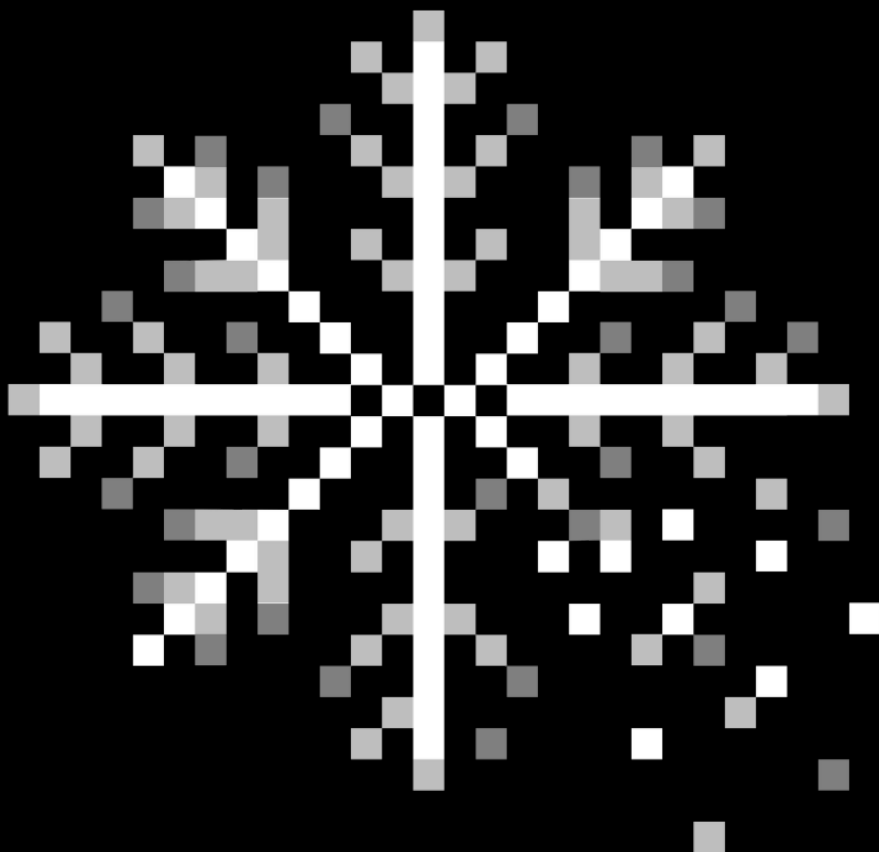




ENGLISH LANGUAGE THEATRE IN BASEL SINCE 1975
THE SEMI-CIRCLE BASEL PROUDLY PRESENTS

Christmas Deconstructed

Be Careful What You Wish For



NOV | DEC

22 | 23 | 24 | 29 | 30 | 01
2023



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President's welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to our end of year production: "Christmas Deconstructed - Be Careful What You Wish For". You may be wondering about the title. We wanted directors to find plays that they wanted to direct and which connected to Christmas for them personally - and not necessarily in a traditional way. Some connections are obvious - a traditional family dinner at a vineyard, a conversation with Santa Claus. Others are less obvious - killer banana spiders being one example!

We are always keen to perform plays written by our members, and this evening I am pleased to let you know that Chloe Hannah has written "Legal Claus", Nicole Gough "Snowvignon Blanc" and Roger Bonner "Bot Love".

As you know, we are a voluntary organisation 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.

We are planning an exciting programme of events next year and would love you to join us. Please go to 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



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IMMENSE THANKS TO THE TEAM WHO MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE!

Production Managers:	Alison Bolton, Natasha Collins
Stage Manager:	Chris Jones
Light Lead:	Donald Brun
Sound effects:	Billy Gilbert, Tiina Sorjonen
Stage Crew:	Sarah Thomforde
Finance and Licensing:	Chris Jones
Programme, Promotion, Communication, Advertising:	Alice Ginger Zagato, Sarah Thomforde
Catering Team:	Billy Gilbert, Chris Jones
Tickets Lead:	Billy Gilbert
Front of House:	Jan Hawley, Kathi Hutter Doshi, Penny Tuckwell, Roger Bonner, Sarah Thomforde, Tiina Sorjonen
Poster Design:	Chloe Hannah
Photography:	Martin Spedding



Christmas Deconstructed

Be Careful What You Wish For

PROGRAMME

Part 1

- Love and Light 10 mins
- Talk the Night 25 mins
- Menage a Trois 10 mins
- BotLove 25 mins

INTERMISSION

20 mins

Part 2

- Snowignon Blanc 20 mins
- Michael Caine's Azaleas 10 mins
- Legal Claus 15 mins
- Attack of the Killer Banana Spider! 10 mins



LOVE AND LIGHT by Jerome Parisse

Tania gets a most unexpected response when she uses a medium to contact her dead husband Bruce.

