ENGLISH LANGUAGE AMATEUR THEATRE IN BASEL SINCE 1975

THE SEMI-CIRCLE PRESENTS







NOVEMBER 8 | 9 | 10 | 15 | 16 | 17 2 0 1 8

Theater Arlecchino Walkeweg 122, 4052 Basel

Doors open: 18.30h Seating: 19.10h

Performance starts: 19.30h
Performances are in English

TICKET SALES

Die Post, Manor, Bider & Tanner, Coop City, Basler Verkehrsbetriebe (Barfi), Hotelplan, Travelhouse, Globus Reisen, Plattfon Records and evening box office.

TICKETS CHF 30

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A warm welcome to the Semi-Circle Autumn Production 2018 where we present FRIENDSHIPS? - an evening of short plays.

Our pieces will test what we mean by friendship in a variety of times and places, relationships and circumstances. We are very pleased that you have chosen to join us on our journey of exploration.

As the very new President of our club I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in this production – directors, cast, crew and my colleagues on the Committee. Everyone concerned has given time, energy, commitment and creativity to bring these pieces to the stage.

The same thank you extends to all our members and friends for their continued support of the Semi-Circle. We are a not-for-profit organisation offering a high standard of English language theatre in the Basel area.

Our June production 2019 will be performed at the well-known Theater Tabourettli at a beautiful and central Basel setting. We very much look forward to sharing a new theatre experience with you all.

If you would like to be more involved, you will be most welcome, whatever your level of experience – check us out at www.semi-circle.ch.

I thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement, and for being in our audience tonight.

Enjoy the show!

Michael Bray

BASEL SPEAKS INLINGUA



All the world's a stage!

The inlingua team wishes you an enjoyable show.



G&S Yule apéro!

Friday 7th December 2018 - 7.30pm (doors 7pm)

Come and enjoy the festive cheer at our annual G&S Christmas carol singing event

Location: Silberbergsaal, Zum Lamm. Rebgasse 16, 4058 Basel

Tram: Claraplatz. Parking: Rebgasse

Entrance: CHF 20 (members), CHF 25 (non-members) Children over 12, CHF 10. Includes drinks and finger buffet (other food contributions gratefully received)

Registration by: 30th November

Contact: <u>savoyardsbasel@gmail.com</u>



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

PRODUCER'S NOTE

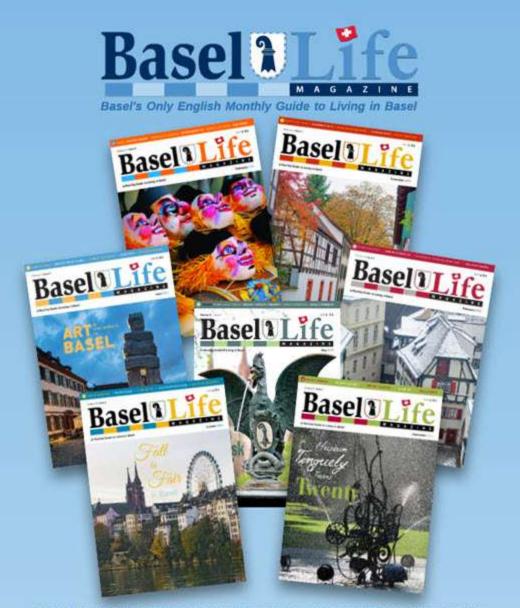
I have been involved with Semi-Circle for some years now, and I happily assist wherever I'm needed, be it behind the scenes, front of house, or even at the bar. This time around I have been asked to be production manager, which is always more of a challenge in the autumn when our

production usually consists of several short plays with as many different directors.

Hopefully, we have succeeded in bringing to you a varied programme with lots of opportunities to laugh or reflect. Above all I hope that you will be entertained.

Sincerely,

Chris Jones



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FRIENDSHIPS?

Programme overview

Carbon Dating - By Chloe Hannah, a local playwright Directed by John Hyland

Over the Top - By Geoff Parker Directed by Diana Zuger

A.I. Guy - By Jonathan Edgington
Directed by Georgina Rotter
By arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts

Four Yorkshirewomen in Basel

Inspired by the original comedy sketch Four Yorkshiremen by Monty Python Self-directed

Interval - Refreshments at the Bar

M is for Moon Among Other Things - By Tom Stoppard Directed by Georgina Rotter By arrangement with United Agents

Playing with Daisy - By Eleanor Fossey
Directed by David Cox
By arrangement with Cressrelles Publishing Company

Any photo, video and audio recording of these amateur performances by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited.

