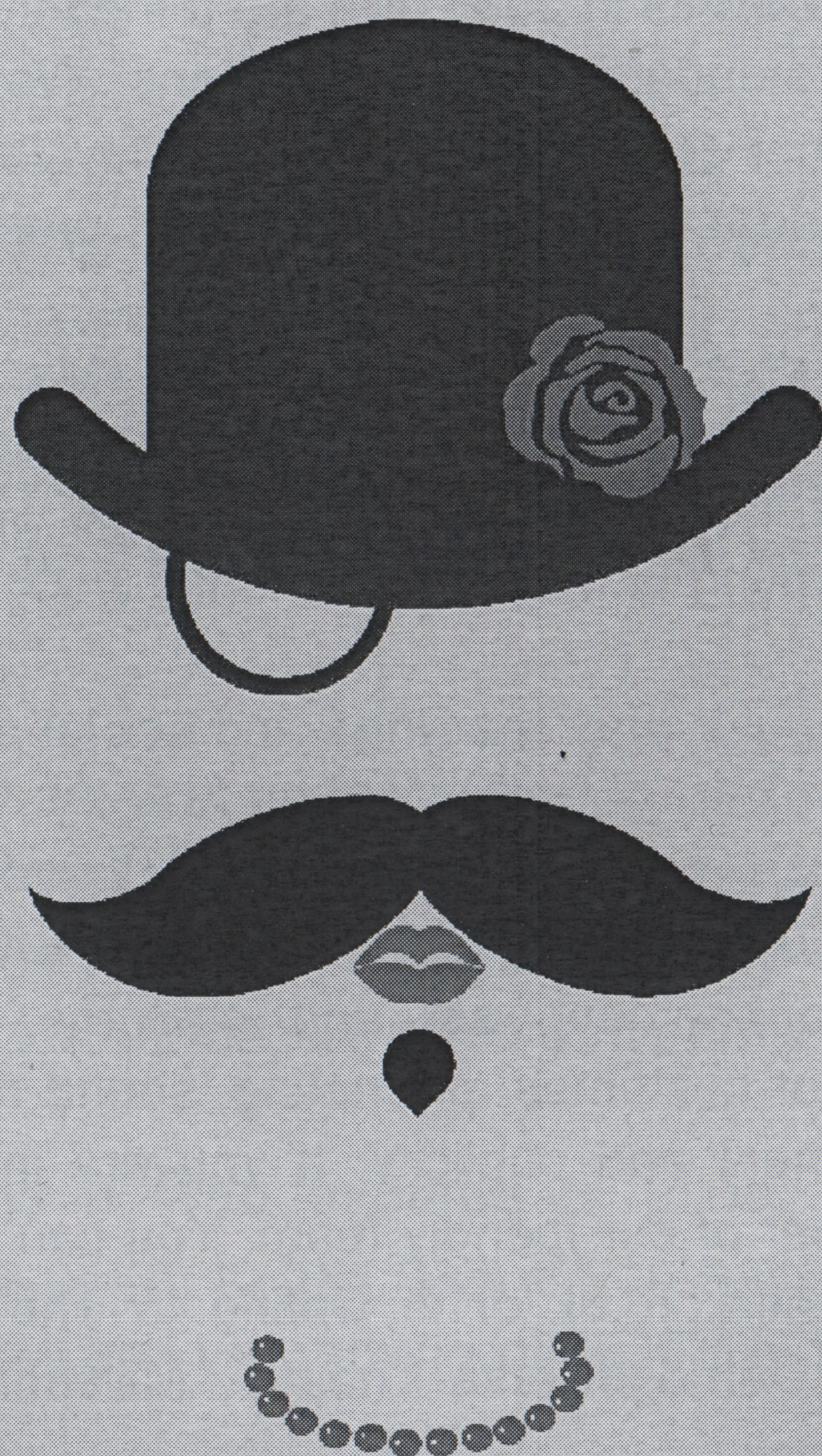


Leeds Arts Centre Presents...

Charley's Aunt



*The classic comedy
by Brandon Thomas
Directed by Dean Franklin*

THURSDAY 3RD TO SATURDAY 5TH MAY | 7.30pm

CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE, 3 MILLENNIUM SQUARE, LEEDS, LS2 3AD



LEEDS ARTS CENTRE was formed in 1945 as an amateur society to encourage and foster interest in the arts. Originally it comprised Drama (including Children's Theatre), Fine Arts, Musical, Literary and Film sections and was based in the Civic Theatre (now Leeds City Museum). Leeds Arts Centre moved to its new home at the Carriageworks in 2005. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of its productions. We now present four plays every season, usually in February, March/April, May/June and October, at the Carriageworks Theatre under the umbrella of Leeds Community Arts Network.

'**Green Room**' events give members the opportunity to perform short plays, extracts and rehearsed readings for a members only audience. They give newer members experience of acting, directing, backstage work and also offer the chance to perform new writing or more experimental work.

The society also hosts regular **play readings** and **social events**.

New members are always welcome, and you don't need any experience to join. As well as acting, you could become involved with directing, production management, stage management, set and costume design or construction, co-ordinating properties or costumes, prompting, sound recording and operation, front of house management and publicity. If you are interested in joining, then please speak to a member of our friendly team. You can also contact us by email at publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk or in writing to The Membership Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre, c/o Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD.

Leeds Arts Centre is run by a committee of members that is elected every year. We are a registered charity and are funded by the money we make from ticket sales, subscriptions and fund-raising activities.

Our members range in age from 18 to 80+ and we have a strong core of both younger and older members, who come from a wide range of backgrounds. To find out more, why not visit www.leedsartcentre.org.uk where you can complete an application form in the 'Join Us' section.



Welcome to Leeds Arts Centre's production of Charley's Aunt

Director's notes

When it came to deciding the show for my directorial debut, the choice was straightforward: having performed in my school's production of Charley's Aunt back in 1999, where I played the role of Jack, this was the one. I had such a fabulous time rehearsing this great comedy that I have remained good friends to this day with my fellow actors from that production.

Since then I have seen several widely differing performances of the show, including one at the Royal Exchange in Manchester that even involved actors somersaulting over chairs! While there may not be the same level of acrobatics in this performance, we have strived for similar energy levels.

Charley's Aunt remains a firm favourite of mine, and a play that still succeeds in making me laugh to this day. If you have at least half as good a time watching the show as I've had directing it, then you're in for a treat.

