

The Semi-Circle Basel proudly presents



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# TWOSOMES

A series of short plays about relationships



# The English Show

*"We know what's on the go"*

Basel, Switzerland

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Tuesday nights from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.  
on Radio X Basel, 94.5

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## President's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to our autumn production: "Twosomes", a series of short performances that explore relationships.



Those of you who attended our relaunch event in August may remember me sharing that we'd like Semi-Circle to be known for "Building community through performance".

This means putting on performances which reflect the diversity of our Basel community, lots of socializing, and providing opportunities for people to develop their theatrical muscles – both on and off stage. "Twosomes" is an example of this.

The plays you are watching this evening are directed by the alumni from our new "Direct with Confidence" workshop. Many thanks once again to David and Zuzana Cox for running the workshop and to the mentors for providing the new directors with coaching and guidance: Diana Zuger, Scott Holland, Luca Manganelli and Zuzana Cox.

Several of the directors and cast members from tonight's performances also took advantage of Alice Ginger Zagato's "Acting and Emotion" workshops, which received great reviews.

We have more theatrical education ideas in mind for 2022 – including a writing workshop, so keep an eye out for news about this. We are always keen to perform plays written by our members, and this evening I am delighted to let you know that we are performing "Capri", written by Semi-Circle member Roger Bonner.

As you know, we are a voluntary organization and on behalf of the Semi-Circle I offer my sincere thanks to all the directors, cast, crew and the committee for giving their time, energy and creativity to bring the performances to you this evening. And a special thank you to my predecessor, Michael Bray, for taking on the task of herding cats as production manager for "Twosomes".

We have an exciting programme of events next year and would love you to join us. Please scan the QR code below or go to [www.semicircle-basel.com](http://www.semicircle-basel.com) for more information.

My final thanks are to you, the audience, for your ongoing support and encouragement.

Enjoy the show.

Alison



## Producer's Notes

Being a production manager is always both frustrating and rewarding. Doing the job in the times of COVID adds to the complexity and putting on a show at a new location makes the task even more challenging. All this coupled with the need to satisfy the wishes of six different directors makes life interesting.



Nonetheless it is very satisfying to be able to, once again, bring to you, our audience, an autumn production of five short plays at our new venue of the Fachwerk theatre. As you will see we have gone for the minimalist approach and focused on the directing and acting skills of our (mostly) new directors and their talented casts to provide you with a varied and entertaining series of vignettes which we very much hope will satisfy your need for live theatre in these difficult times.

Michael Bray

## Thank you to the crew!

**Production Manager:**

Michael Bray

**Finance and Licensing:**

Chris Jones

**Programme:**

Alison Bolton and Flo Schlumberger

**Promotion:**

Alice Ginger Zagato

**Advertising:**

Chris Jones

**Photography:**

Martin Spedding

**Stage Manager:**

Snehali Mahajan

**Stage Crew:**

Michael Bray and others

**Sound and Light Leader:**

Donald Brun

**Sound effects:**

Olga Gentil

**Sound & Light Support:**

Michael Knight, Luca Manganelli, Adem Soellick

**Props:**

Michael Bray

**Front of House Manager:**

Roger Bonner

**Bar Manager:**

Chris Jones

**Catering Manager:**

Alice Ginger Zagato

**Front of House, Box Office, Bar, Catering Support:**

Susan Aeschbach, Cathy Barker, Jan Hawley, Marjorie Hopkins, Alex Lyon, Zana Marin, Tony O'Sullivan, Sarah Thornforde, Giselle Weiss

# TWOSOMES

A series of short plays about relationships

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## Programme

### Part 1

- A Famed Life 10 mins
- Right Sensation 25 mins
- The End of the Picnic 25 mins
- Anger Management for Dogs 10 mins

Intermission 20 mins

### Part 2

- Capri 40 mins

## A Famed Life, by David Campton

Ms Jacobs is famous. She's fabulous, beautiful – and a total diva! Her live-in maid, Yvette, has had enough. After years and years of abuse and cleaning up after this impossible woman, Yvette has packed her suitcase and is preparing to leave. Will Ms Jacobs let her go without any dramas, or will she convince Yvette to stay with the promise of more money?

