

The Semi-Circle Basel presents

INNER CIRCLE

An Evening of Original & Timeless Short Plays



6-7 & 13-14
June 2025
Performance
begins at 19.30

Kulturhuus
Häbse
Klingentalstrasse 79
4057 Basel

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President's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to the Kulturhuus Hübse for our summer production "Inner Circle: An Evening of Original & Timeless Short Plays".

The Semi-Circle has been bringing English language theatre to Basel since 1975, so 2025 is our 50th Anniversary! Tonight's production brings us to more than 200 wonderful plays / musicals / readings / workshops & variety shows.

Tonight is also special as we are celebrating our members' writing talent. You may not be aware that, in addition to producing plays, we also run workshops on acting, lighting and sound, production management and ... writing! Several members attended a series of play-writing workshops and we see a selection of their plays being performed this evening. I offer my huge thanks to our authors for all their efforts and to the workshop team for helping the writers to find their voice.

We are bookending the production with two plays by David Ives, who is best known for his one act comedies. He has also been referred to as the "maestro of the short form".

As you know, we are a not for-profit organisation and rely entirely on the goodwill of volunteers. So on behalf of Semi-Circle I offer my sincere thanks to everyone involved in the production - the writers, the directors, cast, crew and the committee, for giving their time, energy and creativity to bring the performances to you this evening.

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

Enjoy the show.

Regards,

Alison Bolton

INNER CIRCLE

An Evening of Original & Timeless
Short Plays

Part 1

“Captive Audience” by David Ives,
directed by Ian Wicks

Comedy

“Something Is Ever So Slightly Off”
written and directed by Charlotte Roth

Drama

“Ma-trio-mony” by Roger Bonner,
directed by Valentina D’Alessandro

Dark Comedy



INTERMISSION

Part 2

“The Other Side”
written and directed
by Shashank Purushotham

Dramedy

“The Concert”
written and directed by Lia Segre

Comedy

“Dr Fritz: or the Forces of Light”
by David Ives, directed by Daria Montijo

Comedy

IMMENSE THANKS TO THE TEAM

who made the show possible!

Producer	Paul Delgado
Production Assistant	Chris Jones
Stage Manager	Tony O'Sullivan
Light & Sound Tech	Tobias Bulloni, Billy Gilbert
Set Build	Giles Breault
FoH Lead	Billy Gilbert
FOH Team	Diana Zuger, Hilary Ireland, Eva Sternkuker, Jan Hawley, Roger Bonner
Backstage Team	Felicity Miller, Hansueli Müller, Hans Hoogkramer
Makeup	Cybene Ann Gracias Vulliamy
Poster, Programme, Social Media, Marketing	Alice Ginger Zagato
Website, Marketing and PR	Alison Bolton, Daria Montijo, Paul Delgado, Sarah Thomforde
Legal	Chris Jones



Captive Audience

by David Ives

Directed by Ian Wicks

A warning about the dangers of television turning into a menacing presence in the home. In this rapid-fire satire, the TV characters disrupt Rob and Laura's evening at home by interacting with them, talking back, and even threatening to take over their lives. With its surreal wit and underlying sense of threat, this short play evokes the unsettling atmosphere of an episode of Black Mirror.



Ian Wicks - Director

Ian returns to the theatre with *Semi-Circle*, ending a long absence. He got distracted. Aside from acting in and directing a range of theatrical productions, Ian used to work as an Arts Administrator at Theatre Royal Stratford East, and Arts Council England. Later, this turned into managing multinational compliance investigations, which were often dramatic, but always less fun.

He has enjoyed working with the cast of "Captive Audience" and hopes to be part of entertaining shows that are remembered by its audiences...for all the right reasons..



Ben Rolt - TV Man

After years in the wilderness of spending time working and crashing out afterwards each day, Ben has decided to re-engage with the arts. This is Ben's first theatre outing in fourteen years, having last appeared onstage in 2011 in two student operas; as King Meneleas in Offenbach's "La Belle Helene", and as Lord Mountararat in Gilbert and Sullivan's "Iolanthe". As a teacher by trade, Ben is looking forward to practising what he preaches and engaging with delivering a spirited and enjoyable performance for all.