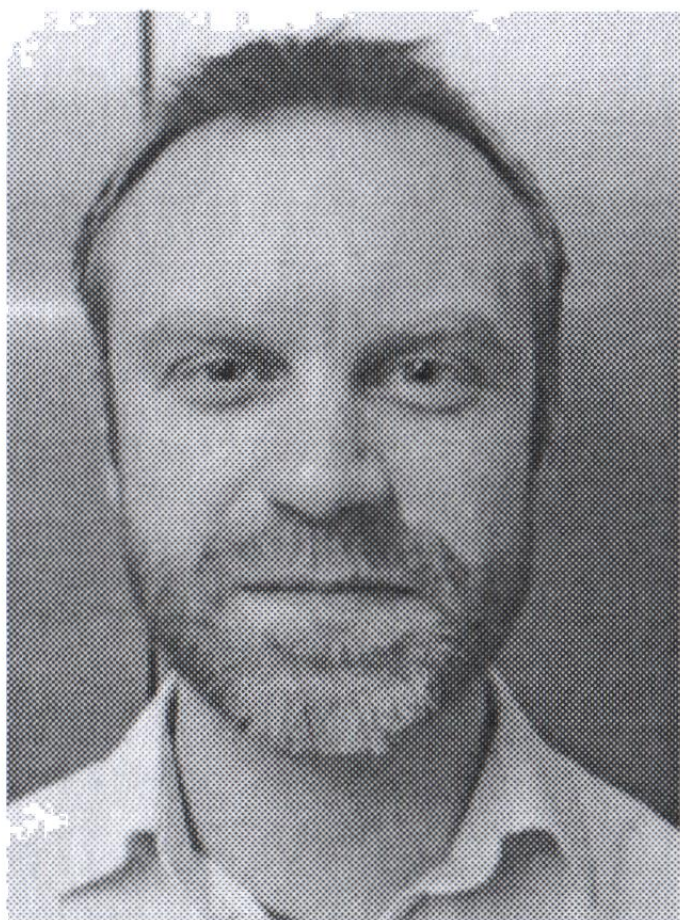
Enjoy the show!

Dean Franklin



Director and Cast Biographies

Dean Franklin - Director



Dean has been acting for a number of years, including a year in Australia and three years with LAC, although this is his directorial debut. He is perhaps best known for his portrayal as Elwood in LAC's production of *Harvey* in 2016. Dean hopes to continue to flex both his acting and directing muscles going forwards

Jack Chesney - Chris Connell



Chris is a new member of LAC, with '*Charley's Aunt*' being his debut acting with the group. While at university, he starred in '*Hamlet*,' '*Bouncers*' and '*Wind in the Willows*' and stage managed a student production of Ibsen's '*A Doll's House*'.

Charley Wykeham - Joe Galley



Joe is delighted to be in his first production with LAC. At a young age he was involved in junior theatre company productions, as well as performances throughout his school years and A levels. He has a degree in English Literature and currently works in employee engagement in the Health and Social Care Sector. He would recommend anyone with an interest in acting to get involved and give it a go, even if they've been out of the game for a while!



Cast Biographies

Lord Fancourt Babberley - Alex Dawson



Alex joined LAC in 2015 and has acted in a variety of productions including the comedy *'Harvey'* by Mary Chase, Shakespeare's *'Macbeth'* and *'The Rose and Crown'* by J.B. Priestley. *'Charley's Aunt'* enables Alex to sprint around the stage dressed as a woman while smoking cigars - a chance that no serious actor would wish to decline!

Kitty Verdun - Lucy Pietrzykowski



Lucy has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre since 2016. She has previously performed in a production of *'Top Girls'* and several Green Room productions. She has also assisted backstage in a number of productions including *'Blood and Ice'*, *'The Rose and Crown'* and *'After Midnight, Before Dawn'*.

Amy Spettigue - Rebecca Dilks



After discovering a love of performing at a young age, Rebecca has been in a variety of pantomimes, musicals and plays, and most recently played Viola in Shakespeare's *'Twelfth Night'*. She hopes this will be the first of many productions with Leeds Arts Centre, having recently moved back to Yorkshire. When she's not fretting on the stage, her life is filled with the drama of the legal world, as Rebecca is a Trainee Solicitor based in Leeds.



Cast Biographies



Ela Delahay - Debbie Lam

Debbie has recently become a member of Leeds Arts Centre and is really enjoying being involved with the society. This will be her first performance back on stage since she studied for a national diploma in acting. She is excited to revisit all aspects of her passion, drama, and is really looking forward to performing in '*Charley's Aunt*'.

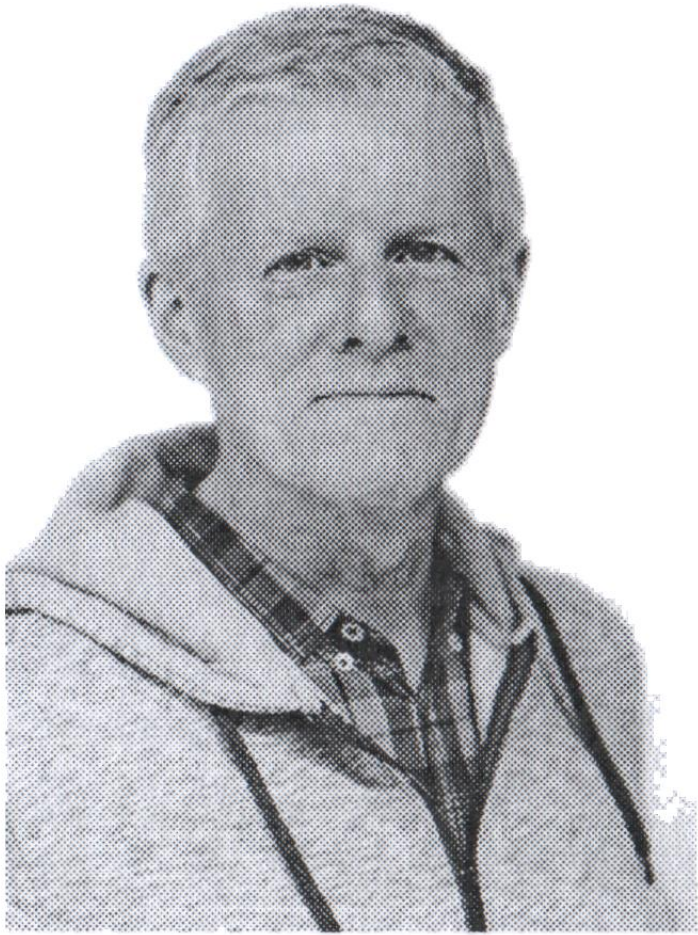


Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez - Margaret Savage

Margaret has been a member of LAC for over 30 years. In that time she has played many wonderful and varied parts, including a mischievous elf, lots of Ayckbourne and Shakespearian women, and also a water rat! Her favourite role was the Countess in '*Les Liasons Dangereuses*', as she thinks that wicked women are always more interesting to play!

Cast Biographies

Colonel Sir Francis Chesney - Howard Russell



Howard is in his first year with Leeds Arts Centre and has acted in a Green Room production of Harold Pinter's '*The Collection*'. Prior to that he sang in the Sheffield Folk Chorale for 12 years. Even more prior to that he has performance experience stretching back to a barely remembered year in the middle of the 20th century.

Stephen Spettigue - Ken Taylor



Ken joined Leeds Arts Centre in 2012. With over thirty years' experience, he has worked on stage, film and television, and has acted in, and directed, many Shakespeare plays. In 2016 he directed a team of actors from LAC in the scenes involving 'the mechanicals' in '*A Midsummer Night's Dream*' with the Royal Shakespeare Company. Performances took place at the Bradford Alhambra and the Royal Shakespeare and Swan Theatres in Stratford. He is currently working as a freelance director, producer and writer and is engaged in a number of projects.

Brassett - Alan Buttery



Alan has been a member of LAC since appearing in '*The Visit*' in 2013. He directed '*Harvey*' with LAC in 2016, and he has also had several acting roles with Leeds Children's Theatre. His last acting role for LAC was in '*The Weir*' in 2017. He is currently Chair of LAC.

