



SWEET EXPECTATIONS



NOVEMBER
7 | 8 | 9 | 14 | 15 | 16
2019

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

Groups of 10 or more CHF 25

Students CHF 20 | Children CHF 15

Tickets at www.startticket.ch



Concept & Design: Vivien Koch, ms-agentur.com

AN EVENING OF HOPEFUL SHORT PLAYS

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A warm welcome to the Semi-Circle Autumn Production 2019 at the Theater Arlecchino where we present SWEET EXPECTATIONS - an evening of hopeful short plays.



Our eclectic mix of plays describes hopes and dreams both realised and dashed all with a touch of humour and a soupcon of pathos. We are delighted to once again be able to showcase our local writing talent with two pieces from Chloe Hannah and one from the well-known local commentator on all things Swiss, Roger Bonner.

I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone involved in this production – our excellent newly recruited production manager Montse Barberà, directors, cast, crew and my colleagues on the Committee - and you, our valued public. Thank you for being here with us tonight. Everyone concerned has given time, energy, commitment and creativity to bring tonight's six plays to the stage.

We also hold monthly play readings where you can practice your acting talent and where the club is able to assess potential future productions.

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

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

Enjoy the show!

Michael Bray



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PRODUCER'S NOTE

Producing a six-short-plays performance for Semi-Circle – what a thrilling challenge! One stage, seven directors, twenty-one actors and actresses, more than twenty volunteers in the production team and an amateur theatre group budget. Isn't it exciting? The evening of smiles, laughs, warm reflections and entertainment we are bringing you tonight was only possible thanks to the dedication of all those involved, and I feel so pleased to have been part of it by coordinating the efforts. Thank you all and thank you, dear audience, for sharing our passion!

Sincerely,

Montse Barberà



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A local club for global people

Come and Meet us at a

COFFEE MORNING

Every Friday, drop in any time between
10:30 and 12:30



SWEET EXPECTATIONS

An evening of six hopeful short plays

Programme:

Part 1

What's been bugging Stuart (25 min)

Platinum (10 min)

Swiss twist (35 min)

Refreshments at the bar (20 min)

Part 2

Time flies (20 min)

While you were sleeping (15 min)

Eugenically speaking (35 min)

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

Donation



On behalf of cast and crew, instead of providing flowers, the Semi-Circle donates to **Herzensbilder** who provide professional photography to families with severely afflicted children or relatives.



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What's been bugging Stuart

By Chloe Hannah

Corporate employee Stuart has an important presentation in the morning, but this is the night a cheeky mosquito visits him.



Director - Michael Clarke

Michael Clarke is a long-standing member of the club and has acted, directed and done everything else for numerous S-C productions. Together with Tony O'Sullivan, Michael also helps to plan our monthly play readings where Semi-Circle members can meet, socialize and assess potential plays for future productions.



Sohail Sheikh – “Stuart”

Please welcome to the stage Sohail. He's shy by nature, a complete introvert, has a face for radio and is known for stretching the truth a little. In global marketing by day, you may have seen him zip by on his beloved Vespa by night. He's from the UK and has lived in a handful of countries before settling in Basel! He's recently been playing a cafe owner, talk show host and TV anchor man.



Olga Gentil – “Mosquito”

Olga started her professional life in a life-changing solo performance as a clown at *Fantasy Island* in England in 2001 and has spent all her time and energy studying acting, photography, making movies, professional make-up and artistic lighting ever since... “I enjoy every minute I spend creating new things.”



Esti Aranaga – “Emma”

Born in Venezuela, Esti has moved around the globe for much of her life. She attended drama school for two years during her teenage years and participated in short plays and musicals. After graduating from university and discovering the joys of working a 9-5 job, she is excited to join Semi-Circle for her first theatre performance in almost eight years!



THE BASEL ENGLISH PANTO GROUP PRESENTS:

The Little Mermaid

a Traditional English Panto

by Ron Hall

directed by Susan Aeschbach-Jagger

5th - 8th DECEMBER 2019 SCALA BASEL

THURSDAY 5th 19.30

FRIDAY 6th 19.30

SATURDAY 7th 14.00 & 19.30

SUNDAY 8th 13.00 & 17.00

ticketino.com | baselpanto.org

this amateur production is by arrangement with **NODA Limited**



Platinum

by Roger Bonner



It's the eve of the 70th wedding anniversary of the English middle class couple Archie and Mabel... and it's time for reminiscences.