Captive Audience



Heike Geiling - Laura

With a strong love of theatre and a genuine interest in human interaction, Heike has been a member of Semi-Circle for the past few years, appearing on stage in plays such as "She Kills Monsters", "Love & Light" and "Baking Bread".



Lorraine Chandler - TV Woman

Lorraine is originally from Ireland but has lived in France for over 15 years. She got back into acting last year after a long gap. This is her second stint with Semi-Circle, and she loves having fun on stage.



Tobias Gregus - Rob

Realising at some point that the real world doesn't really want to be his stage, Tobi finally found a stage that might just be his world. But really, after a decade-long hiatus he is happy to make his first appearance with Semi-Circle, and get back into acting. Originally from Basel, but he's been around a bit...



Something Is Ever So Slightly Off

written and directed
by Charlotte Roth

Is there another reality in another solar system? A slightly wild Grandma is looking for her shawl, a carefree teenager plays with a Frida Kahlo picture, and a mother desperately tries to keep some order: it is Tucson, not Two Suns. But what about when the toilet flushes four times in Grandma's apartment? Like solar systems, family constellations grow old and become disrupted throughout their lifetime.



Charlotte Roth - Author and Director

In her journey through theatre and life, she has moved across many stages, both literal and metaphorical. She performed in productions of the Schaffhauser Sommertheater (1998 to 1994) and with the Gay Beggars at the English Seminar in Basel (1995 to 1997). With Master's degrees in both Culture Studies and Corporate Communication Management, Charlotte has crafted creative and professional narratives. With "Something is Ever So Slightly Off", Charlotte explores those ephemeral moments when change quietly begins its descent – subtle yet inevitable.



Alison Bolton - Grandma

Alison joined the Semi-Circle as stage manager for "Blithe Spirit" back in 2017, and was inspired to try and get back on stage. She has since been fortunate to have been chosen to perform in a range of roles from the redoubtable Mrs. Kidd in "Top Girls", to Fido the grumpy terrier in "Anger Management for Dogs" and most recently the anxious (with good reason!) cook in "And Then There Were None". She is delighted to have the opportunity to access her not too dormant hippie as the grandmother in "Something is Ever So Slightly Off".

Something Is Ever So Slightly Off



Thea Montijo - Emma

Thea is a young actor who has been in school productions and this is her first time acting outside of the ISB community. She is proud to say that both of her parents are or have been actors and directors! She is excited to keep theater in the family!!



Tiina Sorjonen - Sara

Tiina hails from Finland and has a deep fondness for both Britain and Ireland. Since arriving in Switzerland she has been involved with Semi-Circle supporting several productions in mostly a behind the scenes capacity. She had her acting debut as the mysterious Frieda Narracott in Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None". Last Christmas she played a loving mother in "I Thought I Liked Girls". Now she's a mother again!

Ma-trio-mony

by Roger Bonner,
directed by Valentina D'Alessandro

Three women, one lying husband – and a deadly secret. After discovering they were all married to the same man, Donna, Hailey, and Vanessa decide to take matters into their own hands to make sure Lothar the Liar will never cheat again. Told with humor and sharp wit, this fast-paced comedy reveals how love turned into revenge – and why you should never underestimate a woman, let alone three ... or more?

Ma-trio-mony



Roger Bonner - Author

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. "Ma-trio-mony" is the fourth 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, where it did very well! The director won an award for Best Ending Visuals, the actress won a nomination for Best Actress and "Capri" won a nomination for Best Original Script! Even better, the script has been published and is now available to buy online! What next!!



Valentina D'Alessandro - Director

Valentina started acting around 16 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 started to direct as a dare to herself and fell in love with it!

She has acted in few of the Semi-Circle plays, acted and directed in "God of Carnage" and directed few short plays before embarking in the "Ma-trio-mony" experience.



Gabriel Lopez Custode - Lothar

Gabriel is an architect with a passion for the intersection between technology and the arts. Originally from Ecuador, his journey has taken him through Germany, Italy, China, and now Switzerland; each place adding a new layer to his perspective. Though his professional roots lie in engineering, architecture and digitalization, Gabriel's creative spirit thrives far beyond the hours of 8 to 5. From painting to woodworking, he's now making his debut on stage.

Ma-trio-mony

His journey technically began with a heartfelt portrayal of Pastor #2 in his kindergarten Christmas play – a performance that, according to some (his mom and nana), stole the show. Now, years later, he's reconnecting with that early spark, stepping into theater with renewed curiosity and enthusiasm.