Alan has two Auntie Barbaras and one Auntie Ann (†)



The Plot

This classic farce opens with Oxford students Jack and Charley planning to declare their love to their sweethearts, Kitty and Amy, before the girls' mean guardian whisks them off to the country out of reach. The students had intended to ask Charley's long lost aunt, Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, to act as chaperone. When her visit from Brazil is delayed, their only recourse is to persuade their chum, Lord Fancourt Babberley, to impersonate her.

But when the girls' guardian (Stephen Spettigue) and Jack's father (Sir Francis Chesney) catch the scent of 'Donna Lucia's' millions, they become rivals in love. And when the real Donna Lucia turns up, together with her adopted niece Ela, the web of lies gets even stickier.

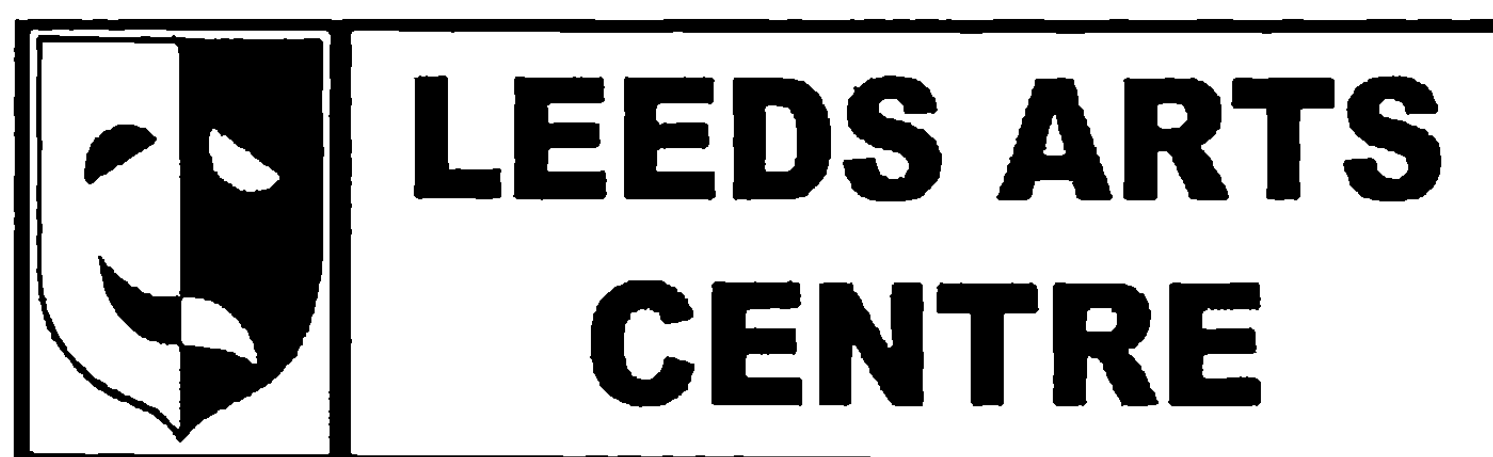
Act 1: Interior of Jack Chesney's rooms, St. Olde's College, Oxford.
Morning.

Act 2: Exterior of Jack Chesney's rooms.
Afternoon.

Act 3: Drawing Room, Spettigue's house.
Evening.

The play is in 3 acts with an interval of 15 minutes between Acts 1 & 2

**The video and/or audio recording of this performance by
any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited**



Cast

(in order of appearance)

Jack Chesney
Charley Wykeham
Lord Fancourt Babberley
Kitty Verdun
Amy Spettigue
Ela Delahay
Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez
Sir Francis Chesney
Stephen Spettigue
Brassett

Chris Connell
Joe Galley
Alex Dawson
Lucy Pietrzykowski
Rebecca Dilks
Debbie Lam
Margaret Savage
Howard Russell
Ken Taylor
Alan Buttery

