

NATIONAL UNION OF MINERWORKERS
**COAL
NOT
DOLE**

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS...

CHICKEN SOUP.

BY RAY CASTLETON & KIERAN KNOWLES

* DIRECTED BY ZOË FREEDMAN *

SERVED WITH: FRIENDSHIP, BREXIT & A SIDE OF RESILIENCE

CARRIAGEWORKS STUDIO

MILLENNIUM SQUARE, LEEDS, LS2 3AD

BOX OFFICE: 0113 376 0318

WEDS 10TH - SAT 13TH MAY 2023

* 7:15PM *

LEEDSARTSCENTRE.ORG.UK

CARRIAGEWORKSTHEATRE.CO.UK



**CARRIAGEWORKS
THEATRE**

**LEEDS
ARTS
CENTRE**

RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE
COMPANIES

noda
National Organisation for
Disabled Artists

**LEEDS
CAN**
CANCER ACTION
NORTHERN
ENGLAND

**The action of the play takes place on 23rd June
in a South Yorkshire Community Centre**

Act I - 1984

Act II - 2002

Act III - 2016

There will be one interval of 20 minutes between Acts 1 and 2
Video and/or audio recording by any means is strictly prohibited.

Cast

Christine - Rachel Vernelle
Josephine - Maria Kwater
Jennifer - Sophie Clement
Helen - Zoe Savory
Katie - Anna Middleton

directed by Zoe Freedman

A note from the Director

I saw this play at the Crucible Theatre in 2018 and knew that I wanted to direct it. I loved how, although the play is set over a thirty year period, its themes of friendship, community and the importance of society supporting those less fortunate still resonate today. The women the story follows are funny, flawed, real and relatable. They have a friendship that lasts through all the changes in their lives and they stand up for what they think is right. I hope the audience find the play funny, sad, thought-provoking and life-affirming.

The playwrights.....

Kieran Knowles (co-writer) was born in Manchester and trained at Loughborough University and LAMDA. He completed the Royal Court Young Writer's Programme in 2008 and has written on attachment for the BBC, Sheffield Crucible, LAMDA and Manchester Royal Exchange.

His plays include *Chicken Soup, Operation Crucible and Cornerstone*.

Ray Castleton (co-writer) got into acting and writing after graduating from the University of Leeds in 2011 at the tender age of 63. He has had various acting roles in theatre and on TV and *Chicken Soup*, which he co-wrote with Kieran Knowles, was a sell-out at The Crucible Theatre.

Production team

<i>Assistant Director</i>	Silvana de Paula
<i>Production Manager</i>	Shirley Broadbent
<i>Stage Manager</i>	Chelsea Issott
<i>Assistant Stage Manager</i>	Barry Blatt
<i>Set Construction</i>	Michael Moorhouse, Chelsea Issott, Vignesh Verrapan
<i>Lighting Consultant</i>	Peter Waddicor
<i>Lighting Operation</i>	Josie Shaw
<i>Sound design & technician</i>	Steve Fryatt
<i>Wardrobe Team</i>	Joanna Scott, Margaret Savage, Kathryn Francis
<i>Properties Team</i>	Nicole Smith, Thom Marshall, Denise Bergman, Pam Wilson
<i>Prompters</i>	Lucy Doherty and Silvana de Paula
<i>Publicity Artwork</i>	Emily Dewsnapp
<i>Publicity Team</i>	Camilla Asher, Josie-Renee Shaw, Spike Marshall
<i>Front of House</i>	Maureen Willis and LAC members

Leeds Arts Centre would also like to thank:

Woodhouse Community Centre for the loan of food

Mark Hillyer for headshots and rehearsal photographs

Leeds Children's Theatre for the loan of the kitchen units for the set

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray for printing the programmes

Phil Dodgson & Partners for the preparation of LAC's annual accounts

This production uses the following sounds from *freesound.org*:

Door Closing by ominouswhoosh

Opening/Slamming Door From Far 1 Para by Paradoxxxical

Window Knocking/ Door Interior perspective /Exterior Bang Aggressive
by tompallant

Zoe Freedman (Director) has been acting since childhood, playing a variety of roles with *Playcraft* in her home town of Canterbury. Since joining Leeds Arts Centre in 2004, Zoe has been in several plays, including *Billy Liar*, *A Country Wife*, *The Comedy of Errors* and *Sense and Sensibility*. She has also directed a number of productions including *The Price* by Arthur Miller, *Top Girls* by Caryl Churchill, *Steel Magnolias* by Robert Harling and an adaptation of *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.