Kathryn Krupowicz - Donna

Kathryn is originally from New York and loves being part of the theater community here in Basel. In addition to acting in Semi-Circle productions, she has had roles in the Basel English Panto Group, and regularly takes the stage with the Boutique Theater Basel's improv group. Whether scripted or spontaneous, she is always grateful for the chance to collaborate, create, and share stories with others. Huge thanks to Valentina, the cast and crew, and to everyone who keeps the magic of local theater alive!



Lenny Yong - Man/Apollo

An expressive soul who has always been drawn to music, dance, and arts... Lenny holds a Production Engineering bachelor from 'Universidad Simón Bolívar' in Venezuela where he was also a member of MUGA, the university's folkloric dance ensemble and a tenor with the university's choir. He's had the opportunity to perform in many renowned symphonic-choral programs and represent traditional Venezuelan dances in international festivals traveling to Ecuador, Italy, Péru and Mexico. His professional life has circled around the pharmaceutical industry which brought him to Basel where he has been residing for over 12 years. Now, he is up for a new and exciting adventure on stage with The Semi-Circle Basel.

Ma-trio-mony



Michèle Nicolet - Vanessa

Since earning her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Acting for Film, Michèle has enjoyed stage and film/TV work, with notable credits including 'Räuber Hotzenplotz' at Theater Fauteuil in Basel, 'Eine Wen Iig - dr Dällebach Kari' by Oscar-winning director Xavier Koller, and 'The Myth of the Devil', which was screened at Cannes and earned her a best actress award at the New York Short Film Festival. After a hiatus from 'the business', Michèle returned to acting in Semi-Circle's 2023 "Snowvignon Blanc", and starred in last year's "And Then There Were None", which was an absolute highlight. She is looking forward to sharing the stage with wonderful castmates once again!



Patrizia Macina - Hailey

Patrizia is a dedicated theatre artist with a background in nursing, having previously worked at a children's hospital. Her passion for the stage began in her teenage years at Theater Basel and continued more recently at TAK - Theater am Käfigturm in Bern. Currently based in Basel, she plays the role of Hailey in the production "Ma-trio-mony". Alongside her artistic pursuits, Patrizia now works as a social worker, bringing both empathy and real-world experience to her performances.



The Other Side

written and directed
by Shashank Purushotham

In a dystopian society, a migrant struggles to gain residency by conforming to absurd and dehumanizing rules. As she navigates the oppressive system, she faces a series of humiliating tests that challenge her identity and resilience. The play explores themes of power, obedience and the loss of individuality in the face of authoritarian control.



Shashank Purushotham - Author and Director

Shashank is a versatile theatre practitioner and film actor who holds a Bachelor of Dental Surgery degree from Bangalore, India. With a rich background in various theatre roles and leadership positions, including as Honorary President of Bangalore Little Theatre, has showcased his talent in acclaimed productions like "Crossing to Talikota", "Romeo and Juliet - No Strings Attached", and "The Prophet and the Poet". He has directed plays and served as an executive producer for a feature film. Shashank's journey continues in Basel, where he serves as a committee member of the Festival de L'Aube and Director of an experimental essay film titled "The Risk." His involvement in Semi-Circle began as an actor with the play "And Then There Were None".



The Other Side



Alessandra Leopardi - Migrant

Alessandra is a passionate performer and storyteller with a background in international education, human rights advocacy, and communications. From Venezuela, she has lived and worked across Japan, the United States, and Switzerland, bringing a global sensibility to her creative expression. Alessandra holds master's degrees from the Geneva Graduate Institute and Sophia University, and her work has centered on advocacy, children's right to read, the right to education, academic freedom, and freedom of expression. Now based in Basel, she continues to explore on and off the stage, blending her love for critical thinking, literature, and meaningful expression.



Eleanor Low - Official

Eleanor is a familiar face on the stage, having performed with Semi-Circle and various English and German-speaking theatre groups in Basel and beyond. Some of her favourite roles include the dramatic Masha in "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike", the delightfully awkward Paige in "RolePlay", the hilariously intense Christmas Eve in "Avenue Q", the over-the-top Alexis Darling in "RENT", and – plot twist – Aladdin himself in Basel's pantomime production of "Aladdin" (oh yes she did). When not in the spotlight, Eleanor is a marketer by day, fitness wannabe by occasional effort, multitasking mother, and a proud member of the TEDxBasel team – because who needs spare time anyway?