Production Team

Director
Production Manager
Stage Manager
Fly Floor
Properties

Wardrobe

Rehearsal Prompt
Front of House
Sound
Lighting
Set

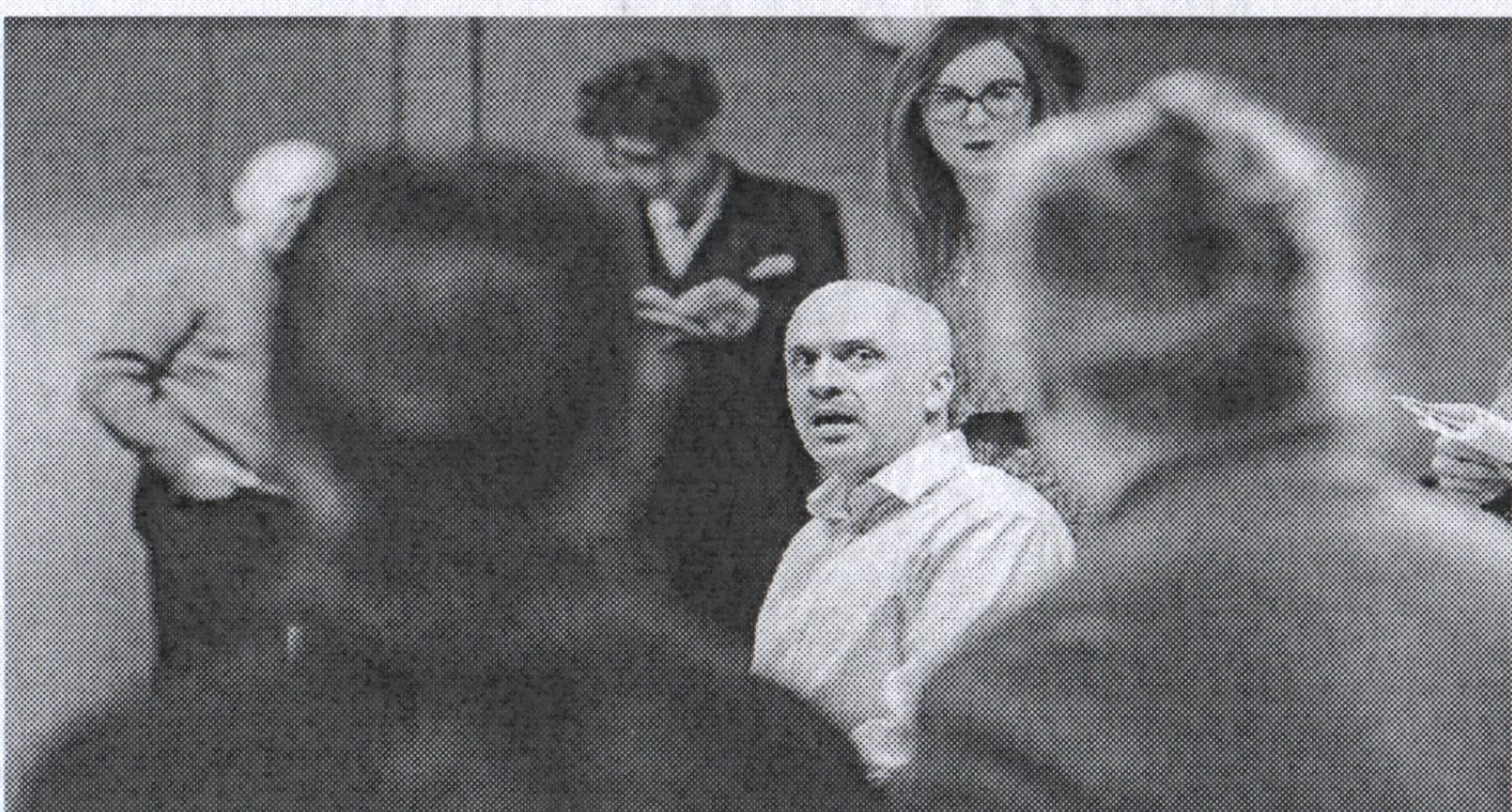
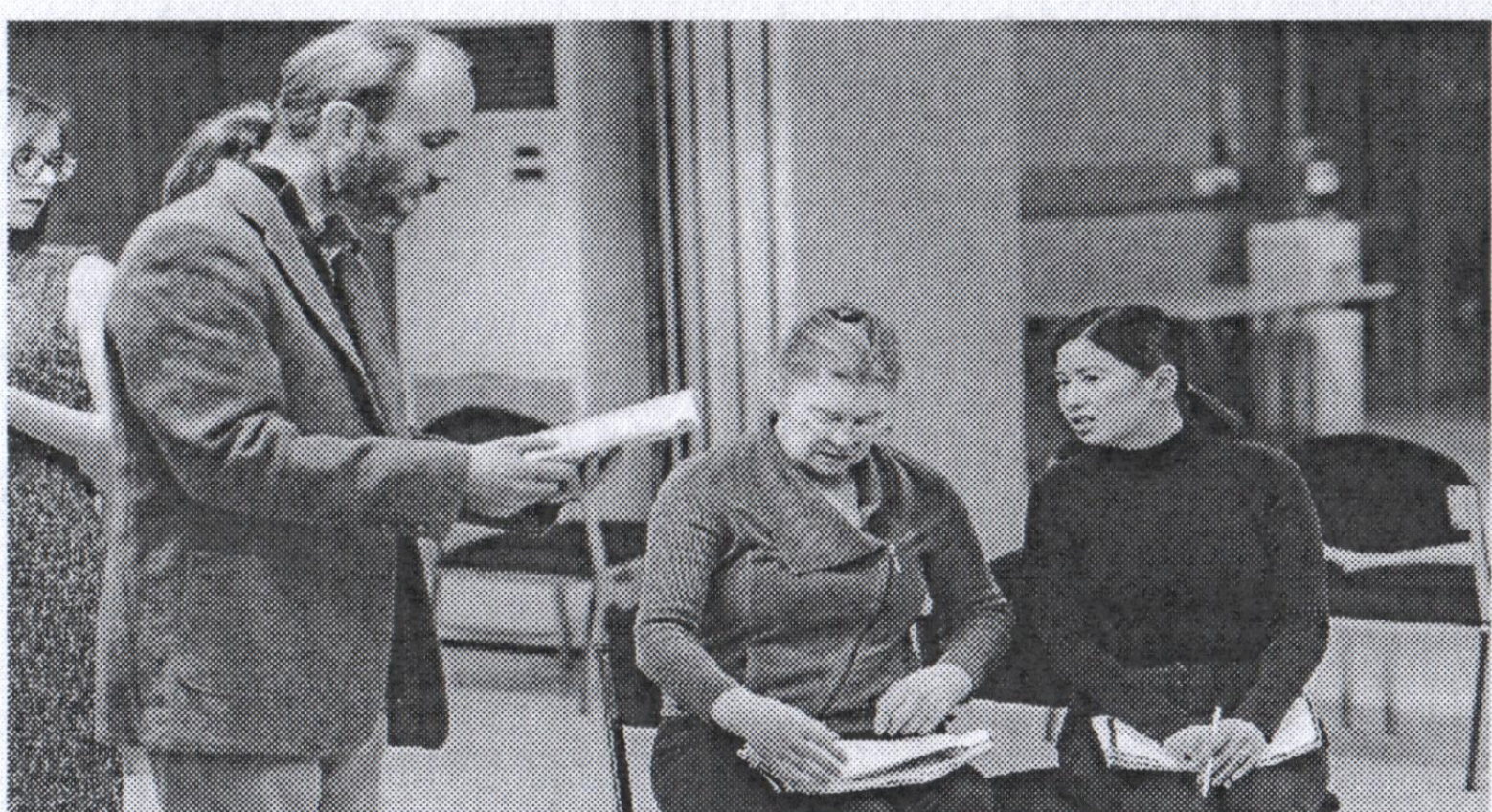
Poster Design

Dean Franklin
Rich Francis
Steve Fryatt
Martyn Drake
Pam Wilson, Rachel Vernelle
& Kathryn Francis
Maureen Willis, Maria Kwater
Zoë Freedman, Lena Gazey
& Anji Clark
Denise Davies
Rich Francis & LAC team
Robin Thornton
Carriageworks Theatre team
Steve Fryatt, Rich Francis
and LAC team
Emily Dewsnap



