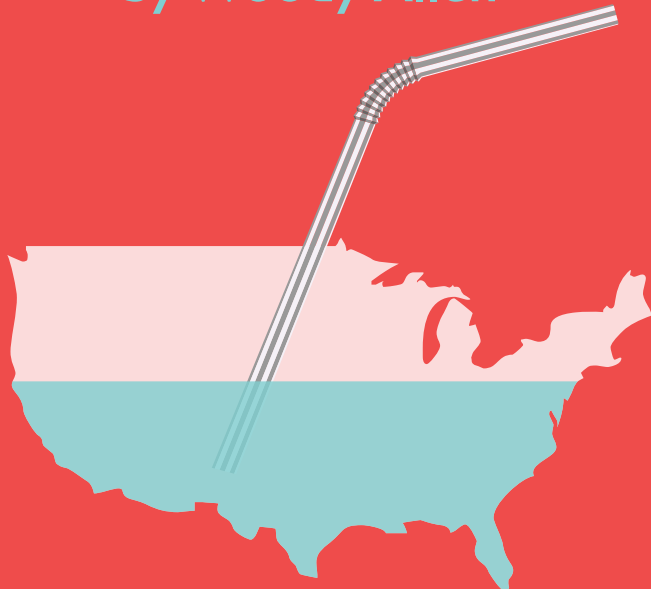




DON'T DRINK THE WATER

by Woody Allen



JUNE
13 | 14 | 15 | 20 | 21 | 22
2019

Theater Tabourettli
Spalenberg 12, 4051 Basel

Doors, bar and seating: **19.30h**
Performance starts: **20.00h**
Performances are in English

TICKET SALES

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

TICKETS CHF 30

CHF 25 for groups of 10 and more

Tickets at **www.fauteuil.ch**



Tickets at **www.startticket.ch**

A hilarious comedy behind the Iron Curtain

Directed by Luca Manganelli | Presented by special arrangement with **SAMUEL FRENCH, INC.**

www.semi-circle.ch ©The Semi-Circle 2019

Basel Life

MAGAZINE

Basel's Only English Monthly Guide to Living in Basel



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



A warm welcome to the Semi-Circle production of Woody Allen's farce *Don't Drink the Water*. We hope that you will enjoy this classic piece of Woody Allen humour.

We are delighted that this Semi-Circle June Production is being staged at the well-known Theater Tabourettl in a beautiful setting in the centre of Basel. This is a great opportunity for us to test a new venue and reach out to a wider audience. We very much look forward to sharing a full length English Language play and a new theatre experience with you all.

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in the performances – our Director, Luca Manganelli, assistant Chloe Hannah and all the cast, crew and my colleagues on the Committee who have supported the production. Everyone concerned has given time, energy, commitment and creativity to bring this comedy to the stage.

As the President of our club I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our members and friends for their continued support of Semi-Circle. We are a not-for-profit organisation aiming to offer a high standard of English language theatre in the Basel area.

We present full length public productions twice a year and hold monthly play-readings for members and non-members alike. More information, as always can be found on 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

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wishes you an
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G&S Summer Apéro party inspired by W.S. Gilbert

Saturday 15 June 2019 - 7:30pm (doors 7:00pm)

Join us for a musical programme featuring librettists influenced by W.S. Gilbert, including Noel Coward, Jay Lerner and Cole Porter...as well as G&S songs!

Location: Silberbergsaal, Zum Lamm, Rebasse 16, 4058 Basel

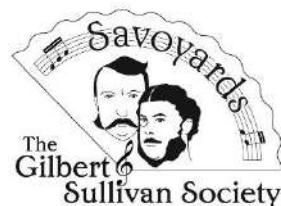
Tram: Claraplatz Parking: Rebasse

Cost: Members CHF 35; non-members CHF 40

under 26s CHF 15; under 13s free

Finger buffet and drinks included

RSVP: savoyardsbasel@gmail.com





DIRECTOR'S NOTE



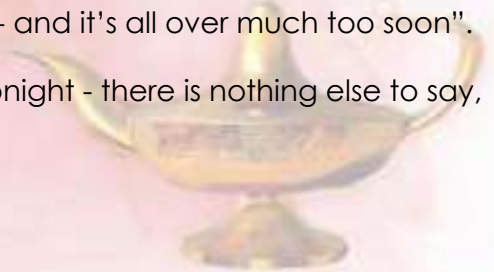
Welcome to *Don't Drink the Water*, a brilliant comedy from the world-renowned author Woody Allen which was written during the Cold War. It was Allen's first professionally produced play and maintains its appeal, vitality and humour today as it did then. It was staged on Broadway in 1966 and became a great success.

The affair takes place inside an American embassy behind the Iron Curtain. An American tourist – a caterer by trade – and his wife and daughter rush into the embassy two steps ahead of the communist police who suspects them of spying and picture-taking. It's not much of a refuge, for the ambassador is absent and his son, now in charge, is a sort of complete diplomatic failure. Nevertheless, surrounded by improbable characters, like a hysterical chef, a blood-thirsty sultan and a tricky reverend, the ambassador's son and the caterer's daughter manage to fall in love. We are looking at a situation comedy with a romantic side and full of brilliant jokes.