Carbon Dating By Chloe Hannah

Would the fate of the Neanderthals have been any different had online dating existed back then? In order to find out, we follow Ugu - the last Neanderthal - on his blind date with a cave woman at a bar, 50'000 years ago.

Director John C. Hyland Assistant Director Chloe Hannah Set Designer Clara Demin

Cast
Ugu Firat Orhan
Gada Barbara Bekalska
Waitress Estela Celi
Odjo Luis Paes



Director: John C. Hyland

A Britannic caveman who managed to walk to Helvetia before the ice melted. Hobbies include being with the Semi-Circle since the last millennia and it feels like it. Getting old and wants to settle down with any lady aged between 18 and 99 before everything else in my life gets reset to default.



Author and Assistant Director : Chloe Hannah

I was born in Basel and raised in an Australian-English household. I work in communications by day and follow my passion for writing theatre and film scripts in my spare time. *Carbon Dating* is my second play to be staged by Semi-Circle after *Love Forty* was performed last year. I happen to have more Neanderthal DNA than 84% of the population. When I was growing up, I had an invisible friend called Odjo. He used to knock over my milk. Now I'm looking for a partner in my life with slightly better milk manners.



Set Designer : Clara Demin

I'm a Gaulish lady who was swept off my feet by an invading Hun from the Steppes and now a proud mum to a Cossack. I'm on Tinder to meet fellow enthusiasts who share my love of acting. After journalism in the plains of the Moskova and a PhD in Film, I joined the Semi-Circle in 2016 and was involved with their production of *Dracula*.

Ugu: Firat Orhan

Optimistic Neanderthal male in late 30's looking for caring Homo Sapiens female to live through their second spring together. Found himself settling in Basel after unintentionally coming here following a hunting rally after a mammoth herd which started from Istanbul-Turkey. Under the grumpy, dark looks, is like a kitten deep down inside. Loves to cook, loves to eat even more.



Gada: Barbara Bekalska

Homo Sapiens female looking for a strong specimen who likes to eat meat (and sweet potatoes). Originally from Poland, although has spent half of her life gathering in Ireland (mostly berries). Happily settled into the Semi-Circle tribe three years ago, passes most of her free time pushing boulders in the alpine terrain.



Waitress: Estela Celi

Trekking out of the sunny cave of Guitarrero, Peru I left my Ñuña tribe and surfed an ice cap to the boulders of Spalentor two years ago, minutes from the Eastern cave puddle. I'm excited to be settling in, spending my days picking out the best non-poisonous berries, spearhead-polishing and going water-tasting! Love to go clubbing and meeting up with local cilantro gatherers. Hope to meet the carnivorous upright mammoth-hunting champion that you are soon.



Odjo: Luis Paes

Sensual Homo Sapiens Brasilienis, born in the rainforest, has traveled many lands before settling in the Basel tribe eight years ago. Lives in the most artistic cave in the village. An open creative mind with a good sense of humour, has an active outdoor lifestyle on water and mountains. Primarily carnivorous seeks like-minded adventurous partner...



Over the Top By Geoff Parker

Two soldiers are about to attack the enemy in WWI.



Director: Diana Zuger

Having enjoyed doing the *Respectable Funeral* last autumn I have taken on the task of directing a very short piece *Over the Top.* Very different but a challenge and such a joy to work with these two experienced actors. One being a very familiar face on the *Semi-Circle* stage and a newcomer whom we hope we will see more of in the future.



Michael: Cameron Gough

Cameron Gough will be making his debut for Semi-Circle, playing the role of Michael in *Over the Top.* He has also done plays with Upstart Entertainment, both here and abroad, as well as musical productions ranging from operetta to contemporary works. Cameron lives in Nunningen and attends the Gymnasium Münchenstein. He plans to do theatre studies in the UK later on.