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

Rehearsal Photos

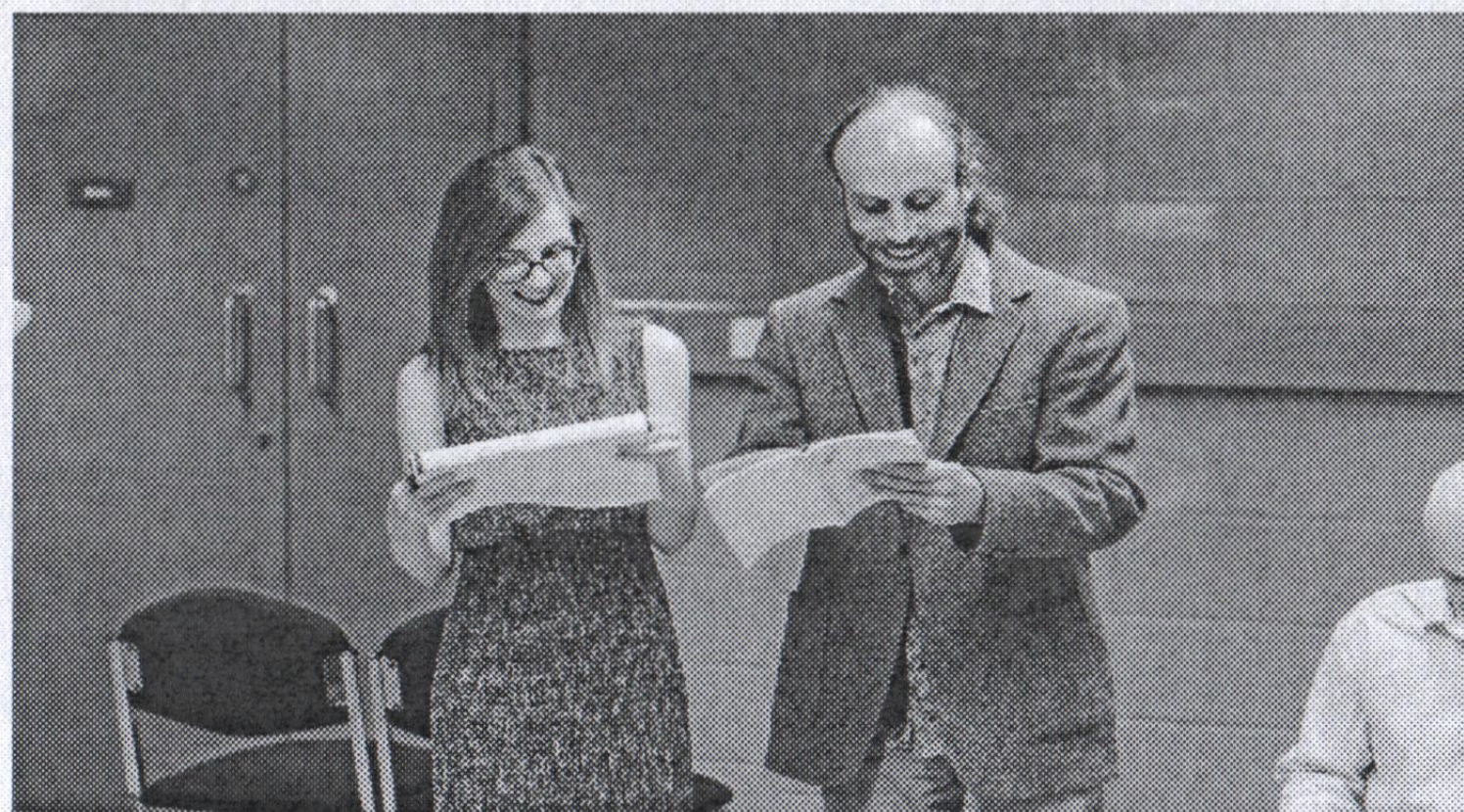