Director - Catherine Matter

Catherine has acted in a number of Semi-Circle plays: *1-900-DESPERATE*, *Entertaining Angels* and *Blithe Spirit*. She has also been involved on and off stage in the Basel English Pantomime Group in recent productions and on their Committee. *Platinum* marks her directorial debut. It has been a privilege and pleasure to work with cast and crew on this play.



Author - Roger Bonner

...is a Swiss writer who grew up in California. He has described the humorous side of Switzerland and its inhabitants in *Swiss Me*, a collection of columns first published in *Horizon* by Centrepunkt in Basel. His latest book *The Lost Treasure of the Swiss Alps*, also available in German, is an adventure story for kids and adults young at heart. *Platinum* is his first play for the Semi-Circle.

Familienbilder sind unendlich kostbare Erinnerungen.

Und noch so unendlich viel mehr, wenn man sich in einem Lebenssturm befindet – darum schickt herzensbilder.ch Profi-Fotografen zu Familien mit schwer kranken, schwerbehinderten oder viel zu früh geborenen Kindern und zu Familien mit schwer kranken Elternteilen, um ihnen wunderschöne Familienbilder zu schenken.

Dankeschön wenn auch Sie mit einer Spende Familien helfen, damit sie wertvolle Bilder erhalten! Alle Infos auf www.herzensbilder.ch



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Eric Collino – “Archie”

The enjoyment of working in a team to perform an interesting play continues to grip Eric in its thrall. During the last 20 years or so he has managed to convince a number of directors that he will not destroy their reputations if they select him for a role. He hopes that our audience will take pleasure from tonight's performances and thanks them for their support.



Valerie Walder – “Mabel”

“When is your next part in a play?” “I really have no idea. There are very few plays with old people in them.” Fortunately, Roger Bonner heard this and wrote a play for an old couple making me even older than I am! Well, although I have been in a number of plays, starting off as a ghost, I have never ever played my own age, and this is no exception!



Swiss twist

by Chloe Hannah



A gameshow pitches four expats against one another to see who has adjusted best to Swiss life. But who will win the grand prize - a Swiss passport?



Directors – Chloe Hannah and Estela Celi*

Chloe Hannah was born in Basel and raised in an Australian-English household. She works in communications by day and follows her passion of writing plays in her spare time. *Swiss Twist* and *What's been bugging Stuart?* follow Semi Circle performances of *Carbon Dating* in 2018 and *Love Forty* in 2017. This is her directorial debut.



Florence Schlumberger – “Frau Häfeli”

Having grown up in Basel with dual Swiss and French citizenship, Florence had an interest in languages, storytelling and art early on. She holds a BFA in Linguistics, is a certified voice actress (Speech Academy, Winterthur) and works as an HR specialist. She sings, dances and performs for example in Collectif Barbare and Theater Basel (youth club, young opera, extra).



Katharina Berner – “Heike Grönschädel”

I was born 1982 in the GDR near the Baltic Sea and became a hotel specialist. In 2009, I briefly set foot on “Schwitzland” - and now I’ve been here for about ten years. When I was sixteen, I joined a theatre group where people performed their own stories. I was seized by the acting virus, and spent several years on and off stage. Last year I took up stage acting again in a project of the Theater Basel.





***Estela Celi – “Victoria Flores”**

Estela is grateful to have indulged in her passion of acting academically and professionally throughout the years. She thanks her family and friends for always supporting her. This year Estela is happy to come back to stage with this fall's production of *Swiss Twist*. She is excited to perform alongside this cast and co-directs the play with the author Chloe Hannah.



Gianluca Rossato – “Mario Bellini”

Throughout my life I have always enjoyed the performing arts. Last year, for a bit for fun, I joined an Italian theatre group in Basel (*I Lonfi*) which got me started in acting. This is now my first acting performance. I also enjoy the outdoors and travelling. I grew up in Italy, but Basel has been my home for the past 10 years. (Shall I consider applying for the passport ;-) ?).



