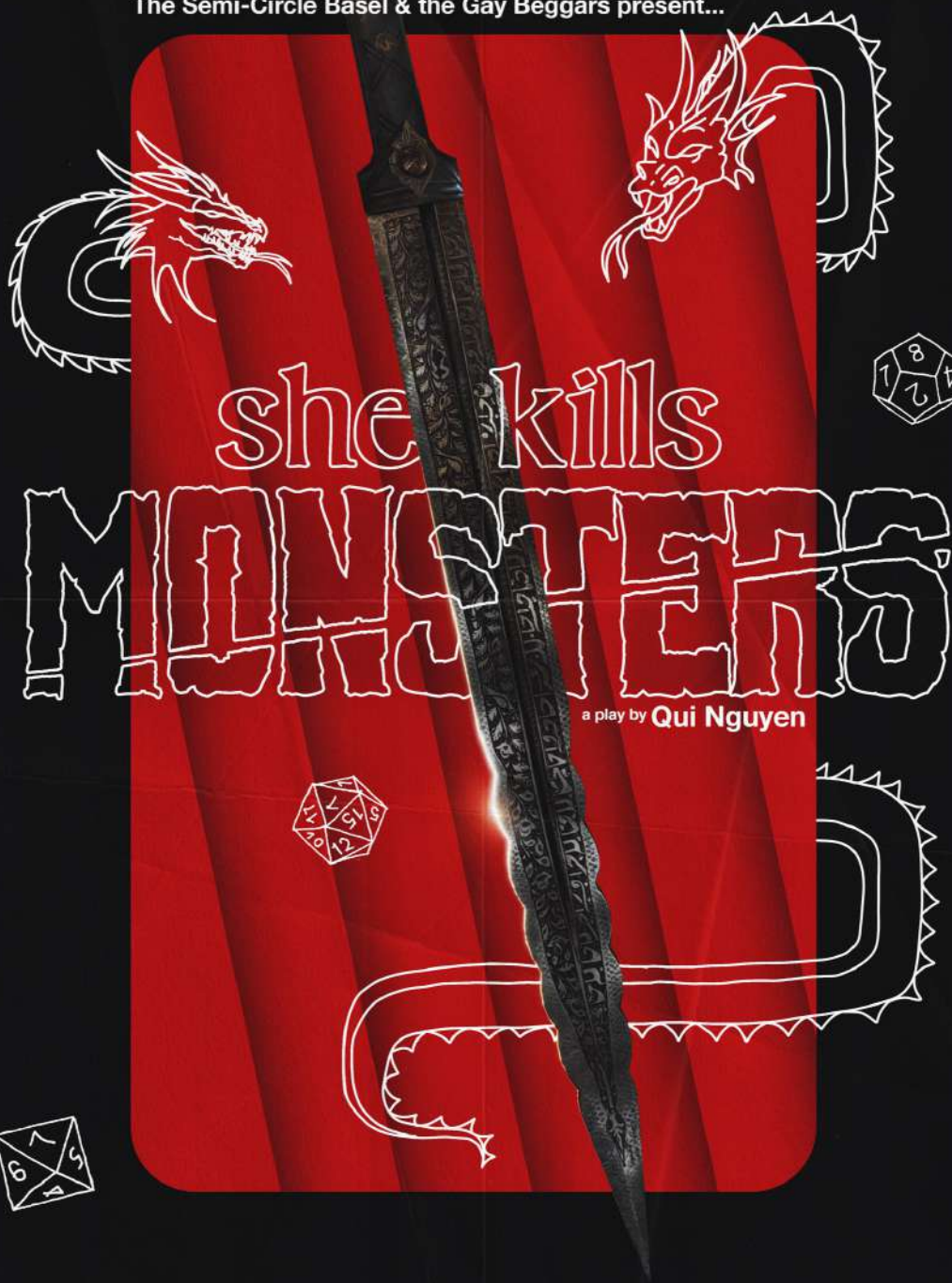


The Semi-Circle Basel & the Gay Beggars present...



