



Semi-Circle Basel Presents...



THE MUSICAL COMEDY MURDERS OF 1940

By John Bishop

NOVEMBER 6 - 9, 2025

SCALA THEATER, BASEL

Directed by Daria Montijo Assistant Director Ian Wicks

Produced by Michael Bray

This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International
on behalf of Josef Weinberger Ltd. www.mtishows.co.uk | www.josef-weinberger.com



THE SWISS PREMIERE OF

COME FROM AWAY

THE REMARKABLE TRUE STORY OF
THE SMALL TOWN THAT WELCOMED THE WORLD

20. - 22.03.2026

Scheidegger
Thommen —
— Stiftung.

SCALA Basel, Freie Strasse 89, 4051 Basel
tickets at www.eventfrog.ch/comefromaway



WELCOME TO ONE AND ALL

A Grand Welcome to the Scala

My esteemed friends, it is with the most genuine delight that I welcome you to the Scala Theatre for our autumn presentation, a truly special bill of fare entitled "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940" by John Bishop. Is it a musical? No! Is it a comedy? Most assuredly! Are there murders? You will have to wait and see!

It is a proud fact that The Semi-Circle has been committed to bringing the finest in English language theatre to this fair city of Basel since the year of 1975. Think of it, ladies and gentlemen! That means the year 2025 marks our Golden Jubilee, - our Fiftieth Anniversary! Tonight's production extends our record of wonderful evenings — plays, musicals, readings, workshops, and variety shows — to a figure well in excess of 200! A magnificent achievement, I think you will agree.

As you all know, our organization operates purely as a not-for-profit endeavour and relies entirely upon the good graces and selfless spirit of our remarkable volunteers. Therefore, on behalf of The Semi-Circle, I wish to offer my most sincere and enthusiastic thanks to every single person involved in this production — the directors, the cast, the crew and the committee — for so generously giving of their time, their energy and their creativity to bring this performance to you this evening. My final word of gratitude, but by no means the least, must be extended to you, the audience, for your loyal, ongoing support and the warm encouragement you always provide.

Now, without further delay, I urge you to settle in, relax, and enjoy the show!



ALISON BOLTON,
PRESIDENT,
SEMI-CIRCLE

OUR ACE PRODUCER

Arriving in Basel in 1981 but only hearing about the Semi-Circle in 2016—how dopey is that? After a few turns on stage, Mike figured out acting wasn't exactly his ticket to Broadway. So, he hung up the greasepaint and moved behind the scenes—where the real action happens! As a committee member and producer, he's done his share of shouting and pointing, and has made lists long enough to wallpaper a dressing room, pulled a few strings (and arms), and lost plenty of shut-eye—but the payoff's a humdinger: full houses and first-rate shows.

This marks his seventh production as a producer. Here's to plenty more adventures with the swell Semi-Circle gang!



MICHAEL BRAY,
PRODUCER

Thank you to Radio TV Winter AG, Hardstrasse 139, 4052 Basel for the generous loan of the 1949 Sondyna radio receiver used in this production. The radio was adapted for stage use by Chris Morrison of Scrapheap Vintage Radios, Basel..



OUR SWELL DIRECTORS

Daria is all het up to continue her directorial journey with Semi-Circle after last season's production of Agatha Christie's **And Then There Were None** – quite the thriller, that was! Previously, she's directed pieces by David Ives and Anton Chekhov – the dame's got range, see? A Los Angeles native originally, she cut her teeth at UCLA before making the rounds at various film studios and production companies in Hollywood ***insert jazz hands here***. Now, she's pleased as Punch to bring her vision of John Bishop's **The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940** to life at the Scala Theater. She's got loads of gratitude for the lovely humans who make up Semi-Circle including this amazingly talented cast and her directing partner in crime, Ian Wicks – she couldn't have asked for a better (or funnier) collaborator. She'd be lost if it wasn't for the love of her (patient) husband and (even more patient) kids who support all most of her crazy ideas.