Woody Allen's subtle humour is not for everyone. It is difficult for me to say why I love it, but surely, because "a good joke must only tell the truth" (E. B. White). Behind a gentle smile or an elegant word, many of Allen's jokes unveil unpleasant truths. It is, after all, the main cathartic purpose of comic art, to help us dispel the difficulties of our journey, because – quoting Allen – "Life is full of misery, loneliness and suffering - and it's all over much too soon".

Let me thank you for coming tonight - there is nothing else to say, but: have fun!

Luca Manganelli





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DON'T DRINK THE WATER

By Woody Allen

Programme:

ACT 1

- Interval -

Refreshments at the bar

ACT 2



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

***Don't Drink the Water* is presented
by special arrangement with SAMUEL
FRENCH, INC.**



Process chemistry
Consulting and hands-on

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CAST

In order of appearance:

Reverend Drobney:
Georgina Rotter

Susan Hollander:
Barbara Bekalska

Ambassador Magee:
Diana Zuger

Krojack:
Rik Deurloo

Kilroy:
Meg Bogatko

Chef / Sultan of Bashir:
Kunal Soni

Axel Magee:
Nicolas Hunziker

Sultan's first wife:
Fiona Müller

Marion Hollander:
Mady Kunz

Kasnar:
Norman Koeth

Walter Hollander:
Paul Pieterse

Countess Bordoni:
Valerie Walder



CAST

...as they appear...

Reverend Drobney – Georgina Rotter



Good evening, dear friend of comedy. Thank you for spending the evening here with us in a land maybe not so far away. Georgina studied film/video, acting and theater in California. Projects include directing *Medea*, *1-900-Desperate*, *Death Knocks* (Woody Allen) and *Al Guy*, where she also acted. She loves theater, film, writing, dance, Semi-Circle and the great chemistry of this cast.

Ambassador Jane F. Magee – Diana Zuger



I've been in Switzerland since the swinging sixties. As a founder member of Semi-Circle, I have been involved in productions too numerous to mention, but was last seen on stage as Miss Marple in Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced* and Madame Arcati in Noel Coward's *Blythe Spirit*. Having directed a couple of one-act plays for our autumn productions, I have now been drawn back onto the stage once again. Please remember Nicolas Chamfort's motto: "The most wasted day is that in which we have not laughed". Enjoy the show!

Kilroy (Ambassador's assistant) – Meg Bogatko

Meg's acting experience can be compressed into an acting crash course at university, being a film extra in a romantic comedy, and playing a driving psychological role in the class Z amateur horror movie, *The Kiss of Death*. This is Meg's first time participating in a theatre play with Semi-Circle, or any play, for that matter. This makes it both an exciting and frightening experience. However – considering that the character she plays is a conceited, power-hungry, punctilious rat – there won't be that much need for acting.



Axel Magee (Ambassador's son) – Nicolas Hunziker

Having acted extensively over the past nine years with the Gay Beggars and, to a lesser extent, with Upstart Entertainment (mostly as the type-cast comic relief), Nicolas has now joined Semi-Circle in their latest production. Apart from being bad at saying no (bye-bye free evenings once again), Nicolas enjoys a variety of geeky hobbies: he's an easily excitable Dungeons and Dragons player, a member of a student's association and a lover of all things Heavy Metal. Or Thrash Metal. Or Death Metal. Or...well, you get the picture.





Marion Hollander (Walter's wife) – Mady Kunz



Mady Kunz was born in Bucharest, Romania, and emigrated with her parents to Sao Paulo, Brazil. She is a graduate of French Language and Literature, but decided to work in the tourism industry. Acting has always been a passion and, after attending several courses, she made her debut with a Blanche Dubois monologue in *A Streetcar named Desire*. She joined an English theatre group in Sao Paulo, appearing in several plays and musicals. After moving to Basel, she appeared in two productions with a French theatre group. She is now looking forward to her first opportunity to be part of an exciting Semi-Circle production.



Walter Hollander (Marion's husband) – Paul Pieterse



I was born in The Hague, Netherlands, in 1964. As a child I loved dressing-up and play-acting, but never got beyond the footlights of the school-stage before moving to Britain in 1991. I soon discovered the joys of acting with "amdram" societies around Gloucestershire and even got awarded 'Best Supporting Role' for my part as Gaveston in the Rococo Players production of Marlowe's *Edward II*. I moved to

Switzerland in 2014, am presently living in Dornach and engaged as a landscape farmer and gardener. A happy coincidence brought me to Semi-Circle, and I'd like to think this jaunt will have a tail to chase.





Susan Hollander (daughter of the Hollanders) – Barbara Bekalska

Barbara shares Susan's enthusiasm for danger and is in fact crazy about skiing. She grew up in Ireland and was lured to Switzerland by its snowy peaks. She joined Semi-Circle in 2016 as a sensual bride of *Count Dracula*. Since then she has played in the *Vagina Monologues* (2017), *Love – 40* (2017) and *Carbon Dating* (2018). When she isn't acting or skiing she enjoys kiteboarding, wakeboarding (mostly on the Rhine), CrossFit, horse riding, diving, hiking and spending uneventful evenings with her cat, Rocket.

