

The Semi-Circle Basel presents

THIS THING CALLED LIFE

AN EVENING
OF
SHORT PLAYS
ABOUT
WHAT YOU
CAN
AND CAN'T
CONTROL

OCTOBER 31
NOVEMBER 1 / 2 / 7 / 8 / 9
2024

THEATER ARLECCHINO
BASEL



President's Welcome

I am delighted to welcome you to our autumn production: "This Thing Called Life". We have curated a selection of six fantastic plays for you. Some are comedies and others are more thoughtful. So something for everyone I hope.

I was delighted that so many people came along to the auditions. It suggests that Semi-Circle is putting on plays that appeal to our Basel community, which is really encouraging. We will soon be announcing our plans for next year's 50th anniversary, where there will be many more opportunities for you to get involved and celebrate with us, so keep an eye out for upcoming communications and our website: www.semicircle-basel.com.

As you know, we are a voluntary organisation and on behalf of the Semi-Circle I offer my sincere thanks to the directors, cast, army of volunteers 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



IMMENSE THANKS TO THE TEAM

WHO MADE IT ALL POSSIBLE!

PRODUCER

Alison Bolton

ASSISTANT PRODUCER

Paul Delgado

STAGE MANAGERS

Chris Jones and Michael Bray

LIGHTING LEAD

Donald Brun

FRONT OF HOUSE LEAD

Billy Gilbert

PROMOTION

Alice Ginger Zagato, Sarah Thomforde

FINANCE AND LICENSING

Chris Jones

PROGRAMME, POSTER

Alice Ginger Zagato

SET DESIGN AND PROPS

Marta Bednarczyk

COSTUMES

Jane Whelan

HAIR AND MAKEUP

Bianca Kirby, Jane Whelan

SOUND AND LIGHT TEAM

Carl Laurent, Donald Brun, Laura Francke, Lenka Sindelarova, Matt Billingham, Paul Delgado

STAGE CREW

Adele Rakotonirina, Chris Jones, Felicity Miller, Fred Zimmermann, John Hyland, Josette Spirig, Kathryn Mayoh, Lia Segre, Mike Bray, Russel Coburn, Ryan Adams, Viola Paradiso.

FRONT OF HOUSE TEAM

Billy Gilbert, Diana Zuger, Eva Sternkuker, Hilary Ireland, Jan Hawley, Linda Kast, Penny Tuckwell, Roger Bonner





THIS THING CALLED LIFE

AN EVENING OF SHORT PLAYS ABOUT
WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T CONTROL

Part 1

- **Frozen Food** 10 mins
- **Baking Bread** 20 mins
- **Incident On** 10 mins
- **The Golden Gate Bridge**
- **Thought I Liked Girls** 10 mins

INTERMISSION

20 mins

Part 2

- **The Proposal** 30 mins
 - **Adoption** 10 mins
- 
- 

Frozen Food

by Jan August

Directed by Kirstie Sawyer



Kathryn Krupowicz (Linda)

Is excited to be involved with Semi-Circle's production of *This Thing Called Life*. Last year, she acted in the Basel English Panto Group's production of *Sleeping Beauty* and enjoys participating in improv at the Boutique Theater Basel. She expresses heartfelt gratitude to her amazing friends and support network, whose words of encouragement help her try new things and explore her artistic side.



Lorraine Chandler (Carol)

Is originally from Ireland but has lived in France for over 15 years. She's happy to get back into acting after a long gap, now that her three offspring have indicated that they don't want to hog her talents any longer. She's enjoying the opportunity to have an existential crisis on stage, and what better place to do that than a supermarket?



Frozen Food

by Ian August

Linda finds Carol in the middle of the frozen foods aisle of the Superfood Market having an existential crisis.

"The video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever are strictly prohibited."



