

The German theatre group presents

Der Katholische Zirkus

Clifton High
School Theatre,
College Rd,
BS8 3JD

By Francesca Hedges

Performed In German
2-3 March

7:30pm

£4

Tickets available on
the night and from
the German Department

DAAD
Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst
German Academic Exchange Service

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*Dieses Theaterstück hätte ohne die Mithilfe vieler
nicht stattfinden können. Die Theatergruppe
bedankt sich herzlich bei allen, die durch ihre
kreativen Ideen, kritischen Anregungen, ihre Zeit
und Hingabe dieses Projekt erst möglich gemacht
haben!*

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Der Katholische Zirkus - The Catholic Circus

The Catholic Church in the Middle Ages was like a harlot: ready to sell her beauty to anybody who could pay. Bishops were sleeping with prostitutes, drinking in taverns and struggling themselves to read the Latin Bible. The Church was drenched in wealth and squeezed its impoverished congregation out of every ducat they were worth. The Catholic Circus is a satirical play depicting corruption within the Catholic Church in which Martin Luther, leader of the Protestant Reformation, cries out against these injustices. The Church was reaping the rewards from a roaring business plan by promising salvation in return for money: “A coin in the coffer that rings, a soul from purgatory springs”, was a popular saying at the time. Arriving with his pet elephant, Pope Leo X drops by on an indulgence sermon, given by his aggressive little greedy puppet, Tetzal. Instead of comprehending that his Church is cracking at the foundations, he salivates over a young boy gymnast, allows his lion to eat the congregation’s money and dresses up as a juggler. Unrecognisable, he gets pushed into the confession box ... and who does he meet there for question time? None other than Martin Luther. Gloves are off Leo, and so are your papal vestments. Amen to that!

The Cast

| | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Luther | Helen O’Neill and Connie Long |
| Melanchthon | Kiryin Howard |
| Tetzal | Brandon Dadarria |
| Pope Leo X. | William Boulding |
| Farmer | Jonas Langner |
| Farmer’s wife | Frances Cragg |
| Blacksmith | Charlotte Plein |
| Shoemaker | Louise Burfitt |
| Juggler | George Chamberlain |
| The Lion | Louise Burfitt |
| Loose women | Frances Cragg and Charlotte Plein |
| Innkeeper | Jonas Langner |

Stage direction by W. Jäger, F. Hedges und E. Kreutner
Poster designed by Robert Hall

The Play

During her Year Abroad in Austria, final year student Francesca Hedges wrote *The Catholic Circus* as her essay. Her work was 'highly commended' for the 'Year abroad Essay Prize' and shows marvellously what dedicated students can achieve. Next year Francesca plans to begin research on an Mphil in Medieval German History and eventually hopes to become a playwright.