she kills

MONSTERS

a play by Qui Nguyen

## A Word From Semi-Circle Basel

Last year as we came out of Covid, the Semi-Circle team agreed that we wanted to be known for building community through performance - putting on performances which reflect the diversity of our Basel community, lots of socializing, and providing opportunities for people to develop their theatrical muscles. We wanted our first production in 2022 to create a buzz, allow a broad group of people to become involved in performance (whether as performers or backstage) and cover topics that would appeal to a younger audience. *She Kills Monsters* meets all these criteria and covers important themes. I am delighted that Adam Herzig agreed to come on board as director. I am in awe of the creative vision he has managed to bring to life. I hope you enjoy this fantastical production.

Alison Bolton, *President, Semi-Circle*

## A Word From the Gay Beggars

And we're back! After having had to cancel our last in-person production in 2020 and since only performing online in our series *Beggars Go Zoom*, we're finally back on stage! We are very excited to have had this opportunity to collaborate with The Semi-Circle Basel. It was wonderful to see so many theatre geeks finally being able to follow their passions again. And let's be real, nothing beats seeing your faces before, during and after our shows. We are so happy to finally share what we have been working on for the past few months. Now, let the game begin!

*The Gay Beggars are an English language drama group, associated with the University of Basel. You can normally find us in our own space at Nadelberg 6. Want to participate? Check out [gaybeggars.ch](http://gaybeggars.ch) and sign up to our newsletter if you like what you see tonight and are hungry for more!*

## Director's Note

When I accepted this opportunity to direct *She Kills Monsters*, I was not sure I was the right guy for the job... I had never played Dungeons and Dragons before and the only thing I felt I had in common with the play was growing up in the typical American suburbs and graduating the same year as Tilly and the cheerleaders. But, as I embarked on my own journey to understand the play, as well as the game, I was struck with how diverse the world of DnD was. How the skills of each character were vital for the health of the team, and that in the end everyone won together or no one wins at all. In many ways the campaigns and adventures of Dungeons and Dragons allow players to live a fantasy and express their “badassness” on the inside when the world doesn’t allow it on the outside.

Although the time period of this play and its place is inescapable, the lens we perceive the themes of diversity and being different is very much from the modern now. Qui Nguyen gives us a peek into early queer “geek” culture in the mid 90’s, but now at the start of Pride month in 2022, we are in a much different place: one where we are able to celebrate our diversity in a way that our young adventurer Tilly would have only been able to dream of. Even though we still have roadblocks to conquer, she reminds us of the vast potential people have to live, love and play openly- which was what I tasked this creative team of actors and designers to do from the very beginning.

We can CELEBRATE what makes us different, to LIVE the geeky way we want, and to PLAY enthusiastically open!

Happy Pride and enjoy the show!



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# The Campaign Party (aka Cast & Crew)

## CAST

Grey Garbutt	Tilly ( <i>that's me!</i> )
Julia Brosi	Agnes
Ivan Semashev	Chuck
Barbara Bekalska	Kaliope
Paulina Pathare	Lilith
Daniel Dugard	Miles
Nicolas Hunziker	Orcus
Rik Deurloo	Narrator / Farrah
Heike Geiling	Vera
Adrian Pachlatko	Steve
Chloé Kouril	Evil Gabby
Melanie Löw	Evil Tina

## CREW

Director	Adam Herzig
Assistant Director	Hayley Milner
Executive Producer	Ben Moulton
Production Manager	Elif Tek
Fight Choreography	Dominik Slater Eaton
Sound & Music	Jonas Biedermann
Light Design	Donald Brun
Costume Design	Mariya Syrvacheva
Monster Design	Alice Ginger Zagato
Promotion	Julia Brosi and Alice Ginger Zagato
Poster & Flyer Design	Jonas Biedermann
Programme	Zoë Pitschmann
Front of House	Susan Aeschbach
Backstage Leads	Kirsten Graeser, Heidi Haas