**DARIA MONTIJO,
DIRECTOR**



**IAN WICKS,
ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR**

Ian began his career in theatre management in London in the mid-1990s. It was an exciting time – especially once he had got the rest of the company off their phones so he could use the internet. He loved the adventure of producing a new show every eight weeks and ensuring plumbers were always on hand for the front-of-house toilets, before switching to corporate life for a couple of decades. Since big business isn't a fan of drama, his job there was mainly to avoid it. Now settled in swell Switzerland, Ian is glad to be back in theatres and proud to be part of the talented and enthusiastic Semi-Circle company, whether painting nifty sets or learning from Daria's expert direction.

THE STORY!

A group of eccentric Broadway devotees meet together in 1940's New York, in the middle of a snow storm. They think they are going to discuss a new play. The producer, composer, director, librettist, financial backer and the actors are there all ready to put on a show'. Then - a disaster! Who could have caused it? The maid? The guests? Are they who they say they are? And how are they getting around the house so quickly?

When the play opens, it's midnight....naturally.



OUR KILLER CAST

Helsa Wenzel
Elsa von Grossenknueten
Sergeant Michael Kelly
Patrick O'Reilly
Nikki Crandall
Ken de la Maize
Eddie McCuen
Marjorie Baverstock
Roger Hopewell
Bernice Roth
The Man in Black

Alannah Burns
Magda Bednarska
Tony O'Sullivan
John Salusbury
Alessandra Leopardi
Tristan Hardman-Dodd
Rik Deurloo
Valentina D'Alessandro
Shashank Purushotham
Carrie Aikman
Lenny Yong



There will be a 20 minute intermission after the first act.

A London girl who's made Basel her stomping ground, this accomplished actress has graced the hallowed boards of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre itself and made her mark at both the Edinburgh Fringe and National Theatre Connections festivals. She's collected theatre laurels in Wimbledon and Oxford, and earned a nomination for Best Actress at the 2023 FEATS festival in Germany with Semi-Circle Basel - quite the pedigree.

Her top-drawer roles include playing Abigail in Arthur Miller's **The Crucible** (Hoops of Iron, 2021), Beatrice in Shakespeare's **Much Ado About Nothing** (Hoops of Iron, 2022), and Emma in Harold Pinter's **Betrayal** (GEDS, 2023).

Now here's a tickler - this is her second go-round playing a maid, and she also knows her way around a homicidal maniac with a ridiculous German accent...The kid's got range, that's for sure.



ALANNAH BURNS,
HELSA WENZEL



MAGDA BEDNARSKA,
ELSA VON
GROSSENKNEUTEN

Magda is tickled pink to slip into the pearls - and paranoia - of Elsa von Grossenknoten in this year's caper, **The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940**. Since 2019, she's been part of the Semi-Circle outfit, playing everything from a pious houseguest (**And Then There Were None**, 2024) to a sibling in the thick of it (**Vanya, Sonia, Masha & Spike**, 2022), to a mother emotionally married to her son (**The End of the Picnic**, 2021).

When the curtain's down, Magda wrangles real estate by day and globe-trots whenever the schedule allows. She's also been known to devour espionage thrillers like she's on the payroll at MI6. She tips her hat to her family for indulging her flair for the dramatic - onstage and off.



TONY O'SULLIVAN,
SERGEANT MICHAEL KELLY

Tony's worked plenty of angles in his time - on stage, behind it, and out front where the lights burn brightest. These days, he partners with Hansueli Müller to keep the Semi-Circle's monthly play readings running smoothly. Open to all - members or not - and it won't cost you a dime. Just check the notices on the Semi-Circle website, then show up. Simple as that.

Young Salusbury first cut his teeth treading the boards with the Farnworth Operatic Society, where he proved quite the song-and-dance man in a string of musical entertainments and holiday pantomimes - including **Me and My Girl**, **Gypsy**, **Mack and Mabel**, and the festive romp **Mother Goose**. The fellow showed real promise under those footlights, he did. Then came a move across the way to Switzerland, and what with work keeping him busy, our man hung up his greasepaint for a solid 20 years. But you can't keep a born troupier away from the stage forever! In 2024, Salusbury made his grand return to the boards, taking on the role of General Mackenzie in the Semi Circle's spine-tingling production of **And Then There Were None**. More recently, he's been spotted in the soldier's uniform for the short play **The Other Side**. Now he's landed the plum role of Patrick O'Reilly, and the chap couldn't be more thrilled about it - seems it's giving him the chance to reconnect with his own Irish blood.