### Elif Arikan - Co-director

Elif has been passionate about theatre since she was a little kid and took part in several plays and dance performances in Turkey. She even once sang in a musical performance (including one as Maureen from "Rent" singing "Take me or Leave me"). She moved to Basel in 2019 and has been looking for ways to follow-up her non-stop passion for theatre – including opportunities to direct. This is the first time she has been part of a Semi-Circle project and she is looking forward to more in the future.



### Suzi Lyon - Co-director

Suzi is an Australian British hybrid who has lived in Basel since 2015. She has spent several years as a podcast and radio host since arriving. On top of that, she's a mother of two and an expert tea drinker. Always having an interest in theatre and acting, as well as being behind the scenes, Suzi joined Semi-Circle in 2020 with the hope of getting out more and being active in the community. This is Suzi's second directing gig, having served as Assistant Director for "Uber & Beyond", another Semi-Circle production.



### Scott Holland - Mentor

I have been a member of Semi-Circle since acting in a role in 2007 and have enjoyed playing roles and directing shows since I was a boy and making a collaborative vision come to life onstage. It was great fun to mentor and help two new passionate directors in this project.



## A Famed Life, by David Campton



Mathilde Seynave-Dubost - "Yvette"

Mathilde comes from Paris and has performed since she was eleven, at school in Marseille and Paris. Since she arrived in Basel in 2013, she has been acting with French theatre group "Macha & Compagnie". This is her first performance with Semi-Circle. After many years in HR, in 2020 she decided to link her passion for theatre and her skills in personal development by creating the theater project: "Trouve ta place!" for children and teenagers. She also writes, adapts or directs depending on the topics discussed with the group.



Sophie McColl - "Ms Jacobs"

Sophie was born in New Zealand where she had her first professional acting job aged seven in a Kentucky Fried Chicken commercial! Although she has never eaten KFC again, she went on to study theatre in New Zealand and London with various roles across stage and screen. It's been many years since she "trod the boards" but she is absolutely delighted to be back, darlings!



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## Right Sensation, by Rich Orloff

Being a cancer survivor requires tremendous strength. Having a mastectomy, however, leaves you with a visible scar – and a bigger one inside. Can you go back to the game of love? Can your partner accept you? Can you accept yourself?



### Pari Skamnioti – Director

New to Semi-Circle and to Basel but not new to theatre, Pari obtained a two-year degree in Acting from the Experimental Stage of the Arts, whilst also studying for her science degree at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. Alongside her work in academia and oncology, and after several acting roles at Oxford University, "Right Sensation" is Pari's debut as a theatre director.

### Daniel Rancic – "Stewart"

After a number of school plays, Daniel discovered the cathartic nature of acting—ways of expressing what the adolescent could otherwise not voice outside of photography, off the stage. Eager to broaden his understanding of theatre, he participated in various workshops. In 2015, Daniel debuted in Upstart Entertainment's English theatre production Virtual Baggage. Fuelling his infatuation with dramatic arts, Daniel sojourned in Ealing, London for a two-month taught programme at MetFilm School. After three years, the now 29-year-old returns on stage to revisit his fervour.



### Olivia Fischer – "Paula"

Ever since I was a kid, I've always enjoyed slipping into different roles and exploring interesting characters. So theatre has been a part of my life for a long time. In recent years, I portrayed Violet Weston in "August: Osage County" and Fabiana Aziza Cunningham in "The Last Days of Judas Iscariot". After a pandemic-related hiatus, I'm excited to finally be back on stage and work together with such talented people.



### Zuzana Cox – Mentor

I am delighted to see the alumni of the "Direct with Confidence" workshop bring the visions of their plays to life. I am particularly impressed at how Pari has directed "Right Sensation". It is a topic that needs to be treated with sensitivity and authenticity. She has certainly achieved this. Well done to her and the cast.

Things to do in



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#### 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.

## The End of the Picnic, by David Campton

Have you ever felt that your focus of unconditional love is slipping away? What if you are a mother losing a son to another? What if you are a husband losing connection with your wife?

### Canan Adams - Director

Time is free, but it's priceless. Canan is grateful to accept the offerings of life and to find herself backstage in "Twosomes" for her directorial debut. She became acquainted with performing arts at her university drama club, followed by learning improvisation at acting courses. Born and raised on the Mediterranean shores of Turkey, she is following her travel addiction and gourmet soul. And whatever comes in her way, she takes it with a smile.