Directed by: Tony O'Sullivan

Tony has taken on many roles on the stage and behind the scenes.

Don't let him do make-up though.



Beatrix Castellote-Iselin - the Psychic

Theatre is my way of embodying a character that is a bit out of my comfort zone. I am normally not a hysterical and fainting mother like in Zermatt, I don't get bitten by vampires like Miss Sullivan or go on a speed date with a robot. And I have certainly never conjured up spirits!

Heike Geiling - Tania

Theatre is my way of disconnecting from the day-to-day hustle. I enjoy the rehearsals as much as the show. It allows me to become a different person and to see the world from a different perspective.

Ketan Doshi - Bruce

Brought up on the shores of Singapore, Ketan dipped his toes in amateur acting through several performances in school plays from primary to college.

After a somewhat lengthy break, he re-dipped his toes again with Semi Circle play readings in 2022. He feels sufficiently primed for his role as 'Bruce' with whom he shares some choice qualities. He declines to say which ones. Ketan enjoys walking, cooking and his family.



TALK THE NIGHT by Matthew S. Hinton

A teenager and his grandad host a paranormal pirate radio show when an unexpected special guest arrives. It's about time!

Directed by: Pari Skamnioti

Pari took a two-year degree in Acting from the Experimental Stage of the Arts in her home city, Thessaloniki, Greece, during studies for her Biology degree at Aristotle University. Alongside her jobs in Academia and Oncology, she performed at several plays in London and at various Oxford University colleges for English, Greek and international audiences.

In November 2021, first time with Semi-Circle and first time in Basel, she debuted as a theatre director with "Right Sensation", a demanding and sensitive play that received high acclaim. She is delighted to bring to life the intriguing and bittersweet "Talk the night", which explores the stories and struggles of three men, who realise they lost time in their lives - haven't we all?



Ivan Semashev - Drake

Ivan has been a part of a few theatre productions in Basel, and specifically with Semi-Circle. His prior theatre experience is very chaotic - ranging from high school plays to acting courses in the University of Arts in London. He's really thankful to Semi-Circle for approaching him about "Talk the Night" and is very excited to bring Drake Dickson (back) to life!

JJ Gonzalez - Rich

New to Semi-Circle. I come from Mexico and the majority of my experience in theater has been at schools or small clubs, performing mainly seasonal productions like the typical Mexican "Pastorelas" during the Christmas season. There I would normally embody and represent the Archangel Gabriel or the Devil! I am looking forward to the new experience at Semi-Circle and playing the dad in "Talk The Night"!

Luca Manganelli - Captain

I have been involved in theatre for about twenty years as a trained actor (recently added a Master in acting for cinema to my resume). I have been with Semi-Circle for ten years, involved at various levels, including directing two long productions, "Dracula" and "Don't drink the water" by Woody Allen. And I am happy to be back on stage after some time.



MENAGE A TROIS by David Evans

A married couple on a parachute jump, an experienced instructor, an unexpected revelation. What could possibly go wrong?

MICHAEL CAINE'S AZALEAS by Barry Wood

A bucket list, a rollercoaster ride, fear and fantasy. What could possibly go wrong ?

ATTACK OF THE KILLER BANANA SPIDER! by John Moorhouse

A house in Leeds, a bunch of bananas, a visitor from Brazil. What could possibly go wrong ?

By arrangement with Pint-sized Plays

Sit back and enjoy these 3 short plays...
but be careful what you wish for !!

Directed by: Zuzana Cox

Zuzana has appeared on several Basel stages over many years, most recently taking on the role of Cassandra, the psychic and slightly loopy cleaning lady in the Semi-Circle production of 'Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike'.

This evening she takes on one of her favourite roles; that of director. All the fun, creativity and putting ideas into action without having to learn any lines! She has thoroughly enjoyed working with this closely knit dream team and hopes that you enjoy this evening's plays.