JOHN SALUSBURY,
PATRICK O'REILLY

Alessandra is a storyteller with plenty of moxie, who rekindled her love for the stage while living in Japan, stepping into the spotlight with the Tokyo International Players. She made her Semi-Circle debut in June 2025 in Inner Circle: An Evening of Original and Timeless Short Plays, where she played The Migrant in Shashank Purushotham's original piece **The Other Side**.

Hailing from Venezuela, Alessandra's lived a real globetrotter's life across Japan, the United States, and Switzerland, while championing big-league causes like children's right to read, academic freedom, and freedom of expression. Now settled in Basel, she's thrilled to be part of The Semi-Circle gang and downright honored to step into Nikki's shoes in **The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940**.



ALESSANDRA
LEOPARDI,
NIKKI CRANDALL



TRISTAN
HARDMAN-DODD,
KEN DE LA MAIZE

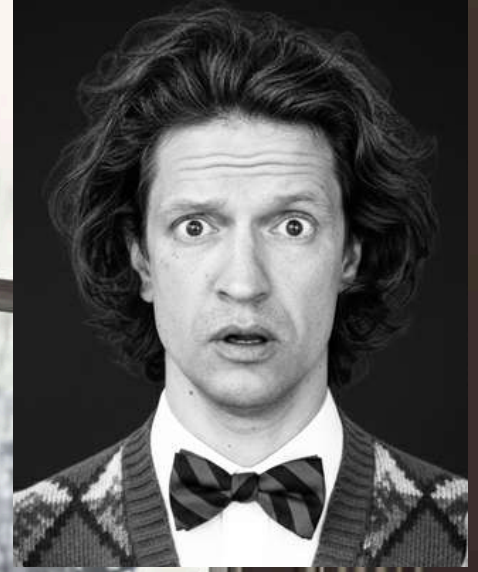
Extra! Extra! Read all about it...Hardman-Dodd returns to the Semi-Circle!

Yes, ladies and gentlemen, after a previous appearance that left audiences murmuring in delight (and possibly confusion), Tristan is back on the boards. Known in certain circles for his daring wit and theatrical aplomb, he brings the kind of presence that could light up even the glitziest Hollywood soundstage, why, insiders still whisper about the time he gave Hitchcock a few tips on suspense, and taught Cary Grant how to stand in a suit. Off the stage, when he is not dazzling Basel with his antics, Tristan plies his trade as a public speaking coach, teaching executives to project their voices, command attention, and make speeches that land with more punch than a Manhattan at the Stork Club.

Rik's journey into the spotlight is a real humdinger - what started as a battle with stage fright turned into a full-blown love affair with music, singing, mime, and comedy. For years he kept his talent under wraps, but once he finally stepped on stage, he figured he might as well stick around - beats sitting in the dark with the rest of the audience.

He polished his chops in the Netherlands, playing for both stage and television, before bringing his skills to Basel. Since then, audiences have seen him in **Don't Drink the Water**, **Capri**, **She Kills Monsters**, **And Then There Were None**, and most recently as the hopeful hypochondriac in **The Proposal**.

Now he's all set to play Eddie — who might even look like him. (Are you an actor? Well, I'm a comedian, actually.)



RIK DEURLOO,
EDDIE McCUEN



VALENTINA
D'ALESSANDRA,
MARJORIE BAVERSTOCK

Valentina first stepped into the spotlight about 16 years ago with her troupe Beccafichi in Zurich. From improv to classic comedies, hard-hitting dramas, and even the more offbeat, contemporary stuff, she's loved every minute of it—and yes, she kept up with acting school too. From the start, acting has been her life's big passion.