### Magda Bednarska - "Mother"

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 herself in 2017 in Basel - a patchwork creation of cultures and humour. You might have seen her in the 2019 "Sweet Expectations" production. This will be her second onstage adventure - enjoy!



### Sohail Sheikh - "Father"

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! You might have seen Sohail in "Sweet Expectations" in 2019, and he's also had roles as a cafe owner, talkshow host and TV anchor man.

### Luca Manganelli - Mentor

I have been involved in theatre for more than fifteen years, mostly acting, but sometimes having fun in directing. For Semi-Circle, I had the pleasure to direct "Dracula", "Don't Drink the Water" by Woody Allen and few short plays. For "Twosomes" I had the privilege to mentor Canan and share some of my insights about the painful and delightful essence of being a director. It's been a great journey and we hope you enjoy the final result.



## Anger Management for Dogs, by Rupert Haigh

A comedic sketch about laddishness and dogs and what sets them off!



### David Cox - Director

Known for his many different acting and directing roles over the last 25 years with the Basel English-speaking stage, David recently directed and acted in "Click of the Heels" - the first Semi-Circle post-lockdown play performed in tonight's lovely venue. This evening David directs "Anger Management for Dogs"; a play in which 2 women are parodying 2 men parodying 2 dogs parodying 2 men in a pub! Eh? A drink anyone?

### Alison Bolton - "Fido"

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 performing as Joy, an Antipodean Aphrodite in "Waiting", and most recently the redoubtable Mrs. Kidd in "Top Girls". She is delighted to work with David and Zuzana and bring her inner terrier out to play.



### Zuzana Cox - "Rex"

Zuzana is a familiar face on the stage, both with Semi-Circle and other English-speaking theatre groups in Basel. Over the years she has been seen in a diversity of roles including wicked stepmother, bereaved widow and, most recently, Pauline in "Click of the Heels". Tonight, however, she sees her debut as an angry animal. Rehearsals for this role really gave her the opportunity to get in touch with her inner bitch.



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TICKETS



BEPG INFO



## Capri, by Roger Bonner

A famous middle-aged writer is working on his fourth murder mystery, but is suffering from a crippling bout of writer's block. An unexpected visit from an admiring fan seems like just the boost of confidence he needs, until he realizes she knows more about his characters than he does. Will he figure out how to finish his story before she finishes it, and him, first?

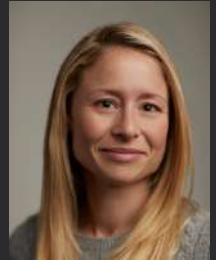


### Roger Bonner - Playwright

Roger is a Swiss author, who grew up in California. He has written two books ("Swiss Me", describing the humorous side of Switzerland, and "The Lost Treasure of the Swiss Alps" an adventure story for kids and adults). This is his second play for Semi-Circle, the first was "Platinum" and was performed in 2019.

### Sam Levitt - Director

Sam is new to Basel and the Semi-Circle. After a long year indoors, she played the part of George in last summer's "Uber & Beyond" by Semi-Circle member Chloe Hannah, at which point she discovered Basel was, in fact, full of fun surprises. Sam holds a BA in Drama from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts and did her post-graduate studies in the Meisner technique at the William Esper Studio in New York. She is thrilled to present "Capri" as her directorial debut, and even more thrilled to be part of this circle of fantastic people who share a joyous love of theatre.



### Diana Zuger - Mentor

Diana is a founder member of Semi-Circle and has acted in more productions than she cares to remember! She has been seen on stage as Miss Marple in Agatha Christie's "A Murder is Announced", Madame Arcati in Noel Coward's "Blithe Spirit" and the ambassador Jane F. Magee in "Don't Drink the Water". She has directed several plays including "A Respectable Funeral". She is delighted to have been able to act as mentor for Sam in her directorial debut.



## Capri, by Roger Bonner



### Rik Deurloo - "Adrian Fuller"

Rik has multiple interests: playing music, 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 George in "Eugenically Speaking". And he feels ready for more.



### Valentina D'Alessandro - "Marissa Portland"

Valentina started acting around 10 years ago with her group "I Beccafichi" in Zurich, with whom she did several performances (from improvisation to classic comedies, drama and alternative / contemporary plays) and acting school. Acting is her life passion since then. She has acted in the Semi-Circle production "Sweet Expectations".

# Basel Life

MAGAZINE

Basel's Only English Monthly Guide to Living in Basel



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