David Cox

Is returning to the Semicircle stage after a few years of absence. He's really looking forward to bringing to you the weird and wonderful characters in these three short, perilous plays. He has particularly enjoyed sharing the stage with Keith, who, although not mentioned in the programme, plays a prominent and dangerous role in one of tonight's plays. Watch out and beware!

Joy Scherer

Has taken part in Semi-Circle productions over a number of years and in a variety of roles: on-stage, backstage and front-of-house, usually with both feet firmly on the ground. However, in two of this evening's short plays she finds herself heading for hitherto undreamt-of dizzy heights.

Will there be happy landings?

Mark Levick

Mark has enjoyed Semi-Circle plays as an audience member over the past few years but somehow he's found himself on stage for the very first time in this production. Still not being sure how this actually happened, Mark has thrown himself into the experience with enthusiasm, trepidation and terror - in that order. He encourages anyone and everyone to go beyond their comfort zone in 2024!



With Special Thanks to Scott Holland, Jon Apted
and Keith Phoneutria

BOTLOVE by Roger Bonner

A love story very Zeitgeist

Written by: Roger Bonner

Roger Bonner

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. "BotLove" is the third play he has written for the Semi-Circle. To his delight, his second play "Capri" was selected by Semi-Circle to be represented at the 2023 Festival of European Anglophone Theatrical Societies (FEATS) in Bad Homburg. Proudly,



Sam Levitt, who directed "Capri", won an award for Best Ending Visuals, and Alannah Burns, who is in "BotLove", won a nomination for Best Actress. "Capri" also won a nomination for Best Original Script. What's next? London's West End? Broadway? Hollywood? Or better still, tonight at the New Arlecchino Theatre!!

Directed by: Diana Zuger

Have been in Switzerland since the swinging sixties and as a founder member of the Semi-Circle have been involved in productions too many to mention both on stage and off. More at home behind the stage nowadays I am happy to direct the new play by Roger Bonner for your entertainment. Enjoy.



Alannah Burns - AIva

A Londoner turned Basel-er, Alannah has graced Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, and the Edinburgh Fringe and National Theatre Connections festivals. She has won theatre awards in Wimbledon and Oxford, and was nominated for Best Actress at this year's FEATS festival in Germany with Semi-Circle Basel. Her most recent roles include 'Beatrice' in Shakespeare's Much Ado About Nothing (Hoops of Iron, 2022), 'Emma' in Harold Pinter's Betrayal (GEDS, 2023) and 'Phil' in Neil LaBute's The Shape of Things (White Rabbit, 2023). Offstage, Alannah teaches English in Basel and deals with teenage antics at a boarding school in the Jura. This is her second time playing a robot.

Rik Deurloo - professor Husk

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. Rik has appeared in quite some tv and theatre productions in the Netherlands, and now is trying to make his star rise in Basel, where you may have seen him acting in Don't Drink The Water, Sweet Expectations, Capri, or even dancing and singing in She Kills Monsters. He is now ready to play something close to his everyday life: being a scientist, and being a bit mad...

Sebastian Filho - AIdam

Seb is a student of French and Philosophy from St Andrews, Scotland, with a view to become a professional red-wine-fuelled daydreamer.

Currently on his year abroad, he lives and works in the sprawling metropolis of Porrentruy, Jura. A keen thespian and singer, Seb has performed in many productions - most recently: Into the Woods (Jack), The History Boys (Posner), Iolanthe at the Edinburgh Fringe (Earl Tolloler), and Netflix's The Crown. He is excited for his first performance outside the UK!



SNOWIGNON BLANC By Nicole Gough

What Rosemary hopes will be a traditional Christmas dinner turns out to be a little unexpected.

Nicole Gough

Nicole grew up in New Jersey and has been teaching overseas for 13 years. This is her 4th year living in Basel and she loves it here. She enjoys writing, and has been fascinated by the trope of the Hallmark Christmas movie; to that end, she has written a Hallmark-style script every Christmas for the past 7 years, which her group of 5 friends continue to (very kindly) gather together to read each holiday season.

"Snowvignon Blanc" is a stage adaptation of last Christmas' script. When she's not writing, she enjoys talking about books with her students, running, and singing in a cover band called Rocklette.





Directed by: Daria Montijo

From the City of Angels to the heart of Basel, Daria makes her directorial debut on the Swiss stage with Snowvignon Blanc. She brings her love of storytelling and live performance to Semi-Circle from her roots in college theater and the LA film industry. By day, Daria works with awesome creatives, crafting compelling content and telling human-focused stories in support of brand reputation. With immense gratitude for the incredible talents of our writer and actors, this journey is one she's very proud to be part of. Let the show begin!