One day she dared herself to try directing, and - bang! - she was hooked. With Semi-Circle, she's had the joy of performing in several productions, including **God of Carnage**, where she also took a turn in the director's seat, plus a handful of short plays along the way.

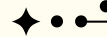
For Valentina, theater isn't just a hobby—it's the whole show, the real McCoy, and the place she feels most at home.



SHASHANK
PURUSHOTHAM,
ROGER HOPEWELL

Shashank Purushotham has been working the boards and the reels since 2006. He began with a Bachelor of Dental Surgery in Bangalore (because why not fill a few cavities before filling theatres?) and soon found himself in top-notch productions like **Crossing to Talikota**, **Romeo and Juliet - No Strings Attached**, **The Prophet and the Poet**, and **Untitled**. On the silver screen, he's turned up in **Shuddhi**, **Bhinna**, and **Mercury**, even stepping in as executive producer - proving he's no one-trick pony. Since 2021, Basel's been the lucky town hosting his creative capers, including the project **The Risk**, first unveiled at Kaserne Basel and later spun into an essay film.

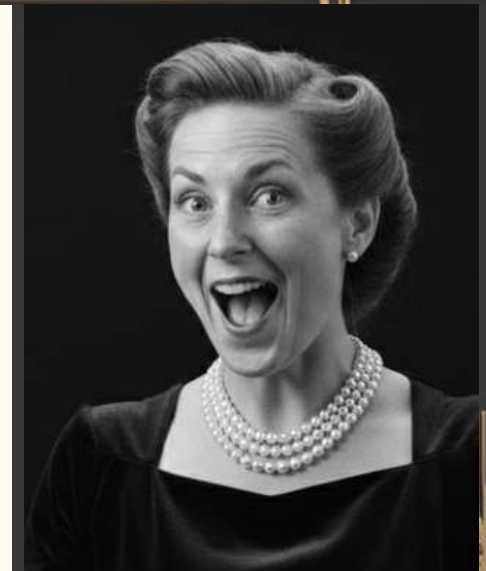
A past Honorary President of Bangalore Little Theatre and now a committee member of FESTIVAL DE L'AUBE, Shashank's also a familiar face with Semi-Circle Basel, spotted in **And Then There Were None** and **Adoption**. Lately, he's been seen in the Basel-based flick **The Last Chance**, and his own short play **The Other Side** drew a full house and fine applause at Kulturhuus Hübse.



This gal hails from the States and lived the life of a regular vagabond, bouncing all over Merica and performing her way from coast to coast. She's cut quite a figure in roles like the Dancer in **The Eight: Reindeer Monologues**, Charlotte Wallace in **Beyond Therapy**, and Artie in **Eleemosynary** - real crackerjack performances, the whole lot of 'em.

Out in Los Angeles, she got herself hooked on comedy improv while studying at The Groundlings and The Empty Stage. The dame had audiences in stitches all around LA, performing with two different troupes.

Since landing in Basel ten years back, she's gone and found her tribe of "weird theatre friends" again - doing improv with B.I.G. (Basel Improv Group at Boutique Theatre), spinning yarns at storytelling nights at The Beast, and now joining this keen bunch with Semi-Circle. This production marks her first role on the Basel stage - and her first play in over 18 years, can you believe it! She sends a big thank you to her husband and son for keeping the home fires burning, to Daria and Ian for taking a chance on her, and to this swell cast and crew.



CARRIE AIKMAN,
BERNICE ROTH



Lenny steps onto the stage as a figure cloaked in mystery - a performer with music in his heart, dance in his bones, and a flair for the dramatic. Before his theatre debut, he earned a Production Engineering degree at Universidad Simón Bolívar in Venezuela, where he spun and stamped with MUGA, the folkloric dance ensemble and sang tenor with the OUSB choir.