*Thanks to our helpers: Elif Arikan, Alison Bolton, Chloe Bernard, Russell Coburn, Sarah Degen, Xander Deubelbeiss, Sydney Geissler, Scott Holland, Maggie Jagger, Chris Jones, Vasiliki Mourgela, Adrian Oettli, Sarah Thomforde, Kathryn Mayoh, Elizabeth Adams, Zoë Pitschmann.*

# The DMs\* of this Play

he / him

Adam is excited to be a part of this production and lead such an awesome group of talented people. He has recently moved from Shanghai to Basel and being part of this collaboration between Semi-Circle and Gay Beggars has been a welcome creative gift after a few years away from theatre. Prior to Shanghai, Adam was heavily involved in the theatre scene in Panama City. He directed as well as acted in numerous shows with The Ancon Theatre Guild including *Panama Hattie* (Director), *Importance of Being Earnest*, and *Improv 8*. In addition to this he was executive producer and founding member of the Festival Nuevo Teatro as well as co-creator of Panama's 4 in 48 Theatre Festival. Prior to Panama, Adam worked in theatres in San Diego, Seattle and New York. He is currently teaching IB theatre in the Senior School at the International School of Basel.



Adam



Hayley

she / her

Hayley has been working in the arts industry for the past 15 years. Hailing from Australia, she has a Bachelor of Applied Theatre and Masters in Theatre Education and Counselling. She has worked as an Assistant Director for Queensland Theatre Company and worked on shows as a Director, Dramaturg and Playwright in the Brisbane arts industry. She is passionate about collaboration, using theatre to tell stories that bring new perspectives to our stages and connect us to community, our own emotions and challenge our own perceptions. Most recently, she has been teaching Theatre to young people across Australia, Thailand and Switzerland. This is her first show with Semi Circle and The Gay Beggars.

\*DM = Dungeon Master





*she / her*

Elif is an engineer who has been into theatre since childhood and took part in several amateur plays in her home country of Turkey. She moved to Basel 2.5 years ago and is so happy to have met this team and have the chance to work in this play. She is enjoying supporting the production!



## 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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(If you're confused about DnD, go to the last page...)

# Cast & Characters



Julia

*she / her*

Julia joined the Gay Beggars in 2014 and hasn't been able to resist acting or producing shows with the group since. Like Agnes, she initially struggled to understand the combat system of D&D in her home games, but has since levelled up, and plays and DMs regularly.

Agnes	
Class	<input type="radio"/> -1 Strength
Fighter (barely)	<input type="radio"/> 0 Dexterity
Race	<input type="radio"/> -2 Constitution
Human	<input type="radio"/> +3 Intelligence
Alignment *	<input type="radio"/> +1 Wisdom
Neutral Good	<input type="radio"/> +2 Charisma

\*democrat!!



Grey

*they / them*

A passionate Dungeon Master and nerd, Grey has also enjoyed acting since a very young age. When they're not rolling dice, they're probably making music with friends or writing stories. They also really like chocolate milk.

Tilly	
Class	<input type="radio"/> +3 Strength
Paladin	<input type="radio"/> +0 Dexterity
Race	<input type="radio"/> +1 Constitution
Human	<input type="radio"/> +0 Intelligence
Alignment	<input type="radio"/> -1 Wisdom
Lawful Good	<input type="radio"/> +2 Charisma



Ivan

*he / him*

Ivan has been doing theatre for quite some time - starting out in school plays, studying in some acting courses in London and Milan, and eventually finding his way to being a part of the Semi-Circle Theatre in Basel. He is so excited to bring Chuck to life!

Chuck	
Class	<input type="radio"/> -4 Strength
Dungeon Master	<input type="radio"/> -3 Dexterity
Race	<input type="radio"/> -2 Constitution
Human	<input type="radio"/> -4 Intelligence
Alignment	<input type="radio"/> +0 Wisdom
Chaotic Good	<input type="radio"/> -2 Charisma

(these numbers are added to the dice roll and determine how good your character will be in a given situation...)