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Baking Bread

by Ashley Harris

Directed by Valentina d'Alessandro



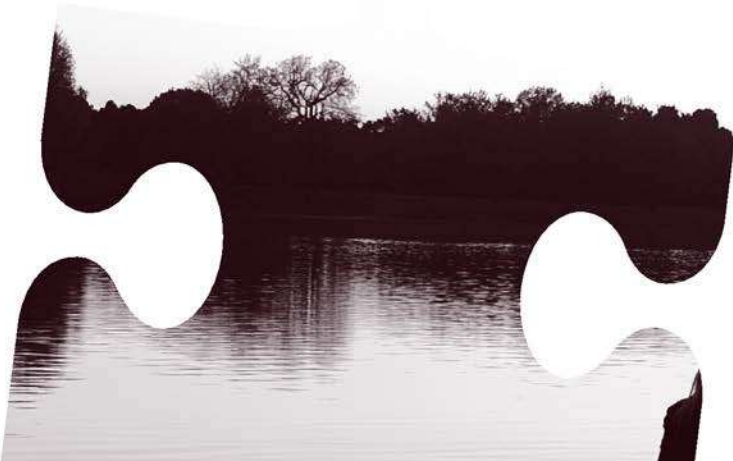
Valentina started acting around 14 years ago in Zurich where she attended acting school and set up "I Beccafichi", with whom she performed improvisation, classic comedies, drama and alternative/contemporary plays. Acting has since become her life's passion! She has acted in Semi-Circle plays "Sweet Expectations", "Capri" and acted and co-directed "God of Carnage"



Ameet Pai (Stephen)

An engineer and marketer by education & profession, Ameet's passion for different forms of human expression made him transition to being an artist creating abstract paintings.

Having practiced & studied theatre a lifetime ago, he is now excited to come back to this medium and through it explore some of these expressions. He grew up in Mumbai, and has been living in Basel for 3 years.



Baking Bread

by Ashley Harris



Heike Geiling (Bella)

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" and "Love & Light".

Maria-Teresa Cantanese (Robyn)

Maria Teresa is curious about people and their stories and is passionate about art in all its manifestations. She loves theatre and started acting in an amateur theatre group in Italy when she was a teenager, alongside her father, performing in several classical neapolitan comedies. She moved to New York and London to pursue her scientific studies but continued to find ways to stay connected to the theatre by joining improvisation groups and attending acting classes. She has been in Basel for the past 2 years and is super excited to be part of this Semi-Circle production.



Baking Bread

by Ashley Harris

Omar Cipriano (John)

Omar has been acting since being a teenager, starting in high school and continuing through university. You might remember him from his appearances in classics like "The Catcher in the Rye", "The Bear", and "The Game"—or you might not, since he wasn't even in Basel then! Now, he's back for his second play in Basel, his second time acting in English, and yes, his second drama.



Bella is back at the bench by the lake, ready to feed the ducks. Before long John arrives and she can share the bread with him. But all is not as it seems.



Incident On The Golden Gate Bridge

by David MacGregor
Directed by Martin Spedding

Originally from the UK, Martin has lived in Basel for 35 years. He has been an active member of the Basel English Panto Group for almost 30 years, where he has been treasurer, secretary, assistant director and has acted several times. In recent years he has found a new love for improvisation and has performed in a number of shows in Basel and Zurich as part of the Basel Improv Group. Tonight is his debut as director for Semi-Circle, and he is very proud of the talented cast in the two plays that he is directing. "I thought I Liked Girls" and "The Incident on the Golden Gate Bridge". Both plays show that life never turns out the way you expect it to. I have always worked in IT, so I never expected to be involved in theatre, but it has enriched my life and I hope you enjoy tonight's show.



Gianluca Rossato(Cary)

Gianluca was born in Italy, and has spent the last 15 years in Basel. Passionate about different art forms and expressions, he started acting, a bit for fun, 5 years ago. He works in the pharmaceutical world by day, and enjoys sports, tango dancing, traveling and outdoors in his spare time.



Incident On The Golden Gate Bridge

Louise Hart (Jessie)

Louise, a high school student from France, is excited to portray Jessie in Incident on the Golden Gate Bridge. She balances her studies with her passion for ice skating and enjoys getting lost in a good book when she has free time. This is her first time performing for Semi-Circle Basel, and she's grateful for the chance to explore her love of theatre. Louise is eager to bring her character to life and share this experience with the audience.