By profession, Lenny has charted the intricate rhythms of Supply Chain Management in the pharmaceutical world - a career that brought him to Basel, his home for nearly 13 years. 2025 marked a turning point: he burst onto the stage as Apollo in Semi-Circle's original short play **Ma-trio-mony**, followed swiftly by a turn as the villain of the sea in the upcoming December performance of the English Panto's **Sinbad the Sailor**. Tonight, he dons the shadowy guise of the Man in Black in **The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940** – but who is he, really? Oh the draaaaaa!

Thank you to Campus Klybeck for the use of your amazing space to build our set and rehearse. We couldn't have done it without you.



Has watching the show got to you? Come and talk to Basel Counselling. No mystery too murky; No trauma too trivial. We accept dramatic sighs as cathartic!

www.baselcounselling.com



Anglican
Church Basel

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Saturday 15 November, 9:00-15:00

Zwinglihaus

Gundeldingerstrasse 370, 4053 Basel

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14 December, 18:00

Heiliggeistkirche

Thiersteinerallee 49, 4053 Basel

Our regular Sunday services:

10:30 at the Adventhaus, Rümelinbachweg 60, Basel

A contemporary service with children's and youth ministry

17:30 at the Niklauskapelle, Münster Cloisters, Rittergasse 1

A traditional service with children's ministry

All are welcome



THANK YOU TO OUR NIFTY CREW!

Director:	<i>Daria Montijo</i>
Assistant Director:	<i>Ian Wicks</i>
Producer:	<i>Michael Bray</i>
Licensing:	<i>Alison Bolton</i>
Finance:	<i>Chris Jones</i>
Set Design Consultant:	<i>Scott Holland</i>
Set Design & Build Lead:	<i>Giles Breault</i>
Set Build Team:	<i>Felicity Miller, George Monsch, Ryan Adams</i>
Set Painting Lead:	<i>Ian Wicks</i>
Set Painting Team:	<i>Alison Bolton, Betty Wicks, Carrie Aikman, Felicity Miller, Lenka Sindelarova, Mike Bray, Paul Delgado, Scott Holland</i>
Props & Set Decoration:	<i>Jeanne Darling</i>
Costumes:	<i>Jane Whelan-Lardon</i>
Dance Choreography:	<i>Thea Montijo</i>
Physical Comedy Teacher:	<i>David Melendy</i>
Rehearsal Support:	<i>Michèle Nicolet, Thea Montijo</i>
Lighting:	<i>Donald Brün</i>
Sound Tech & Support:	<i>Betty Wicks, Robin Grässlin</i>
CueCaller & Sound Board:	<i>Susanne Hiller</i>
Music, Sound Design & Composition:	<i>Rik Deurloo, Zane Montijo</i>
Stage Manager:	<i>Tiina Sorjonen</i>
Assistant Stage Manager:	<i>Felicity Miller</i>
Stage Crew:	<i>Jennie Duffy, Lorraine Chandler, Russell Coburn</i>

MORE NIFTY CREW!

Green Room Lead:	<i>Giselle Weiss</i>
Green Room Team:	<i>Conny Heim, Jeanne Darling, Michaela Jahn, Nicole Frank, Russell Coburn</i>
Hair & Make-up Leads:	<i>Bianca Kirby & Katie Kelly</i>
Hair & Make-up Team:	<i>Maria Teresa Catanese, Marta Wicks, Salina Berg, Stephanie Volpe, Thea Montijo, Wendy Monard</i>
Front of House Lead:	<i>Roger Bonner</i>
Front of House Team:	<i>Charlotte Roth, Eva Sternküker, Hans Hoogkamer, Katharina Hutter Doshi, Ketan Doshi, Kirstie Sawyer, Lia Segre, Michael Clarke, Penny Tuckwell, Rachel Aarden, Susan Aeschbach, William Jenkins</i>
Bar Manager:	<i>Chris Jones</i>
Bar Team:	<i>Helen Baldamero, Barbara Bekalska, Jan Hawley, Hilary Ireland, Simon Ireland, Tim Seabrook</i>
Transport Lead:	<i>Chris Jones</i>
Transport Team:	<i>Ian Wicks, John Hyland, Mike Bray, Paul Delgado, Sascha Frassini</i>
Party Organisation:	<i>Penny Tuckwell</i>
Design & Marketing:	<i>Alice Ginger Zagato, Daria Montijo</i>
Promotions:	<i>Alice Ginger Zagato, Sarah Thomforde</i>
Programme:	<i>Alison Bolton, Daria Montijo</i>
Sponsorship & Advertising:	<i>Paul Delgado</i>
Photography & Marketing	
Support:	<i>Cosmo Foggetta</i>
Ticketing:	<i>Alison Bolton, Paul Delgado</i>