Thomas: David Cox

Known from his many different acting roles over the last 25 years on the Basel English-speaking stage (Semi-Circle, Panto, Upstart Entertainment), David is directing *Playing with Daisy* and also playing the role of the Sergeant in *Over the Top* which is set in the trenches during the Great War. Two very different plays to stimulate your thinking and which he hopes you will enjoy tonight!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- o <u>Auditions</u> for Spring Production in January 2017!
- o Support us and learn as a <u>volunteer</u> behind the stage!
- o Participate at our <u>Rehearsed Playreadings</u> on March 1, 2019!
- o Join our **Monthly Playreadings** every first Monday!
- Our <u>June production</u> will take place on 14./15./16. and 21./22./23. June 2019
- New venue: The Tabourettli, Spalenberg 12, 4051 Basel

www.semi-circle.ch

A.I. Guy

By Jonathan Edgington

By arrangement with Lazy Bee Scripts

Despite being close friends Veronica and Courtney have their friendship going a little stale. Seeking a more stimulating companion, Veronica introduces Carlos into the relationship. This is much to Courtney's chagrin - until she discovers that Carlos is a robot with special talents.

Director: Georgina Rotter

Georgina is thrilled to direct *AI Guy* and to celebrate this season of FRIENDSHIPS? with a super lovely and talented cast. Theater, film and writing are Georgina's innate core passions. She studied Film/Video at CalArts near Los Angeles, California, and via acting and directing also found her way into the theater.



Carlos: Saurabh Sinha

If only artificial intelligence could compensate for natural stupidity, friendships would be much easier. Saurabh is playing Carlos the A.I. Guy and interacting with two friends. Saurabh is active in theatre circles in Basel and this will be his third performance with Semi-Circle. It's always a thrill to get an enthusiastic audience; hope you are enjoying this evening.



Courtney: Jennifer Newman

Jennifer is excited to join Semi-Circle Basel for her first live performance. While she dabbled in acting during her childhood in the US, watching a Semi-Circle production inspired her to join the cast for this comedic production. In her free time, you can find her pursuing her passion for travel and experiencing as many new places and cultures as possible.



Veronika: Georgina Rotter

Georgina performs as Veronica in *AI Guy* and is happy to warm up her acting heart again. She loves *AI Guy*, because it is a little robotic, a tad futuristic and a bit edgy. Among other roles, Georgina has acted as Mitzi in *A Murder is Announced*, Creuse in *Medea* and Madeleine in *Amédée*, *or How to Get Rid of It*.



Four Yorkshirewomen in Basel

Four Yorkshirewomen in Basel is directly inspired by the original comedy sketch "Four Yorkshiremen" by Monty Python, who were a group of comedians in the 1970s in Britain. A group of four women of a certain age from Yorkshire (England) reminisce about their childhood and what it was like for them growing up. They complain about how difficult life was and it seems they are in a competition to see who had the worst childhood.

The Scene: It is early evening and Happy Hour at a luxury hotel in Basel. Four well-dressed women are on holiday and enjoying a drink in the lounge.



First Yorkshirewoman: Joy Scherrer

Joy is a long-standing member of The Semi-Circle and has performed a variety of roles both on and off-stage since the mid-1980s. She most recently appeared on stage in the one-act play *A Respectable Funeral*. Prior to that she had a non-speaking role in the one-act play *The Extraordinary Revelations of Orca the Goldfish*. In tonight's sketch she plays a fairly respectable lady attempting to outshine her fellow Yorkshirewomen with some decidedly fishy revelations.



Second Yorkshirewoman: Susan Aeschbach

Born a Jagger (an old-established West Yorkshire family) Susan is delighted to get the opportunity to use her accent to full effect in this short but perfectly formed piece. After years of involvement with the Semi-Circle either backstage, front of house or on the committee, she is loving treading the boards again - if only for a couple of minutes! Enjoy!



Third Yorkshirewoman: Elizabeth Shaw

Appearing in a production about friendships with people I call my friends is an absolute pleasure. I'm playing a Yorkshirewoman and someone who may be a little crazy - is it typecasting as I'm from Yorkshire and?! I hope the audience will enjoy watching this as much as I have enjoyed working on it.



Fourth Yorkshirewoman: Zuzana Cox

Zuzana is a familiar face on the stage, both with Semi-Circle and other English speaking theater groups in Basel. She looks forward to being on stage this evening as Yorkshirewoman and as Daisy – two very different roles which are sure to tax her acting abilities!

M is for Moon Among Other Things

By Tom Stoppard

By arrangement with United Agents

Alfred and Constance distantly engage in each other's snatches of bedtime monologues that arise from their reading. When Alfred indulges in protective fantasies (fueled by the news), his wife delves into a deeper crisis around freedom of choice.

