) glass of wine during a Semi-Circle performance intermission that the job of Production manager was up for grabs, I thought "How hard can it be?". Admittedly I had been toying with the idea of being more actively involved with the Semi-Circle for a while now. My last (and first, come to think of it) stint as an actress was many eons ago with *Bouncers and Shakers*. Not only was it great fun, and I discovered talents I never thought I had (apparently I was pretty good...); but I had built wonderful friendships with fellow thespians that I treasure up to this day.

Sadly, acting means commitment, having the time to dedicate oneself to the stage and mandatory rehearsals. Difficult, when my job requires time away from Basel. So, when Tanja asked me in a tone as if she was mentioning it

may rain tomorrow, I said "YES!" with an enthusiasm, even she was shocked.

If it wasn't for the production team, I may have indeed thought I was a wee bit mad. Their experience, dedication and eagerness to help and support me, has made the experience an enjoyable one.

I wish you a memorable and fun evening!



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ACT ONE

ACT TWO

My Apology BY WOODY ALLEN

Director Luca Manganelli

Scott Holland as Socrates

Isabel Byrne as Agathon

Michael Abi-Saab as Simmias

SYNOPSIS

The play is a re-make of Socrates' death, where the main character is still very attached to his mortal body. Starting as an almost serious philosophical debate, it quickly drifts to a grotesque attempt to escape the death sentence.

Length 10-15 minutes

Syrinx BY KATE MOSSE

Director Christine Archer-Lockwood

Zuzana Cox as Marion Knowles

Rita Felder as Sarah Peters

Liz Shaw as Susan Winston

Diana Zuger as Julie Peters (Sarah's mother)

Sylvia Bach Flautist

SYNOPSIS

The play is set in a principal's office, before and after a school prize-giving ceremony. School principal (Marion Knowles) is about to leave the school and wishes to put closure to an unfortunate episode involving a student that happened a few years earlier.

Length 35 minutes

.....
INTERVAL 15 MINS
.....

Sand to the Egyptians BY J.P.S. YATES

Director John Hyland

Co-director Michelle Schirpa

Saurabh Sinha as James

Danielle Zammit as Natalie

Janine Jakob / Rajshri Ingle as Samantha

SYNOPSIS

Smooth operator, James, makes a real splash with Natalie at a speed dating event. In five minutes she discovers that he is a charming, attentive individual with a fascinating and dangerous career (police negotiator), a first class degree from Cambridge University and the surname McVitie - as in the biscuits. However James is not all he seems, but then neither is Natalie.

Length 30 minutes

Sure Thing BY DAVID IVES

Director Stephanie Feddern

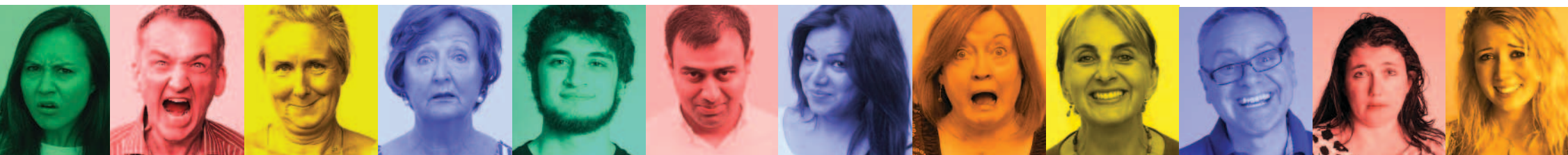
David Laurie as Bill

Billy Gilbert as Betty

SYNOPSIS

Betty and Bill meet by chance in a café, and begin negotiating the maze of wrong things to say on a first encounter. Awkward! Wouldn't you just love to be able to rephrase those clumsy chat-up lines?

Length 10 minutes



the directors



CHRISTINE
ARCHER-LOCKWOOD

Syrinx

Christine is used to the performing arts scene as a Music Director. In recent years Semi-Circle gave her the opportunity to try her hand at acting. She got hooked and then set herself the challenge of directing a one-act play. Learning about stage design, writing light and sound plans, and creating original music, has added to the stimulating experience of working with a fantastic cast for her directing debut.



LUCA MANGANELLI

My apology

Luca has always been fond of art and literature. He started as an actor ten years ago, following a 3-year course in Italy. He then became a permanent member and vice-president of an Italian theatre association. In Basel, he has the honor of being a member of the Semi-Circle Committee and he was also part of the cast of *Calendar Girls* in the spring production of 2014. He played in many comedies and dramas and in several children's plays as well; he was also part of a clown therapy group working in the hospitals. Directing is a rather new and exciting experience for him!