BASEL SPEAKS INLINGUA



*The inlingua team
wishes you an
enjoyable show*

**All the world's a
stage!**



LISTEN LIVE

**TUNE IN ON DAB+
STREAM AT WORLD RADIO.CH
OR DOWNLOAD OUR APP**



JOIN THE COMMUNITY

@WORLD RADIOSWITZERLAND



DOWNLOAD THE WRS APP



AIT Services

U.S. Tax Return Preparation

*With over 50 years combined experience,
our team of experts possess the specialized
knowledge required to prepare
tax returns for Americans with foreign income.*

Join our family of over 1,500 satisfied clients.

www.americanincometax.com

Bahnhofstrasse 15
4310 Rheinfelden
Switzerland
tel: 061 483 70 47
info@aitservices.ch

*Best value in
Switzerland!!*



From WORTHless to WORTHwhile

Our goal is to organise and implement projects that reduce food waste, poverty and loneliness. Join us in supporting WERT!Stätte, a tax-exempted non-profit organisation. From educational programs and hands-on workshops to corporate social days, sustainable products, gifts, apéros, and much more. WERT! Stätte offers meaningful ways to get involved and make a difference. For more information:

www.wertstaette.ch



Thank you for 3D-printed props by TechLabs - a Basel-based company operating throughout Switzerland since 2016 to deliver a fun, engaging, and educational experience that jump-start young people's and adults' engagement with science and digital technologies.