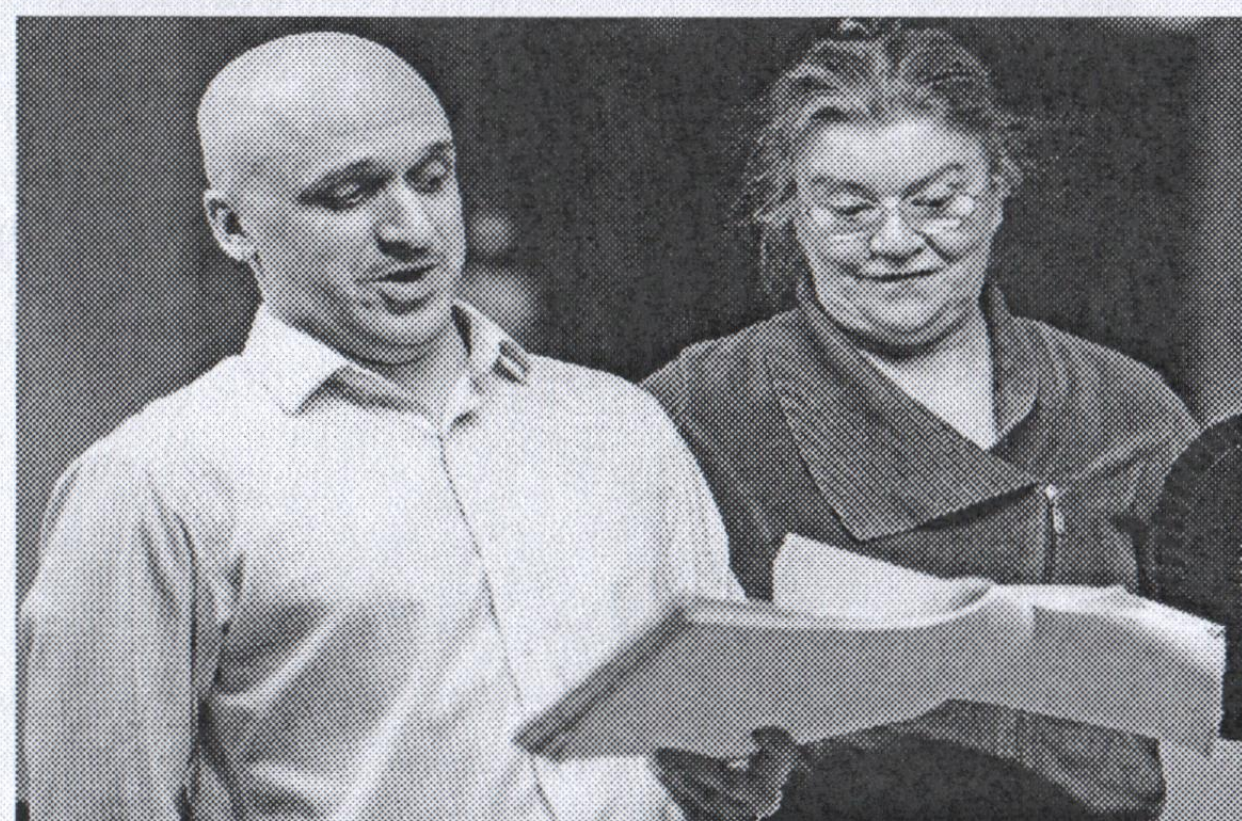
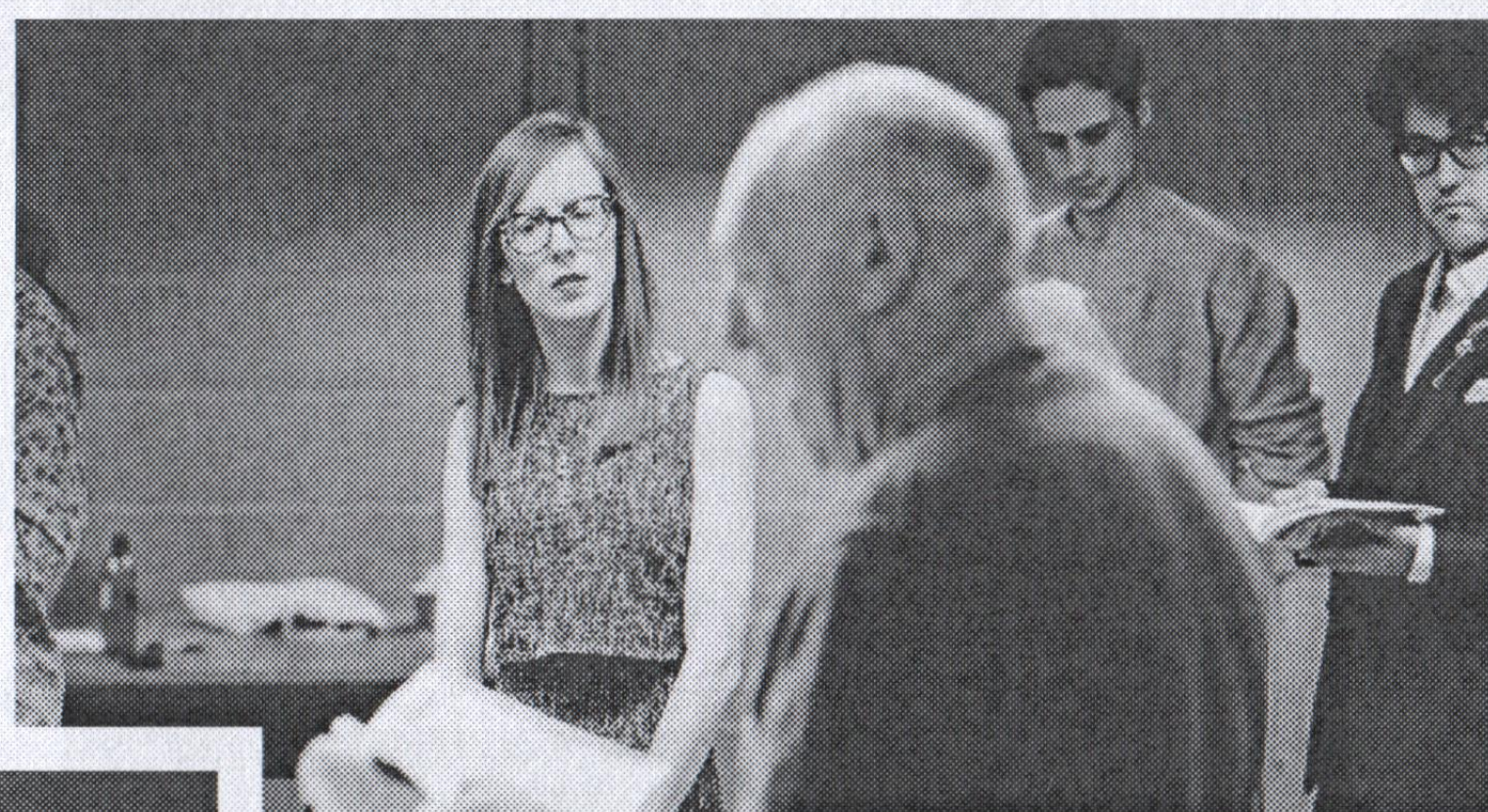
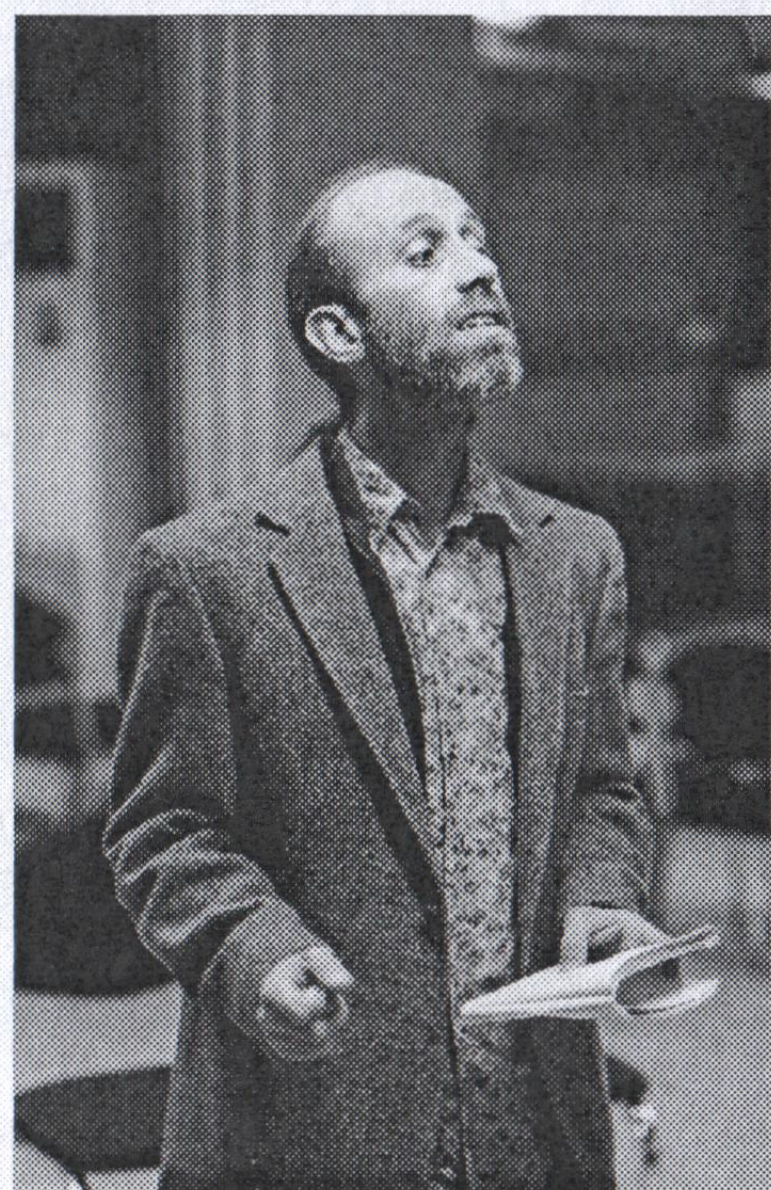