Lucia Santercole (Nicole...known as Nic)

Lucia moved to Basel last year and is thrilled to return to the stage! Having mostly performed in comic roles, she is now happy to explore new characters and challenges. When not on stage, she's busy writing her PhD dissertation, roller skating or enjoying aperitivi with friends - who deserve a great shoutout for tolerating her endless lines rehearsals!



Incident On The Golden Gate Bridge

by David MacGregor

On a precarious ledge high above San Francisco Bay, a befuddled young man tries to understand what has happened to his life, then is joined by two passersby similarly confused about their lives.



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I Thought I Liked Girls

by Nicole Pandolfo

Directed by Martin Spedding

Alannah Burns (Lucy)

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 last year's FEATS festival in Germany with Semi-Circle. 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 deals with teenage antics at a boarding school in the Jura where she teaches English and Humanities. Onstage is Alannah's happy place.



Hansueli Mueller(Father)

The name is a real giveaway - Hansueli cannot claim to be Anglo-Saxon. Having taught English at Gymnasium Liestal for donkey's years, he is now retired. He has been on stage for Swiss German Theater Rampenlicht quite a few times, in the past few years mostly as a granddad. So

being rejuvenated into a dad in this 10-minute-play is quite refreshing. But he has been in a Semi-Circle play before - as the humble Mr Briggs in "Dracula". And he enjoys helping Tony with the monthly play-readings - great fun!



I Thought I Like Girls

by Nicole Pandolfo



Tiina Sorjonen (Mother)

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 took the plunge earlier this year, deciding to make her acting debut as the mysterious Frieda Narracott in Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None". This is her second production as a performer. Enjoy!

Lucy has some big news for her parents- after 10 years of being a lesbian, she has decided to come out as straight.





The Proposal

by Anton Chekhov

Directed by Daria Montijo

Daria is genuinely oh so happy to be directing with Semi-Circle again in staging Anton Chekhov's comedic farce *The Proposal*. It turns out that having a university degree with a minor in Russian Literature actually is useful. Her recent directing gigs include *Snowvignon Blanc*, an original, contemporary piece by Nicole Gough and Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. In her spare time, she enjoys directing anything (and anyone) toward creative fulfillment and keeping all her pencils sharp.



Kelly Browne (Natalya Stepanovna)

Kelly Browne, hailing from Dublin, Ireland, has been involved in theatre since the age of eight. Her early love for acting has led her to perform a variety of roles on stage and screen. Some of her memorable stage performances include the Evil Queen in *"Snow White"*, Charlie's mother in *"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory"*, and Lipschitz in *"Chicago"*.

Kelly trained at the Gaiety School of Acting and Inchicore College for Theatre Studies, where she developed her skills in performance. Since moving to Switzerland in 2023 she has rekindled her love for local theatre and hopes to bring something unique to the roles she will play.



The Proposal

by Anton Chekhov

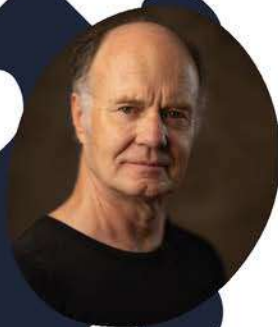
Rik Deurloo (Ivan Vassilevitch Lomov)

Rik's journey into the performing arts is a tale of conquering fears and embracing passions. While harbouring interests in music, singing, mime and comedy, it wasn't until later in life that he overcame stage fright and stepped into the spotlight. Rik has honed his craft in the Netherlands, performing for both television and stage. Since arriving in Basel he has captivated audiences in several Semi-Circle productions, including "Don't Drink the Water", "Capri", "She Kills Monsters" (an opportunity to showcase his dancing and singing talents!) and most recently "And Then There Were None". Now he is ready to draw upon his comedic talents as a hopeful hypochondriac!



Tony O'Sullivan (Stepan Stepanovitch Chubukov)

In the past Tony has had many roles on, behind and in front of the stage. Together with Hansueli Müller he organises the Semi-Circle monthly play readings, open to members and non-members alike. Get the info from the website and just turn up.