Director: Georgina Rotter

Georgina is thrilled to direct Tom Stoppard's radio play for stage and is a great lover of the theater of the absurd. She studied acting at SMC and studied Film/Video at CalArts. She directed Christopher Durang's comedies *An Actor's Nightmare, Medea, 1-900-Desperate* and *Death Knocks* by Woody Allen. She is excited to celebrate this season of FRIENDSHIPS? with a splendid, sparkly and inspiring cast.



Constance : Billy Gilbert

Billy has always wanted to know what it's like to be in a long relationship and has learnt a great deal through her bond with Constance. Alfred isn't really Billy's type but she's not actually sure who is! Plodding through a domestic scene in 1962 is the best form of relaxation from the pharmaceutical office and life in general. This is Billy's third stage appearance and – she hopes – will not be her last.



Alfred: Michael Bray

Mike has always enjoyed his relaxed Sunday evenings in front of the box after a hard day golfing, cleaning the car and tidying up the garden. Having spent most of this year delving into the minutia of the Semi-Circle as a new Committee member it is nice to get back to the public face of the club by treading the boards once again.



Sir Tom Stoppard is a famous Czech-born British playwright and screenwriter whose work is marked by verbal brilliance, ingenious action, and structural dexterity. One of the world's most internationally acclaimed and most-staged playwrights, Tom Stoppard has also written for TV, radio, and film, and has won an Academy Award and four Tony Awards for his work.

A fastidious man with terms, he doesn't go on about 'Britain'. It is England, with its very special ways and references, which he is writing about. - For all Stoppard's anxiety and his distrust of utopian faiths, he seems to keep a belief in the goodness and generosity of ordinary people when they are left to themselves.



Neal Ascherson, The Guardian





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COMING UP!

- AUDITIONS for spring production
- Rehearsed play readings
- Monthly play readings
- New location!

www.semi-circle.ch

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Playing with Daisy

By Eleanor Fossey

By arrangement with Cressrelles Publishing Company

A middle-aged woman meets her childhood "invisible" friend again after a long time. The dialogue starts off with light-hearted, nostalgic memories, but then takes an unexpected turn.

Director: David Cox

David is directing *Playing with Daisy* – an award winning play from the English playwright Eleanor Fossey – and also playing the role of the Sergeant in *Over the Top* which is set in the trenches during the Great War. Two very different plays to stimulate your thinking and which he hopes you will enjoy tonight!



Esther: Elizabeth Shaw

Appearing in a production about friendships with people I call my friends is an absolute pleasure. I'm playing a Yorkshirewoman and someone who may be a little crazy - is it typecasting as I'm from Yorkshire and?! I hope the audience will enjoy watching this as much as I have enjoyed working on it



Daisy: Zuzana Cox

Over the years Zuzana has been seen in a diversity of roles including wicked stepmother, bereaved widow and retiring headmistress (a role pretty much mirroring her real life!). She looks forward to being on stage this evening as Yorkshirewoman and as Daisy – two very different roles which are sure to tax her acting abilities!





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Production Crew

Production manager	Chris Jones
Stage manager	Chris Jones
Stage hand	Mike Bray
Lighting and sound	Chloë Bernard
	Diana Zuger
	Jonathan Apted
Make-up	Wendy Monard
	Barbara Laurie
	Cathy Barker
Tickets	Georgina Rotter
	Cathy Barker
	Chris Jones
Publicity	Beatrix Castellote-Iselin
	Georgina Rotter
	Kirsten Gräser
	Wendy Monard
Social media	Clara Demin
Poster design	Isabelle Schneider
Poster concept and programme	Georgina Rotter
Programme layout support	Clara Demin
Box office	Catherine Matter
	Jan Hawley
Usher	Valerie Walder
	Stephanie Weber

A special thanks to...

... all family members of the committee, cast and crew – without their support and patience this production would not have come to the stage. A special thanks also to all the kind people who are not mentioned here because they joined the crew after the printing of this programme. Thanks also to David Laurie for his publicity advice.



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The Sternen-Team looks forward to welcoming you to the Restaurant Sternen on Lindenplatz in Allschwil, and wishes the Semi-Circle every success!

Bruno Moser and Ka Seng Ha

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