STEPHANIE FEDDERN

Sure Thing

Having acted in various productions in Basel, Mutenz (Theatergruppe Rattenfaenger), Augusta Raurica, Berlin and Vancouver, Stephanie has recently discovered her interest in directing. She has directed a number of school productions, and has particularly fond memories of her adaptation of Agatha Christie's novel *And Then There Were None*. In 2014, she completed her training in theatre education in Zurich, and this year attended the summer intensive course at the Atlantic Acting School in New York. Whether NYC will surpass London as her favourite theatre city in the world remains to be seen...



MICHELLE SCHIRPA

Sand to the Egyptians

Michelle is a Semi-Circle newcomer, making her debut as assistant director. She majored in Social Communication and two minors in Art Education & Foreign Language Teaching, a Digital Filmmaking course (NYFA), three ELT certifications (University of Cambridge) and 10 years of Drama Games in ELT. She has also worked with educational and musical theatre with amateur theatre groups throughout the years as both an actress and a director.



JOHN HYLAND

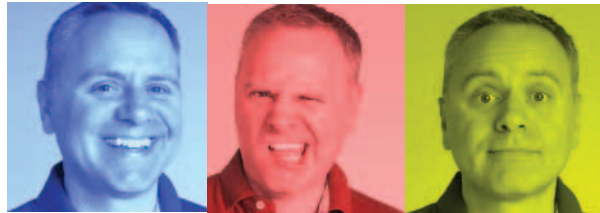
From Slough (like the play-writer JPS Yates), John arrived in 1993 as a "Romantic Immigrant" (because his ex Swiss wife told him she felt homesick). Since 1999 he has been with the Semi-Circle in many roles and functions, this play being his second to direct. As he will turn 52 during the 3rd performance, please do not hesitate to buy him a birthday drink in the bar downstairs.



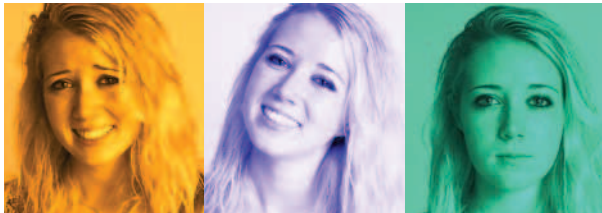
The cast

My Apology BY WOODY ALLEN

SCOTT HOLLAND
AS SOCRATES



Scott is pleased to be returning to the Semi-Circle stage after some 7 years in which he has moved from Basel to Geneva and back again. In that time, he has been working behind the scenes on the Semi-Circle committee as well as back-stage crew and front of house. He has also been in numerous roles for the Basel English Panto in all guises. He hopes that you will enjoy our Autumn production and find it funny and moving. If you like it, please tell your friends!



ISABEL BYRNE
AS AGATHON

Isabel has had a keen interest in the dramatic arts from a young age. She has been a member of the Lowry Young Actors Company in Manchester, UK, since its formation up until moving to Basel and has had the opportunity to perform multiple times from Shakespearean monologues to musical performances.

MICHAEL ABI-SAAB
AS SIMMIAS



Michael loves the theatre and music. He enjoys being a part of something, and believes that we all do to some extent. He is a Lebanese-American recent high school graduate who likes languages, and the saxophone, art, and discussing art.



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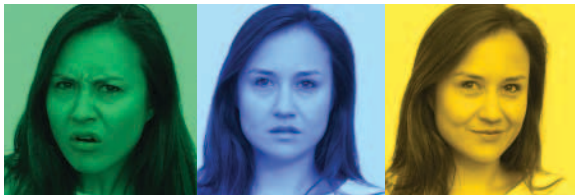
Syrinx

BY KATE MOSSE

ZUZANA COX
AS MARION KNOWLES



Zuzana was last seen on stage as Grace in *Entertaining Angels*. During her involvement with the Semi-Circle she has acted, directed, worked backstage and front of house. One of her most challenging theatre moments so far was in last year's panto, where, as the evil queen, she was required to sing. In this role as a headmistress, she is much more within her comfort zone. She has thoroughly enjoyed being part of an all-female team!



RITA FELDER
AS SARAH PETERS

Rita studied Theatre and Theatre Pedagogy in Australia and has a strong passion for all facets of the performing arts. Some of her acting credits include *Othello*, *The Crucible*, *Lady Windermere's Fan*, *Così* and *Macbeth*. She also performed in the recent Semi-Circle Production of *Entertaining Angels* and is part of Basel's Theatresports Troupe "Die Impronauten". She is a cast member of the Musical *Avenue Q*, to be staged in Luzern in Spring 2016.