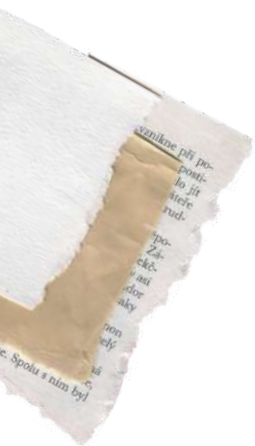


The Other Side



John Salusbury – Soldier

John's early acting career was with Bolton Operatic Society performing in many musicals and pantomime including, "Me and my Girl", "Gypsy", "Mack and Mabel" and "Mother Goose". A move to Switzerland and busy work schedules kept John off stage for twenty years before returning to perform as General Mackenzie in the Semi-Circle's 2024 performance of "And Then There Were None". In the "The Other Side" John is playing the soldier, which is lots of fun and an enjoyable part.



PAGE TO STAGE PRESENTS



Swiss premier of Come From Away. Auditions 9th August 2025. Open to all 17+ with experience in musical theatre disciplines. Performances 20th - 22nd March 2026 at SCALA BASEL.

JUNIOR COURSE

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The Concert

written and directed by Lia Segre

In the dressing room of Carnegie Hall, a young pianist has to be on stage in 15 minutes, but thinks he's not ready and refuses to play the concert. His manager get has very little time to convince him. Different characters get involved and try to help out, while the tension gets higher. A comedy about stage fright, self-esteem and Primadonnas.



Lia Segre - Author and Director

Lia Segre graduated in violin performance in Milan and began working as a musician, first in Italy and later in Switzerland, playing both the violin and the viola. In recent years, she has taken on a role as a librarian, while also nurturing her passion for theater by attending Improv classes with Boutique Theater. In 2024, she joined The Semi-Circle and took part in the Autumn Rehearsed Play Reading. Later that year, she participated in their playwriting workshop with "The Concert", which was selected for production. "The Concert" marks her debut as both a playwright and a theater director. Thank you, Semi-Circle, for the great opportunity!



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The Concert

Lenka Sindelarova - Angela

Originally from Prague, Czech Republic, Lenka is thrilled to make her on-stage debut in "The Concert", part of Semi-Circle Basel's summer production of short plays. With a background in international business and a 15 year career that spans several countries, Lenka brings a global perspective and deep curiosity to everything she does. A lifelong lover of the arts – especially theatre – she first joined the Semi-Circle family as a sound and light technician for the 2024 Fall production of "This Thing Called Life". Passionate, creative, and always up for a challenge, Lenka is excited to explore the stage from a new angle and share her joy for storytelling with the Basel Theatre Community.



Maria Teresa Catanese - Susan

Maria Teresa's curiosity about people and their stories is matched by her passion for art in all its forms. As a teenager in Italy, she began acting in an amateur theatre group with her father, where they performed in several classical Neapolitan comedies. Despite moving to New York and London for her scientific studies, she remained connected to theatre through improvisation groups and acting classes. Now based in Basel for the past 3 years, Maria Teresa joined the Semi-Circle in 2024. Her involvement includes collaborating as a crew member and performing as an actress in staged rehearsals and the November 2024 production "This Thing Called Life". She is thrilled to be a part of this latest Semi-Circle production.



The Concert

Omar Cipriano - Oliver

Omar's acting journey began in Italy, where he charmed (or at least didn't offend) audiences in high school and university productions, including "The Catcher in the Rye", "The Bear", and "Universerie". He even braved the notoriously passionate world of Italian improv. Three years ago, he traded sunny skies for the equally dramatic (in its own way) Basel theatre scene. While you might have missed his initial short plays with the "Game" and "Baking Bread" he's thrilled you've come to see him now and is aiming for a *molto bene* performance in "The Concert" that he hopes will stick with you.

Scott Holland - Jack

Scott has been a Semi-Circle member since he moved to Basel in 2007. He has primarily acted and directed since that time though he has also had great fun working behind the scenes, as well as part of the committee. Scott is now a teacher with Simply Theatre Basel, and he founded and runs Betwixt & Between Theater Company with his friend Miriam Cöhn. Big thanks to Tim, Lia and this fantastic cast of characters in "The Concert". Please silence your phones and enjoy the show.