A bungling young landowner solicits his neighbor for his daughter's hand in marriage only to find that to get an "I do" he must battle through a cacophony of land rights, hunting dogs, cookies and tea

Adoption

by Herb Hasler

Directed by Valentina d'Alessandro

Pari Skamnioti (Wife)

Pari has Thessaloniki (Greece) as her birthplace and Oxford (UK) as her Heimat. Alongside her jobs in Academia and Oncology, she performed several plays in London and at various Oxford University colleges for English, Greek and international audiences. In 2021, straight after the pandemic, she attended Semi-Circle's "Direct with Confidence" workshops, which led to her directorial debut with "Right Sensation", a demanding and sensitive play that received high acclaim. In 2023 she was delighted to direct the intriguing and bittersweet American independent play "Talk the Night". She's excited to be back on stage in this hilarious comedy and with such wonderful company! She's truly thankful to her supportive family for encouraging her to explore her thespian side.

Shashank Purushotham (Interviewer)

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, Shashank has showcased his talent in acclaimed productions like "Crossing to Talikota," "Romeo and Juliet - No Strings Attached," and "The Prophet and the Poet." Beyond the stage, he has directed plays and served as an executive producer for a feature film. Since 2021, Shashank's creative journey continues in Basel, Switzerland, where he serves as a committee member of the Festival de L'Aube and Director of an experimental essay film titled "The Risk."



Adoption

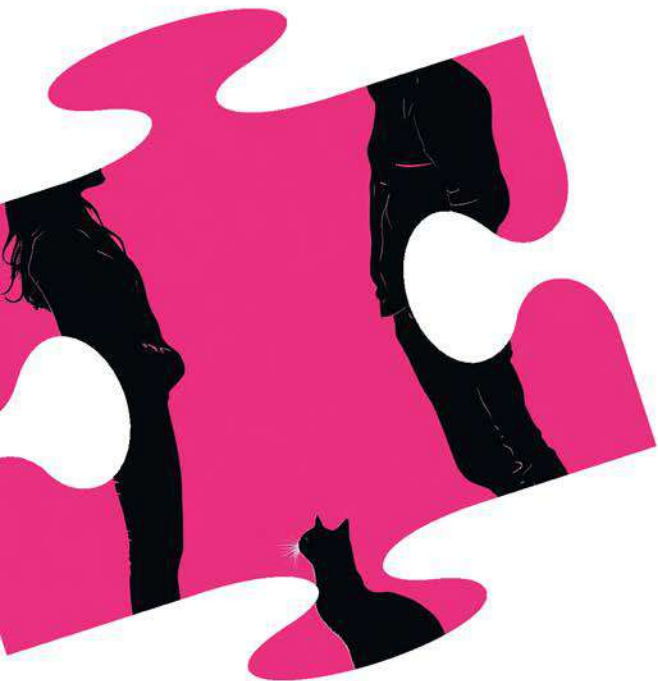
by Herb Hasler

Tristan Hardman-Dodd (Husband)

Tristan is thrilled to join the Semi Circle's production of Adoption, marking his return to the stage after a highly memorable stint as "Owner of the Manger" in the 1984 Lickey First and Middle School nativity, *The Manger Manager: A Nativity Story Reborn* (still a talking point in local circles, just ask his Mum). These days, Tristan is involved with the Basel Improv Group (BIG) appearing on stage with them several times. He has lived just over the border in France since 2016. Off-stage, he is a public speaking and communications coach - helping others find their voice-without the aid of a script.



A husband and wife are faced with an unhelpful interviewer when they apply to adopt a child.





PETER PAN

THE PANTOMIME

By Emma Houldershaw, Samantha Cartwright & Louise Archer
(Loosely based on the book by JM Barrie)
Directed by Susan Aeschbach-Jagger and Chloé Bernard

WHERE?

SCALA BASEL
Freiestrasse, Basel

WHEN?

DECEMBER 2024

Thursday 12th 19:30

Friday 13th 19:30

Saturday 14th 14:00 & 19:30

Sunday 15th 13:00 & 17:00

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TICKETS



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SÜGER STIFTUNG



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09:00 - 15:00

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CAROL SERVICE

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18:00 Heiliggeistkirche

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