Thank you to Mark Hillyer for the photos

<http://www.mjhstudio.co.uk/>



Rehearsal Photos

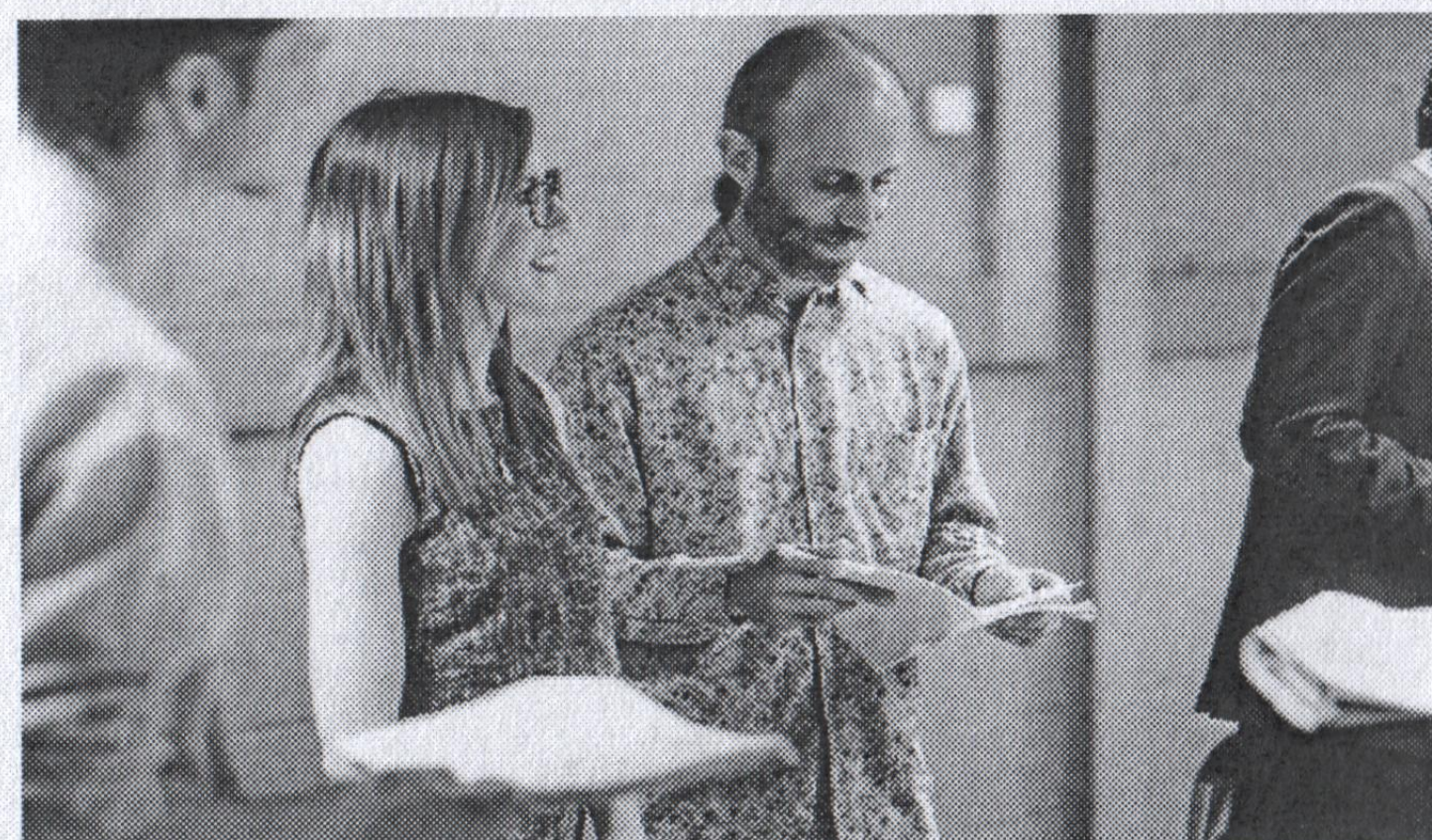
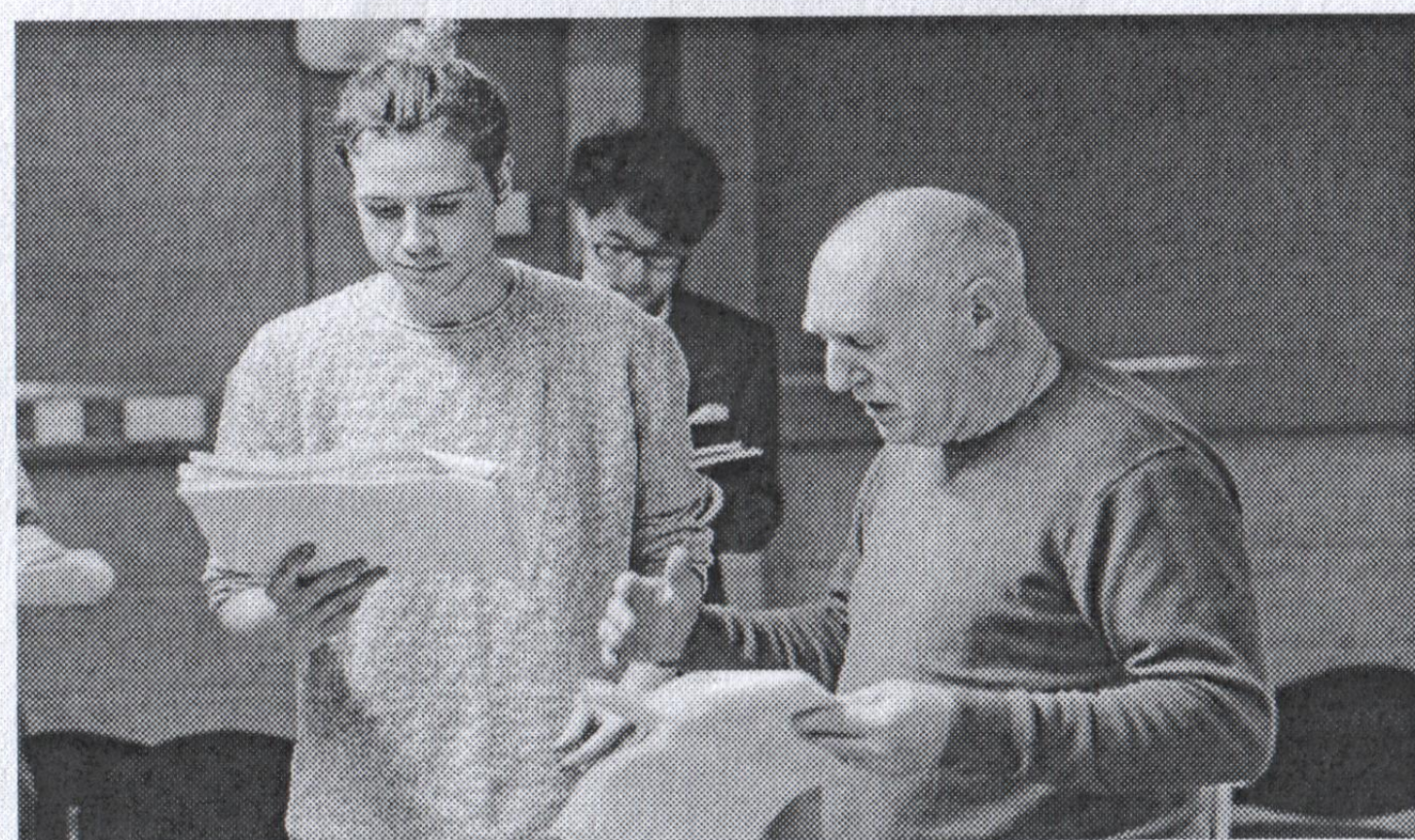


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Rehearsal Photos



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Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

Leeds Arts Centre is a registered charity and non-profit making organisation. We have a wide range of high quality men's and women's costumes available to hire at competitive rates.

These include:

- Period costumes
- Character costumes
- Evening dress
- Military uniforms
- Suits
- Accessories

For more information, please see our website at
www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire

Keep in touch!

To keep up with all the latest Leeds Arts Centre news follow us on:



<http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsArtsCentre/>

News and info



<http://twitter.com/#!/leedsartscentre/>

Updates on the go

Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/



Acknowledgements

We are currently looking for companies and organisations that would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.



We would like to thank The Victoria Hotel for the use of their rooms. The Victoria Hotel is a favourite of the cast and crew - find us in there after the show.



Thank you to Mark Hillyer for taking rehearsal photographs

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray
————— solicitors —————

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE
0114 272 9721
www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

Thank you to Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray for printing the programmes.