Vance White – “Randy Barnes”

I got my start in acting when I played the lead in *The Sandman* in a first-grade play. Making my round on the stage, I was sprinkling “sleeping dust” on the cast who then fell asleep. Luckily, the audience didn't catch any and stayed awake! I am originally from Colorado and this is my first acting role in Switzerland (after living here for 14 years!). I look forward to this opportunity for adding some humor to your day.





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9:00 - 16:00 on Saturday 23rd November 2019

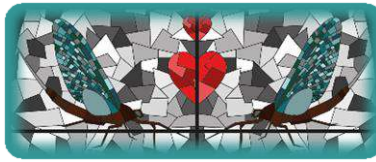
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English Books - Restaurant - Coffee & Cakes - Jewellery
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You are also warmly invited to join us for our traditional
SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS
at the Pauluskirche on Sunday 15th December at 18:00

Time flies

by David Ives



Two noble mayflies on a date discover that time is of the essence. Moderated by the natural historian Sir David Attenborough.



Director - Georgina Rotter

Georgina is a Committee member and active supporter of the club as an actor and director (*Medea*, *Death Knocks*, *AI-Robot*, *1-900-Desperate*). Theater, as an art, is her great love. But she was raised on the world's first cricket farm, and, as a life consequence, is now directing a play with two mighty charming insects and a legend.



Meg Bogatko – “May”

Meg's acting experience can be compressed into an acting crash course at university, being a film extra in a romantic comedy and playing in a class Z amateur horror movie. In June, she was seen on stage as Ms. Kilroy in Woody Allen's *Don't Drink the Water*. Now she's taken on a whole new role of a “lowly” mayfly, facing some big philosophical questions.



Kunal Soni – “Horace”

Hi everyone! I am a PhD student at the Uni Basel, where I do research in Nuclear Physics. 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 – most recently as a Sultan and a Chef in *Don't Drink the Water*.



This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Josef Weinberger Ltd.



Norman Koeth – “Sir David Attenborough”

When last seen, Norman was freeloading an “extraordinary” wine, both “diffident” and “ephemeral” under the name of Yannis Kaznar in this spring's Woody Allen production directed by Luca Manganelli. Among his many previous appearances were *Old English Miracle Pageants* and plays by authors including Shakespeare, Congreve, Arthur Miller and two Williams – Emelyn and Tennessee – as well as GB Shaw.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE THEATRE
IN BASEL SINCE 1975

COME IN & ENJOY

We present English language theatre productions every year.
Auditions for our next production are coming up soon.

Please join us a member, actor or for a backstage role
and come see our upcoming production.

While you were sleeping

by Alex Broun

Kym has become victim to some strange occurrences with unintended consequences. A comedy of absurd escalations.



Director - Richard Brown

Richard bestrides the Basel theatrical world as a significant player, be it as a director, actor, producer or stage manager in the English Basel Panto, Boutique Theatre Basel and Grassroots Theatre as well as two years with the Vagina Monologues. He directed *Night* by Harold Pinter, *The Zoo Story* by Edward Albee and *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill for the Semi-Circle.



Sabina van Steenderen - "Kym"

I am Dutch and have been living in wonderful Basel for the past three years. I enjoy especially the creativity of a city which provides possibilities to play in theatre again, as this is always great fun and a very nice way of getting to know wonderful people! This will be my second play with the Semi-Circle and I am looking very much forward to it. Enjoy!



Fred Zimmermann – "Dave"

After growing up in the Basel area and dabbling in drama at college, I lived in the UK for over 30 years where I acquired a love of tea drinking, queueing and compulsively apologising for everything. On my return to Switzerland I took improv classes and found my way into am-dram in German and Swiss-German, and now also English language plays.

Magda Bednarska – “Jennifer”

Have you ever felt a passion for something, but never really got round to pursuing it? Until recently, this is what theatre has been for Magda. Born in Poland, raised in New Zealand and having lived in a few other places along the way, she landed in Basel two years ago. A patchwork creation of cultures, humour and untrained instinct, she is thrilled to be riding the adrenaline wave of her first Semi-Circle production.