LIZ SHAW
AS SUSAN WINSTON



Liz has appeared in several recent Semi-Circle productions covering everything from Pinter to Agatha Christie! What she enjoys most is being part of a team coming together and putting their energy and passion into the telling of a story for the audience to enjoy, be it tragic or comic. She has had a wonderful time working with the ladies on this production and hopes you enjoy it too!

DIANA ZUGER
AS JULIE PETERS



A long-standing member of Semi-Circle there have been many roles back stage and on stage, the latest being Miss Marple in Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*. I keep saying I'll give up acting on stage but then comes along a challenging role in a great little play and how can I refuse the opportunity to be a part of this wonderful cast? Enjoy!

Many thanks to

Sylvia Bach - Flautist

Mike Low - arrangement and performance of the original composition by the director

Sharon Marshall - prompt

David Cox, Berndt Reiss - preparing lights, sounds and props

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G&S Yule apéro!

Thursday 3rd December 2015 - 7pm
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Location: Barbara-Keller, Klosterberg 2, Basel, 4051.

Tram: Theater/Heuwaage. Parking: Theater/Elisabethan.

Entrance: CHF 15 (members), CHF 20 (non-members) -

Includes finger buffet (other food contributions gratefully
received). Drinks available from the house bar.

RSVP savoyardsbasel@gmail.com by Monday 30th November 2015.



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Basel www.savoyards.ch

Sand to the Egyptians

BY J.P.S. YATES



DANIELLE ZAMMIT
AS NATALIE



SAURABH SINHA
AS JAMES



The first time he stepped on stage, it was 25 years back and he was in 2nd standard. He was the lead 'dog' in the play. Those blinding lights, those perspiring palms and those eager eyes of the audience, were addictive. Since then, Saurabh has done many plays and musicals in India and in US. He is still anxious, excited and eager for his first performance in Europe.

Danielle is originally from Malta and has taken an active part with various local theatre groups since arriving in Basel, this being her second lead role in a Semi-Circle short play. Should you meet Danielle in the bar downstairs you will have only 5 minutes before the next buzzer to say your name, age, profession, hobbies and 3 reasons why the Raeslinger 850 Duel Hoppers is so scintillating.

AS SAMANTHA

JANINE JACOB
is a Swiss journalist and currently taking her PhD at Zurich University. She will play the role of Samantha for the first 3 performances.

RAJSHRI INGLE
is an MBA student who will undertake the role of Samantha for the last 3 performances.



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Sure Thing BY DAVID IVES

Since coming out of the wings in 2011 to sing and dance in *RENT* (chorus & Mr. Jefferson) David has had great fun playing a variety of roles in several Semi-Circle productions; as randy King Claudius (*Ruby of Elsinore*), dying confused Joe (*Shadowbox*), party-crasher Hoover (*Creep*), aging gigolo Pompe-Nicole (*Mixed Doubles*), lovable John (*Calendar Girls*), and angry Harry with piles (*Marigolds - Piling on the Agony*). David can sympathise with Bill, since saying the wrong thing on dates, or running into awkward endless pauses was a speciality in his long-distant youth. Some memories still make him cringe, like the time when... oh dear, run out of space...

DAVID LAURIE
AS BILL



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BILLY GILBERT
AS BETTY

Having lived on the outskirts of Basel for 30 years to date, Billy has managed to blend in well despite her British roots. She was brought up on the edge of Birmingham, studied languages just outside Manchester and now works at the heart of one of the many pharmaceutical companies in and around Basel. Following her varied stage appearances at business functions, this is Billy's debut to the real stage.



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DAVID LAURIE PUBLICITY

MARTINA EBERLE STAGE MANAGER

TANJA SPICHTY CO- PRODUCTION + ASST. STAGE MANAGER

SCOTT HOLLAND ASST. PRODUCTION MANAGER.

KIRSTEN GRÄSER LIGHT AND SOUND

CHRIS JONES PUBLICITY SUPPORT AND STAGE HAND

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Noelle Abi-Saab, Rhia Woollaston and Jan Hawley

Front of House

Sarah Nevill , Edward Atkinson, Cristina Pirovano

Box office

Lisa Kerwin, Noelle Abi-Saab, Rhia Woollaston and Jan Hawley

Acknowledgements

Ralf Pfaff for lending his photographic talents. The cast and crew never looked so good!

GOURMETS IN THE HOOD for catering the closing party for cast and crew.

Rachel Wolf from Ricola for being a generous sponsor and providing us with Ricola drops.

Peter Keller and Manuel Müller for their help and support from Theater Arlecchino.

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