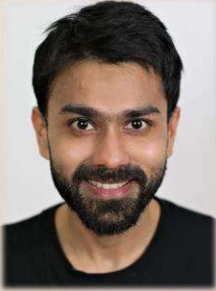


Krojack (Head secret police) – Rik Deurloo

The role of the vicious head of the communist secret police is played by Rik Deurloo, who is actually quite nice in person. Or so he would like to think. Rik - originally from the Netherlands - is a complete Semi-Circle newbie. Only in his seventh year of living in Basel did he finally summon the courage to perform in a language other than his own. Certain talents of his had early on been suspected by his family and friends, but were only discovered after one of his student friends literally pulled him on stage during a rehearsal. Thankfully, this resulted in a long list of stage performances in drama, mime, music and stand-up comedy.



Chef | Sultan of Bashir – Kunal Soni



Hi everyone! I am Kunal, a PhD student at the University of Basel, where I do research in Nuclear Physics. While science provides for a living, art helps me to appreciate that life. I have been involved in theatre for a long time and in various countries where I have spent time for research purposes. I particularly love comedy, since it is both challenging and rewarding to make people laugh with your acting. Moreover, theatre helps me to express myself better in real life. I am glad to be a part of Semi-Circle and look forward to performing.

Sultan's first wife – Fiona Müller



At school, Fiona acted in both the English language and in German. During her holidays she took drama courses at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and The Central School of Drama and Speech. Having previously performed in *Dracula* and *Blithe Spirit*, Fiona now returns to act with Semi-Circle in a small role. She is looking forward to dressing up and giving it a shot as Her Royal Highness the Sultana of Bashir.



Kasnar – Norman Koeth

Norman Koeth was born in New York. He came to Basel some decades ago and has played numerous and varied roles, mostly in Semi-Circle productions: Professor Henry Higgins in *Pygmalion*, G.B. Shaw himself in *Dear Liar*, the Boris Karloff role in *Arsenic and Old Lace*, and roles in the *Crucible*, *Quartet*, *An Englishman Abroad*, *Love for Love* and *The Ghost of Hamlet*.



Countess Bordoni – Valerie Walder

My acting "career" started in Kindergarten where I objected to lying down and sleeping on stage because I wasn't tired. In a girls' grammar school I played a boy who said, "My God, stop her somebody!" and got to sign autographs in younger girls' autograph books. Much, much older I played a ghost, a charlady, a secretary having an affair with a married man - got a wolf whistle for that - and a Cockney in a charity shop. Now, as a countess, I consider that I have climbed the social ladder to the top!



Familienbilder

sind unendlich kostbare Erinnerungen

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Dankeschön

wenn auch Sie mit einer Spende Familien helfen, damit sie wertvolle Bilder erhalten!

Alle Infos auf **www.herzensbilder.ch**



herzensbilder

Production Crew

Director	Luca Manganelli
Assistant Director	Chloe Hannah
Producer	Michael Bray
Assistant Producer	Chris Jones
Stage Managers	Gabi Soliman, Kirsten Gräser
Stage Hands	Isabel Buttron, Douglas Weers
Set Design & Build	Ash Chumber, Luca Manganelli, Russel Coburn, Craig Roberts
Music & Sound	Luca Manganelli, Olga Gentil
Light & Sound	Urs Reusser, Olga Gentil
Make-up & Hair	Valentina D'Allessandro, Wendy Monard, Carol Ribas, Nina Urech
Costumes	Jane Whelan-Lardon, Jan Hawley, Salome Jean-Richard
Props	Lee Heise, Cathy Barker, Michael Bray
Publicity & Programme	Georgina Rotter
Publicity Associates	Beatrix Castellote-Iselin, Wendy Monard, Alice G. Zagato, Marta Mezzenzana
Revisers	Cathy Barker, David Laurie
Poster Design	Chloe Hannah
Photography	Agnes Singer
Lighting Assistant	Catherine Matter
US Dialect Coaches	Stephanie Nemeth-Parker, Estela Celi
FOH Manager	Michael Bray
Box Office and Ushers	Cathy Barker, Roger Bonner, Jan Hawley, Marjorie Hopkins, Hilary Ireland, Salome Jean-Richard, Sara Thoforde, Eva Sternküker

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 very special thanks also to all the kind people who are not mentioned here because they joined the crew after the printing of this programme.

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and 14, 15, 16

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by Ron Hall

Directed by Susan Aeschbach-Jagger
December 5-8, 2019 at the Scala, Basel

We are always on the lookout for new members of the Basel English Panto Group

If you would like to join us as part of the team for our next production, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact us via our website www.baselpanto.org under the "contact us" page and put "Membership" in the subject line.

You are also very welcome to connect with us on facebook: search for Annual Basel Panto (public group) or Basel English Panto Group (private group), and become a friend!

You will receive updates and information from us regularly.

We look forward to hearing from you!

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