Ausweis bitte. --

That Schweizer really is Swiss!

Petkoff: “Are you the Emperor of Switzerland?”

Bluntschli: “My rank is the highest known in Switzerland: I am a free citizen.”

Life and theatre are full of beautiful coincidences and Odyssey Theatre’s production of Arms and the Man is a perfect example. This popular Bernard Shaw play tells the story of a Swiss mercenary and his encounter with a wealthy Bulgarian family at the end of the 1885 Serbo-Bulgarian war. Captain Bluntschli’s Swiss nationality becomes part of his mystique, and his way into the heart of a certain young woman.

The beautiful coincidence here is that Captain Bluntschli is played by Ottawa born Swiss-Canadian actor Attila Clemann. Many in the Swiss community here will recognize the Clemann family name as long standing active members of the Montagna Singers and the Ottawa Valley Swiss Club.

Attila Clemann is thrilled by this deeper connection to his character and is adding his own special Swiss flavour to the script taking advantage of this fun coincidence. Shaw’s take on the “Swiss National Character” is charming and at times all too familiar and having a real Swiss on board adds a whole new level of authenticity to the performance.

Join us under the stars in Strathcona Park for a classic comedy of romantic dreams and unlikely heroes. July 25th to August 25th