Alison Bolton – “Eva”

Arriving in Basel in 2010 via England, New Zealand and Zambia, Alison decided to reignite a long-dormant passion for drama and joined the Semi-Circle family as stage manager for *Blithe Spirit*, later as Joy, an ‘Antipodean Aphrodite’, in *Waiting* and the redoubtable Mrs. Kidd in *Top Girls*. She is thrilled to work with Richard again and to take on the role of a befuddled mother – no typecasting here then!



Eugenically speaking

by Edward Goodman

Una believes GB Shaw's maxim that mating should be with the best specimen available! She picks George as her favoured example, but oh, the consequences...



Director - Diana Zuger

Diana Zuger is a founder member of the Club. She has acted in or directed more productions than she would care to remember. She was seen on stage as Miss Marple in Agatha Christie's *A Murder is Announced*, Madame Arcati in Noel Coward's *Blythe Spirit* and the ambassador Jane F. Magee in *Don't Drink the Water*. She directed *A Respectable Funeral*.



Valentina D'Alessandro – “Una”

With the Italian group “I Beccafichi” she participated in improvisation, classic comedies (*Twelfth Night* by Shakespeare, *Poor Piero* by Campanile) and alternative plays by Benni and Fraser. She was also part of the *International Network for Culture and Arts* with whom she made street performances and short movies. This is her first acting role with Semi-Circle.



Paul Pieterse – “Mr. Braithwaite”

I was born in The Hague, Netherlands, in 1964. After moving to Britain in 1991 I discovered the joys of acting with “amdram” societies 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 and work as a landscape farmer and gardener.

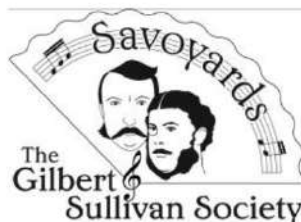


Rik Deurloo – “George”

Rik has multiple interests; instruments, singing, mime and comedy, but only after conquering his stage fright at an older age was he ready to get onstage. Despite having been a (rather slowly rising) star in the Netherlands, he stayed out of the spotlight in Basel... until playing Krojack in *Don't Drink The Water*. And he feels ready for more...



The Gilbert & Sullivan Society and Savoyards Productions: Forthcoming events



“Closer still with *Closer*”

What: An evening of close harmonies of various generations and varied genres, previously in London's West End! Proudly presented by Savoyards Productions

When: Friday, 22 November 2019, from 7pm

Where: Gundeldinger Feld, Halle 8, Dornacherstrasse 192, 4053 Basel

Traditional Yule Apéro

What: Join us in community singing of both carols and festive songs

When: Friday, 13 December 2019, from 7pm

Where: Sacré Coeur Pfarreiheim, Feierabendstr. 68, 4051 Basel

Burns Night

What: The Society's traditional biennial event with dinner and full programme

When: Saturday, 25 January 2020 (Burns' birthday!), from 6.30pm

Where: Lindenbergssaal, Lindenberg 8, 4058 Basel

For more information, please contact savoyardsbasel@gmail.com

PRODUCTION CREW



Production Manager	Montse Barberà
Assistant PM	Chris Jones
Stage and Props Manager	Whitney Hartung
Stage Crew	Chris Jones, Hansueli Müller
Set Design	Raquel Guerrero
Light & Sound	Olga Gentil, Juliana Brodtbeck, Stewart Stevens
Make-up & Hair	Wendy Monard, Jan Hawley
Publicity Manager	Georgina Rotter
Publicity Social Media	Alice G. Zagato
Publicity Associates	Beatrix Castellote-Iselin, Wendy Monard
Programme	Georgina Rotter
Revisors	Cathy Barker, Georgina Rotter
Photography	Agnes Singer
Lighting & Photo Assistant	Catherine Matter
Photos dress rehearsal	Martin Spedding
Artwork	Isabelle Schneider
Catering	Sorina Stanciu, Alice G. Zagato
Box Office and Ushers	Susan Aeschbach, Edward Atkinson, Michael Bray, Marjorie Hopkins, Sharon Marshall

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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