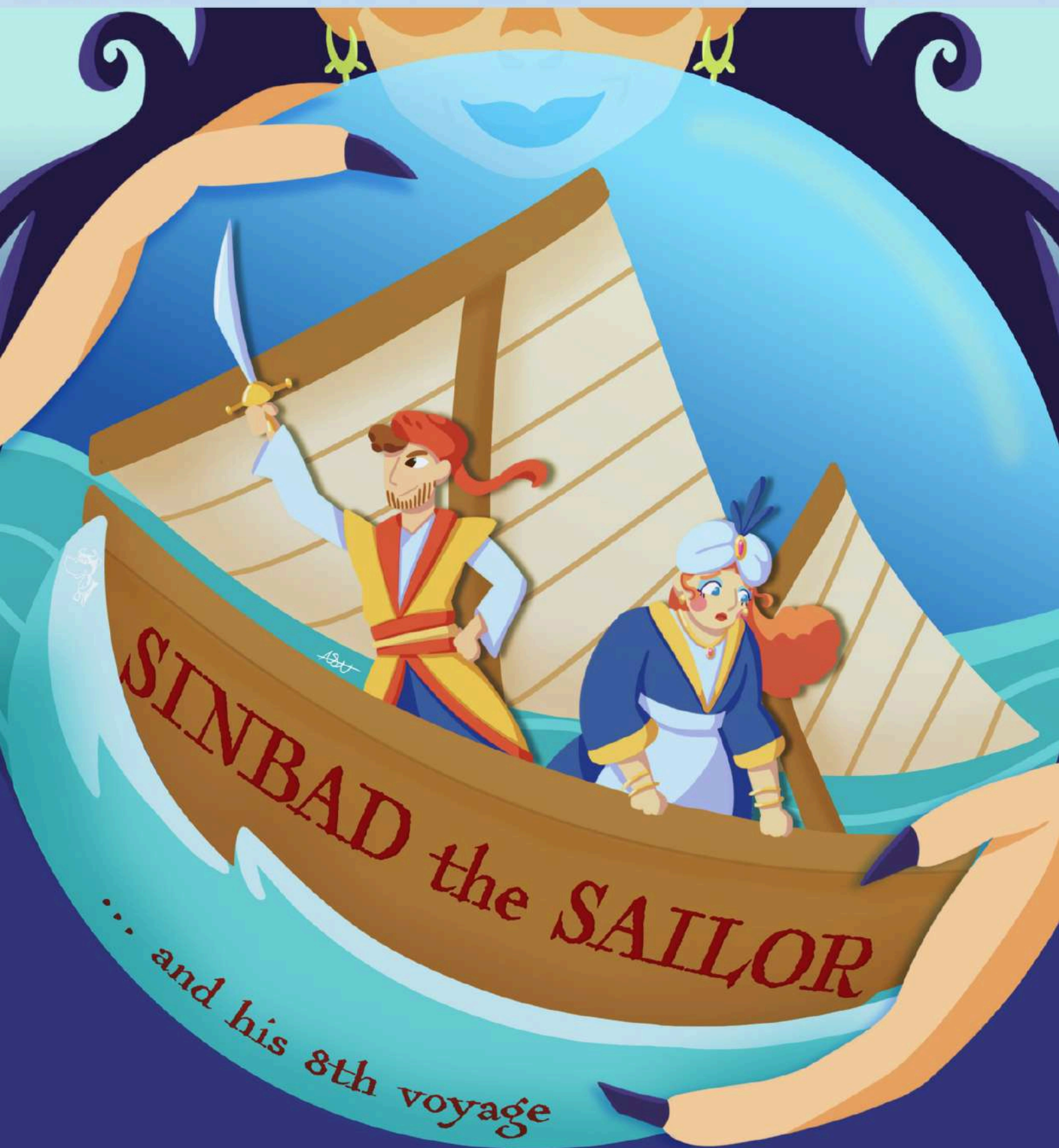


Thank you to Rodos Printers for preparing materials for this set

Thank you to the Basler Bebbi Keller for the use of the Keller for the production party.

www.baslerbebbi.ch/index.php/de/





by Alan P Frayn

directed by Martin Spedding and Lara Jegge

December 2025

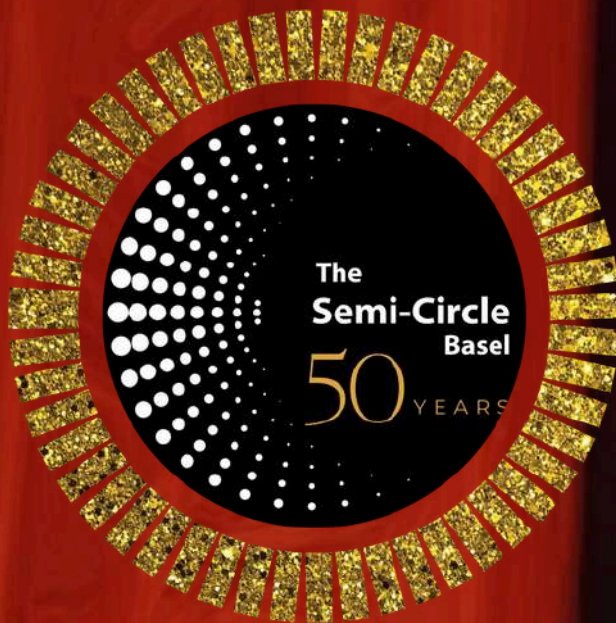
Get your tickets here!

Thursday	11th	19:30
Friday	12th	19:30
Saturday	13th	14:00 & 19:30
Sunday	14th	13:00 & 17:00

SCALA BASEL
Freie Strasse 89
4051 Basel



baselpanto.org
ticketino.com



Join Semi-Circle and
learn about our upcoming events
at
www.semicircle-basel.com

And keep an eye out for news
about our exciting
June 2026
production
at the
Kulturhuus Hähse!



HARRY SAYS:

"COME AND JOIN THIS PAWSOME THEATRE GROUP. THEY'RE FUN AND
OFTEN HAVE SNACKS."