# Cast & Characters



Barbara

*she / her*

Barbara has always been a huge fan of fantasy books but embarked on her D&D journey through the wonderful cast of her previous play in pre-corona times. When she's not fighting monsters, she loves to do sports, so that she can do at least some things her D&D character can.

Kaliope

Class  
Rogue

Race  
Dark Elf

Alignment  
Chaotic Neutral

- ☐ +1 Strength
- ☐ +4 Dexterity
- ☐ +0 Constitution
- ☐ +1 Intelligence
- ☐ +2 Wisdom
- ☐ -2 Charisma



Paulina

*she / her*

Paulina makes the best cappuccinos in town. In her free time, she does stand-up comedy and spends ridiculous amounts of money on manga. As a D&D nerd, she was very excited to take part in this play.

Lilith

Class  
Barbarian

Race  
Demon

Alignment  
Chaotic Neutral

- ☐ +8 Strength
- ☐ +5 Dexterity
- ☐ +4 Constitution
- ☐ +6 Intelligence
- ☐ +3 Wisdom
- ☐ +7 Charisma

(she's soo hot omg)



Daniel

*he / him*

A theatre teacher and a D&D novice, this play has been an amazing opportunity to learn more about both of these communities for Daniel. He hopes this production marks the beginning of his involvement both on stage and behind the scenes in Basel.

Miles

Class  
Boyfriend

Race  
Human

Alignment  
Lawful Good

- ☐ +4 Strength
- ☐ -4 Dexterity
- ☐ +2 Constitution
- ☐ -1 Intelligence
- ☐ -3 Wisdom
- ☐ +1 Charisma

# Cast & Characters



Nicolas

he / him

A contributing factor in the Gay Beggars, both on and off stage, Hunzi has been involved in most plays in some for or another since 2010. Apart from acting, he is a maniac for all things Metal and has developed a bit of an obsession for D&D, particularly as DM, over the past half-decade.

Class

Warlock

Race

Demon

Alignment

Neutral Evil

Orcus

- ☐ +4 Strength
- ☐ -2 Dexterity
- ☐ +3 Constitution
- ☐ +1 Intelligence
- ☐ -1 Wisdom
- ☐ +2 Charisma



Rik

he / him

Rik has played in several Semi-Circle productions. He loves acting so much that he was even performing on stage while his wife was delivering their baby... Although clueless about D&D, he is happy he can fly over the stage in this adventure, and even explore his feminine side...

Class

Wee Butted Big Boss\*

Race

Faerie

Alignment

Chaotic Evil

Narrator / Farrah

- ☐ +1 Strength
- ☐ +5 Dexterity
- ☐ -1 Constitution
- ☐ +0 Intelligence
- ☐ +0 Wisdom
- ☐ +2 Charisma

\*with wings



Heike

she / her

Heike is a passionate theatre goer returning to the stage after a pause of some 30 years. She is enjoying the diversity of the group and the discovery of the D&D world.

Class

Guidance Counselor

Race

Human

Alignment

Chaotic Neutral

Vera

- ☐ +2 Strength
- ☐ -1 Dexterity
- ☐ +0 Constitution
- ☐ +4 Intelligence
- ☐ +3 Wisdom
- ☐ +2 Charisma

# Cast & Characters



Adrian

*he /him*

Adrian joined this theatre production because it seemed interesting and exciting to bring the world of DnD to life on stage. In his spare time he has been playing DnD for some years now as a Dungeon Master and does not plan on stopping any time soon.

Steve

Class

Sorcerer

Race

Human

Alignment

Neutral

- ☐ -1 Strength
- ☐ -1 Dexterity
- ☐ +3 Constitution
- ☐ +2 Intelligence
- ☐ -1 Wisdom
- ☐ +0 Charisma



Chloé

*she / they*

Chloé is still in school and although she doesn't actually get most of the 90s references because she wasn't alive at the time, she still loves being part of this production. To her, learning all these new things was a great experience!