Alyssa Weir - Georgina

Alyssa has been passionate about acting since a young age. She lived in the UK until the age of four, before relocating to Switzerland. She has attended both local and international schools, where she took part in several theatrical productions, in German as well as in English. Alyssa has consistently taken part in musical productions since 2021, and in 2024 she was cast as one of the main characters in a musical adaptation of the beloved classic, "Peter Pan". As a younger member of the cast, Alyssa is looking forward to continuing her journey in theatre and gaining experience in acting.

Dr Fritz: or the Forces of Light

by David Ives,
directed by Daria Montijo

A desperate tourist wanders into Maria's souvenir shop looking for the mysterious Dr. Fritz. What begins as a simple visit spirals into a surreal experience, as the traveler is forced to confront the strange powers of light and darkness - and the mysterious force that binds them both. Souvenirs anyone?



Daria Montijo - Director

Daria has been directing with Semi-Circle Basel since 2023. What began as a way to reconnect with her theater roots has grown into a passionate commitment to bring people together through live performance - staging stories that invite audiences to feel something real. Last year she directed Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None" and Anton Chekhov's "The Marriage Proposal" She's currently in rehearsals directing Semi-Circle's upcoming comedy production that will open this November at the Scala Theater in Basel.



Daniela Briceno Ramirez - Maria/Dr. Fritz

From the age of nine, the stage has been a source of immense joy for Daniela. Originally from Venezuela, she discovered her love for acting early on, participating in childhood adaptations of beloved tales. This early passion blossomed into a deep appreciation for theatre. Her theatrical journey has encompassed a diverse range of productions, from original works to renowned plays, including Tennessee Williams's "The Lady of Larkspur Lotion", and the musical "Hairspray".

Dr Fritz: or the Forces of Light

Beyond performing, Daniela has also explored her creative talents in choreography and writing, including adapting a work by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master degree in Work and Organizational Psychology. Having recently moved to Basel, she is eager to continue cultivating her lifelong love for theatre from her new home in Switzerland.

Pablo "Paul" Delgado – Tom and "Inner Circle" Producer

A lifelong enthusiast of theatre, film, and the arts, Paul is driven by a deep passion for storytelling and its power to connect, inspire, and transform. Originally from the Bronx, New York, and now based in Basel, he brings a rich creative spirit to the Semi-Circle stage as both producer and performer in "Inner Circle: An Evening of Original and Timeless Short Plays". Paul made his Semi-Circle debut in 2024 during a rehearsed play reading and quickly became an integral part of the group—serving as Associate Producer and Sound Technician for This Thing Called Life later that year. This summer, he takes on dual roles once again, producing the full summer production and acting in David Ives' offbeat comedy "Dr. Fritz". Outside the theatre, Paul has built a successful international career spanning over 30 years in the MedTech and dental industries, leading global sales, marketing and commercial initiatives with a focus on organizational transformation, growth and impact.



Anglican Church Basel

Dates for your 2025 agenda

**Christmas Bazaar: Saturday November 15th,
Zwinglihaus, Gundeldingerstrasse 370, Basel**

**Christmas Carol Service: Sunday 14th December,
Heiliggeistkirche, Thiersteinerallee 49, Basel**

Regular Sunday Services to which all are welcome.

Sunday mornings, 10.30, Adventhaus, Rümelinbachweg 60, Basel

**Sunday evenings, 17.30, Niklauskapelle, Münster Cloisters,
Rittergasse 1, Basel**

Contact: admin@anglicanbasel.ch Tel: 061 321 74 77

<https://anglicanbasel.ch/>



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Golden Anniversary Year

Celebrate with us!

In 2025, Semi-Circle celebrates its 50th Anniversary. A remarkable milestone in Basel's vibrant theatre scene.

For half a century, Semi-Circle has been a hub for creativity, passion and community, bringing compelling performances to life. We invite you to celebrate this legacy with us during the year. Join us as we honour our past and look to the future. Visit our website for events planned throughout the year, some for members and others for the wider community.

We look forward to seeing you at one or more of our celebrations!



The
Semi-Circle
Basel
50
YEARS



inner
circle



Tickets



www.semicircle-basel.com