Phil Dodgson & Partners Limited

Phil Dodgson & Partners are Pudsey based accountants offering services throughout West Yorkshire and surrounding areas. They are pleased to work with Leeds Arts Centre in the preparation of their annual accounts.
Pavilion Business Centre, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS28 6NB Tel: 0113 255 7406



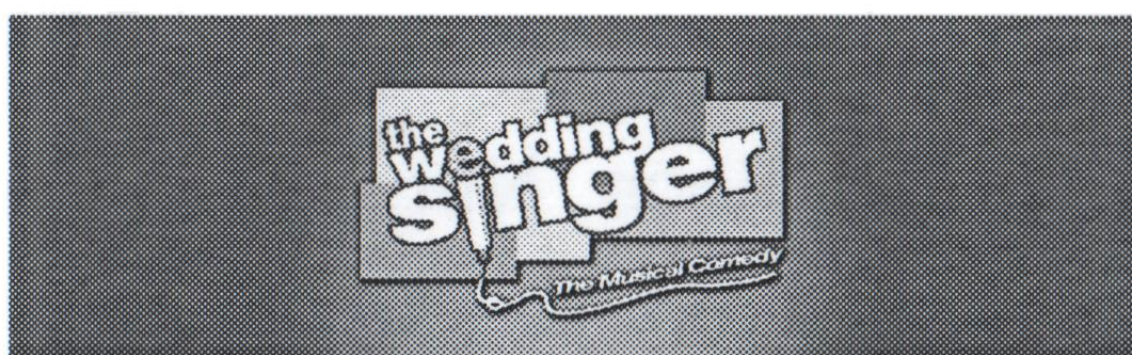
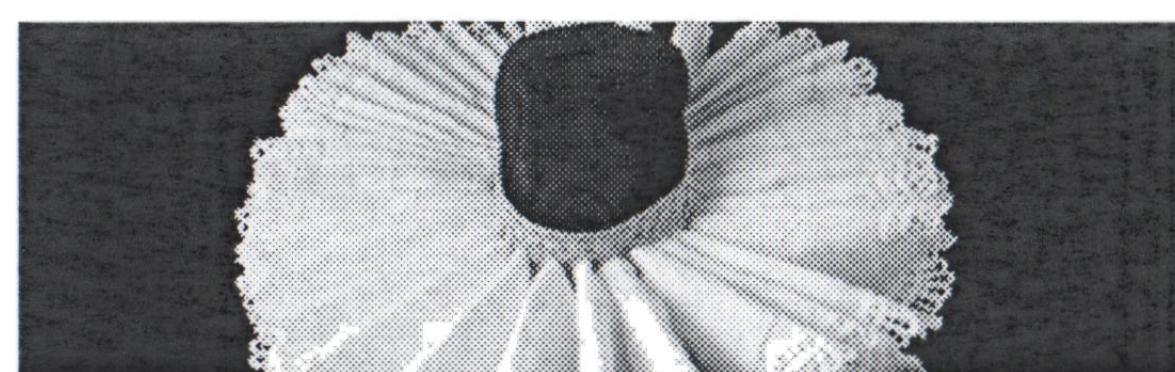
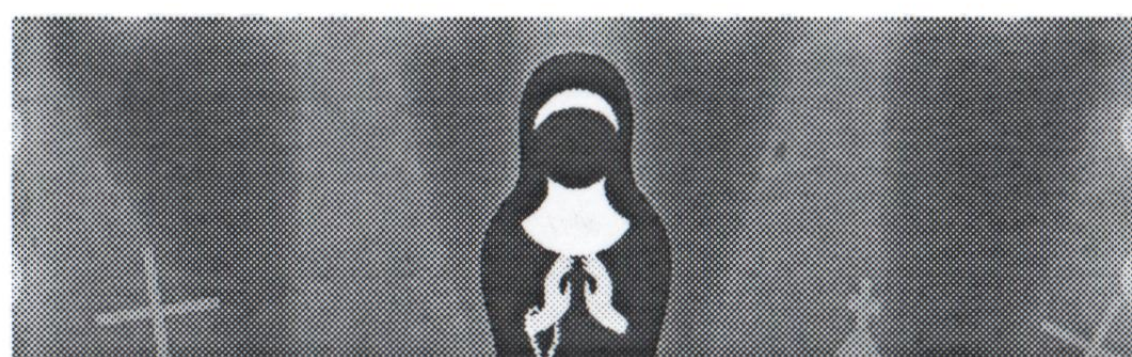
Leeds Community Arts Network (Leeds CAN), previously known as Leeds Civic Arts Guild, is a group of 14 community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies who mainly perform at The Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has its own identity, however they all come together as part of the Network, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. Leeds CAN has an ever growing membership and you can take part too. Everyone is welcome, from old hands to complete novices. This might be the opportunity you've always wanted to tread the boards and become the star of the show! Or you could experience the thrill of being backstage by getting involved in lighting, sound or set construction.

For more information and enquiries about joining, visit <http://www.leedscan.org.uk/>

The member societies are:-

Cosmopolitan Players (COS) Leeds Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS) – Leeds Arts Centre (LAC)– Leeds Children's Theatre (LCT) – Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society (G&S) – Leeds Insurance Dramatic & Operatic Society (LIDOS) – Leeds Writers' Circle – Leeds Youth Opera (LYO) – Morley Amateur Operatic Society (MAOS) – Northern Youth Theatre Company (NYTC) – Our Community Dances – Shatterproof – S.T.A.R.S and St Mary's Youth Theatre.

More great upcoming shows from Leeds Community Arts Network (Leeds CAN) Groups:



Sister Act (NYTC) - 17th - 19th May 2018 - Carriageworks Theatre

Blackadder II (COS) 24th - 26th May 2018 - Carriageworks Theatre

The Wedding Singer (LIDOS) 19th - 23rd June 2018 - Carriageworks Theatre

In Our Element (LYO) 5th - 7th July 2018 - Carriageworks Theatre

Billy (MAOS) 26th - 29th September 2018 - Morley Town Hall

Legally Blonde (St Mary's Youth Theatre) - November 2018 - Carriageworks Theatre



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions are:-

It's a Miracle / The Colin Atkins Story

Written and Directed by Neil Rathmell

Wednesday 4th — Saturday 7th July 2018

Two comedies, two mysteries.

It's a Miracle: When an old lady breaks a pact with her childhood friend and tells Father Bentley the secret they have kept for seventy years, he doesn't believe her. How can she convince him? Her friend has the answer. It's a miracle!

The Colin Atkins Story: For over fifty years, the origin of the British teenager has remained a mystery. Now that mystery has been solved. It all started one day in 1957 in the home of Mr and Mrs Atkins...

The Flint Street Nativity by Tim Firth

Directed by Ben Hopwood

November 2018

Mizzis Horrocks' class of seven year olds is about to perform their nativity play at Flint Street Junior School for the proud mums and dads - and the occasional social worker. Squabbles arise when Gabriel wants to play Mary, the Star grumbles he's not a proper star like they have at NASA, Herod won't stop waving to his mum and dad and the subversive Innkeeper is determined to liven up the traditional script. And then the class pet escapes...

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Directed by Ken Taylor

February 2019

Prince Hamlet's father, the King of Denmark, is dead. Hamlet is prevented from succeeding to the throne by his mother, Queen Gertrude, too quickly marrying his father's brother, Claudius, who becomes king in his place. Not only is Hamlet prevented from becoming King, but his Uncle Claudius is now his stepfather. When the old king appears as a ghost, he tells Hamlet that he was, in fact, murdered by his brother, Claudius. Hamlet is entreated by his father's ghost to take revenge. Hamlet sets about a scheme to take revenge by appearing to become mad, and alienating all who love him. It sometimes seems that he has truly lost his sanity. Claudius himself, fearing discovery of his fratricide, lays out plans to do away with Hamlet. The scene is set. Tragedy looms.

Tickets will be available from the City Centre Box Office at the Town Hall or by telephoning 0113 376 0318.