Evil Gabby

Class

Cheerleader

Race

Succubus

Alignment

Chaotic Evil

- ☐ +10 Strength
- ☐ +10 Dexterity
- ☐ +10 Constitution
- ☐ +10 Intelligence
- ☐ +10 Wisdom
- ☐ +10 Charisma

P.S. At least she gets the D&D references because she's a nerd.



Melanie

*she / her*

Melanie is currently doing her M.A. in Literary Studies and has always loved plays. She also writes screenplays, that's almost like a play, right? The last Gay Beggars production was her Beggars acting debut and it was so much fun that I had to do it again!

Evil Tina

Class

Cheerleader

Race

Succubus

Alignment

Chaotic Evil

- ☐ +10 Strength
- ☐ +10 Dexterity
- ☐ +10 Constitution
- ☐ +10 Intelligence
- ☐ +10 Wisdom
- ☐ +10 Charisma

# Making Monsters

*an interview with our monster creator Ginger*

## Where did you draw your inspiration for the monsters?

Some monsters jumped at me immediately, for others (such as the Bugbears or Tiamat) I had to do more research. Luca Manganelli was my consultant regarding the monsters' powers, attitudes and social habits. I didn't use standard imagery for the monsters – but for the kobolds I was inspired by the world of cosplayers – I kept having mischievous creatures no taller than 8 inches in mind, and they were certainly not suitable for our stages.



## What materials did you use?

In part, we used upcycled scrap material. Given the amount of monsters and the time available, some of the components had to be modified and assembled. Mostly, we just had fun solving various challenges and experimenting with plastic insulation and hydraulic construction materials. Who would have thought that cable insulation would make such beautiful tentacles?

## What was the process like?

Both technical and creative – we had to keep in mind movement, solidity and flexibility of the monsters, while also respecting aesthetics and the actors' comfort. They were all very sympathetic to our efforts! It cost us a few nights' sleep, but it was worth it.





## What were the biggest challenges?

We had to imagine the weight the actors had to carry, the agility, lethality... The idea of the Bugbear arm was originated by Dominik, our fight choreographer. We also realised that the audience would see the monsters from all sides... They had to be visible and surprising from all angles – some pieces could be contrasting, while others could be more mysterious and... rise from the darkness...



## Which monster is your personal favourite?

Certainly the Mind Flyer. It's really alien and has creepy powers – and it's the one where I finally got to use liquid latex!

*The monsters were created by Alice Ginger Zagato, with the help of Scott Holland, Russel Coburn, Hannah Rotte, Manon Tintignac, Delphine Chabut, Camille Le Marchand, Morgan Calvez, Remi Terranova, Anna and Kinga Horvát, Estibaliz Aranaga Arrieche, Julia Brosi, Barbara Bekalska and Daniel Dugark.*

# What is D&D?

Is there a nerdier thing than Dungeons and Dragons (also known as DnD)? Questionable. You may only know it from Stranger Things, but this game has been the leader in the role-playing game market ever since its release in 1977 and it is seriously fun. You'll see.

But how does it work, you ask? Well, it's a storytelling game, with one person being the narrator (or – put in a cooler way – dungeon master) and everyone else playing characters. Which they get to create themselves. Exactly, fun! Also, DnD uses seven really fancy, weird looking dice with a lot of numbers on them. They let the player see if their action will succeed, how much damage their weapon made, if their spells worked, and so on. Who and what they will face is all written down in the campaign (in our case, the campaign was written by Tilly), which is run by the dungeon master. The DM lets the players know where they are, who they face and what else is going on in the crazy world of DnD. In our game, this is Chuck. He will throw monsters like Liches, Dragons, Mind Flayers, Kobolds, Gelatinous Cubes and others (with similarly cool names) at our players.

Still confused? Don't worry about it – so is our heroine, Agnes. You'll get the hang of it. Now, let's roll our dice and get swooped up in this adventure!

*yeah, she is!*



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