

**Zeitschrift:** Helvetia : magazine of the Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Herausgeber:** Swiss Society of New Zealand  
**Band:** 72 (2006)  
**Heft:** [1]

**Artikel:** Feelings of children of emmigrants ( from a family tree written recently)  
**Autor:** [s.n.]  
**DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-944588>

### **Nutzungsbedingungen**

Die ETH-Bibliothek ist die Anbieterin der digitalisierten Zeitschriften. Sie besitzt keine Urheberrechte an den Zeitschriften und ist nicht verantwortlich für deren Inhalte. Die Rechte liegen in der Regel bei den Herausgebern beziehungsweise den externen Rechteinhabern. [Siehe Rechtliche Hinweise.](#)

### **Conditions d'utilisation**

L'ETH Library est le fournisseur des revues numérisées. Elle ne détient aucun droit d'auteur sur les revues et n'est pas responsable de leur contenu. En règle générale, les droits sont détenus par les éditeurs ou les détenteurs de droits externes. [Voir Informations légales.](#)

### **Terms of use**

The ETH Library is the provider of the digitised journals. It does not own any copyrights to the journals and is not responsible for their content. The rights usually lie with the publishers or the external rights holders. [See Legal notice.](#)

**Download PDF:** 30.01.2025

**ETH-Bibliothek Zürich, E-Periodica, <https://www.e-periodica.ch>**

# Swiss Cultural Events in New Zealand

For more information please contact  
Embassy of Switzerland in Wellington  
Phone: (04) 472 1593 ext 700  
mail to: [vertretung@wel.rep.admin.ch](mailto:vertretung@wel.rep.admin.ch)

Date/Time	Event	Place
24-26 Feb 2006	<b>ERARITJARITJAKA</b>  <b>Théâtre Vidy-Lausanne</b>	New Zealand International Arts Festival Wellington  Opera House 111-113 Manners Street Wellington

Friday 24 Feb 7.30 pm

Saturday 25 Feb 7.30 pm

Sunday 26 Feb 1.30 pm

Sunday 26 Feb 7.30 pm

[www.nzfestival.telecom.co.nz](http://www.nzfestival.telecom.co.nz)

Book at Ticketek

Ph: (04) 384 3840

[www.ticketek.co.nz](http://www.ticketek.co.nz)

***The hit of the 2004 Edinburgh International Festival Eraritjaritjaka is an enigmatic and magical piece of European theatre, manipulating the audience's experience of time and space***

***"...one of the most mind-bogglingly brilliant feats of hi-tech appropriation of sound and vision you're ever likely to witness." The Herald, UK***

***Concept, Direction and Music:***  
***Heiner Goebbels***

***Actor: Andre Wilms***

***Lighting and Set Design:***  
***Klaus Grünberg***

***Live Video: Bruno Deville***

***The Mondiaan Quartet***  
***Based on texts by Elias Canetti***  
***In French with English surtitles***

## Feelings of children of emmigrants (from a family tree written recently)

The common feeling of children of emmigrants, who are born in the new country - to feel compelled to choose one culture over another albeit subconsciously, to choose what they are most comfortable with.

Switzerland became for us a land far away in Europe, a land of mountains - so what? We had mountains here! A land where relatives live and died - the subjects of grainy black and white photographs and little communication - letter writing was uncommon. E-mail was not invented and international toll calls were only made in the event of death.

When I was growing up, difference was not welcomed or valued so the aim was always to be the same as my friends. My interest in the distant country of my parents and "foreign family" was ashamedly miniscule and that being so I denied

myself rich and interesting access to this heritage.

It was not until I was middle-aged with a family of my own that in August 2003 I found myself standing on a balcony in Canton Nidwalden. Surrounded by mountains, the picture postcard views so familiar from childhood calendars with the chalet and flowering window boxes - so beautiful, so awesome!

I found myself asking - how could they leave such a place? A place of such beauty and the newly discovered relatives so welcoming, such an orderly organised society? The land and the family were somehow familiar. I felt connectedness to them - I recognised physical similarities as well as mannerisms. It was time to ask the questions - indeed it was almost too late - so many of those who lived these times have died.