Jeanne Darling - Rosemary

Jeanne is a retired educator and story teller. She has also tried once or twice to retire from amateur acting after playing a variety of small roles in Basel's Annual English Panto, thinking it best at her age to contribute backstage. But the invitation to return to the stage was too strong to resist, especially when she was typecast for a role that comes so naturally – the older woman, with still lots to learn from the younger generation!

Kyle Doerntlein -Artie

Kyle Doerntlein is Canadian born first time actor making his theatrical debut as Artie in the production of Snowvignon Blanc. He brings his experience and enthusiasm to the stage from amateur improv and tabletop role playing games. He is grateful to the cast and crew for allowing him to perform alongside their talented selves. In his day job he has been capturing the hearts of corporate professionals, let him capture your hearts this Christmas

Magda Bednarska - Joy

In 2019 Magda embarked on a journey into the world of amateur theatre with no prior professional experience or formal training. She is grateful to the Semi-Circle, an organization that has been instrumental in honing her stage skills and uncovering a latent passion for performance that was previously undiscovered. So far, she's been in three Semi-Circle productions, eagerly looking forward to being back on stage once again !

Michèle Nicolet - Noelle

Michèle is a Swiss-born actress with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting for Film. She has worked on projects in front of and behind the camera as well as on stage in the US and Switzerland. Her credits include Räuber Hotzenplotz at Theater Fauteuil in Basel, The Myth of the Devil which was screened at Cannes and earned her a best actress award at the New York Short Film Festival in 2008, Eine Wenig - dr Dällebach Kari by Oscar-winning director Xavier Koller, and Three, a play she co-wrote with her classmates, performed on stage and adapted into the feature film Between The Bars. After taking a break from 'the business', Michèle is eagerly looking forward to standing on stage again!

Sophie McColl - Cate

Sophie is delighted to be playing Catherine Traubhaus! Exploring the character of a high maintenance, NY wine family heiress, what fun! She feels privileged to be working with such a fabulous cast, writer and director on this project. Sophie grew up in the theatre as a backstage baby, with her first professional gig at 4 or though she nearly lost the job for diva behaviour, not wanting to wear her costume! She got through it and went onto study theatre/film acting in New Zealand and London, it's always been part of her life and one of her happy places. Working professionally across all mediums - theatre, film, TV and radio. After a bit of a hiatus to focus on her most important role of mom, she looks forward to "treading the boards" more regularly in the future.

Yorgos Kordelas - Norm

Yorgos comes from a Greek family, was raised in Germany, studied Spanish & French literature, lived many years in Italy and will now have his English speaking theater debut in the cultural melting pot of Basel.



LEGAL CLAUS by Chloe Hannah

Father Christmas wants to retire and receives an unconventional application.

Written by: Chloe Hannah

Chloe was born in Basel to an Australian mother and an English father. Several of her short plays have been performed by the Semi-Circle in the past, including "Carbon Dating", "What's Been Bugging Stuart?" and "Swiss Twist". In her day job she works in the pharmaceutical industry (like everyone else in Basel) as an interactive media designer with a special interest in gamification, which luckily also allows her to put pen to paper with a short comedy here or there.

Directed by: Tobias Spring

Tobias has been a member of the UNION Theater Workshop in Basel for some years now. He acted in its "Lyrik to go or not to go" intervention and produced the corresponding videos. In his day job at Roche he - among other tasks - directs and produces a diverse range of instructional and promotional videos. "Legal Clause" is the first theater play he directs.

Find out more about him at youtube.com/@tobiasspring4683

Philip Brown - Father Christmas

Phil was born and raised in sunny Gloucester in Southwest England. Following a degree in modern languages at the University of Liverpool,

he left the UK in the last millennium, never to return.

A translator by trade, words are his forte. Acting less so. A complete rookie on the stage,

Legal Clause is his first (and possibly last) dabble in the world of theatre - bar his stirring performance as Joseph in the school nativity play aged six, which culminated in him wetting himself on stage. Fingers crossed for this performance! Bring a broly, just in case. Ho ho ho!



Kirstie Sawyer - Fallon Michaels

Kirstie is currently having her 3rd midlife crisis and this one involves putting herself as much out of her comfort zone as possible! So be kind in your reviews please ;) Her day job as a communications manager is slightly less terrifying but still involves "naughty and nice lists".



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