Christine played by **Rachel Vernelle**

Christine is the backbone of the community centre, there all hours, keeping it (and everyone around it) going. She believes in community, loyalty and tough love but she has her own way of doing things and she doesn't like it to be challenged.

Rachel has been a member of LAC for around twenty years, involved in many aspects of the society on and off-stage. Seen most recently as Anne in *The Father*, she is delighted to be amongst so many strong women in *Chicken Soup* - characters, cast and backstage team! Other credits with LAC include playing Martha in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf* and Gertrude in *Hamlet* and directing *Kindertransport* and *The Mill on the Floss*.

Josephine ('Jose') played by **Maria Kwater**

Josephine is determined, down-to-earth, practical and caring, with a wicked sense of humour. Although she takes on new challenges after the strike, she remains dogged in fighting for her community and unwavering in support of her friends.

Maria joined LAC in 2006, and has played Meg Boles in *The Birthday Party*, Joyce in *Top Girls*, Aunt Pullet in *The Mill on the Floss* and Marmee in *Little Women*. Backstage she has worked in production management, sound, props and costume and has directed *The Dumb Waiter*, *The Accrington Pals* and an adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility*. She loves playing the no-nonsense Josephine in this brilliant production about strong women living through turbulent times.



Jennifer..... played by **Sophie Clement**

Jennifer is a strong woman trying to find where she fits in both in her community and with her family. She is a hard worker trying to make a better life for her daughter while maintaining her friendships and community roots.

Sophie joined Leeds Arts Centre only recently but has been acting in plays and musicals since her school days. She also does comedy improv and is looking forward very much to performing again in her first post-covid play!



Katie..... played by **Anna Middleton**

Katie is determined and creative. She dreams of breaking the mould and escaping Rotherham to explore the world. However, as she grows older, she realises the significance of the centre and feels drawn back towards the community that raised her.

Anna has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for over a year. She played Veronica in the Green Room production of *God of Carnage* and was in the costume team for *Scarborough*. She has taken acting classes based in London and enjoys writing. She hopes this play will allow the audience to reflect on the power of companionship.

Helen played by **Zoe Savory**

Helen is dealing with the social fallout of her husband's decision to break the miner's strike after the battle of Orgreave.

Zoe joined Leeds Arts Centre last year, shortly after moving to Leeds. She has previously played Alice in *Coming Out*, a new short play written and directed by Rachel Cracknell for the LAC Summer Festival in 2022.





More about LEEDS ARTS CENTRE.....

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE was formed in 1945 as an amateur society to encourage and foster interest in the arts.

Originally it comprised Drama groups (including Children's Theatre), a Fine Arts group and Musical, Literary and Film sections and was based in the Civic Theatre (now Leeds City Museum).

In 2005 Leeds Arts Centre moved to the Carriageworks, where we now present four plays every season, usually in February, March/April, May/June and October/November. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of our productions and new members are always welcome - with or without any previous experience. We hold regular playreadings and social events and aim to give all members the opportunity to try their hand at all aspects of theatre-making.

We are a registered charity and non profit-making organisation. Our members range in age from 18 to 80+ and come from a wide range of backgrounds. If you are interested in joining, then please speak to a member of our friendly team, or you can find out more, by visiting our website at www.leedsartcentre.org.uk where you can complete an application form in the 'Join Us' section.

You can also email us at info@leedsartscentre.org.uk

Keep up with our news on Facebook and Twitter at



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



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

Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

We have a wide range of high quality men's and women's costumes available to hire at competitive rates. These include:

Period costumes, evening dress, accessories,

Character costumes, military uniforms, suits

For more information, please see our website:

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire

lfbb

| solicitors |

www.lfbb solicitors.co.uk

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<https://truenorthuk.com>

Some of the food used as 'props' for *Chicken Soup* was kindly loaned by **Woodhouse Community Centre**, whose **SEVA** pay-as-you-feel lunch club is held at the community centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Donations are greatly appreciated and **volunteers** are always welcome

- see <https://www.woodhousecommunitycentre.com/whatson> or contact Lucy on lucy@oblongleeds.org.uk



Leeds Arts Centre is part of
LEEDS COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK



LeedsCAN comprises a range of community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks, where most of their performances take place.

Its current member groups are Leeds Arts Centre, Leeds Children's Theatre, Leeds Youth Opera, Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society, LIDOS, Cosmopolitan Players, LAOS, St. Mary's Youth Theatre, Our Community Dances, and Leeds Writers' Circle.

For more information visit <http://www.leedscan.org.uk>

Upcoming LEEDS ARTS CENTRE productions.....

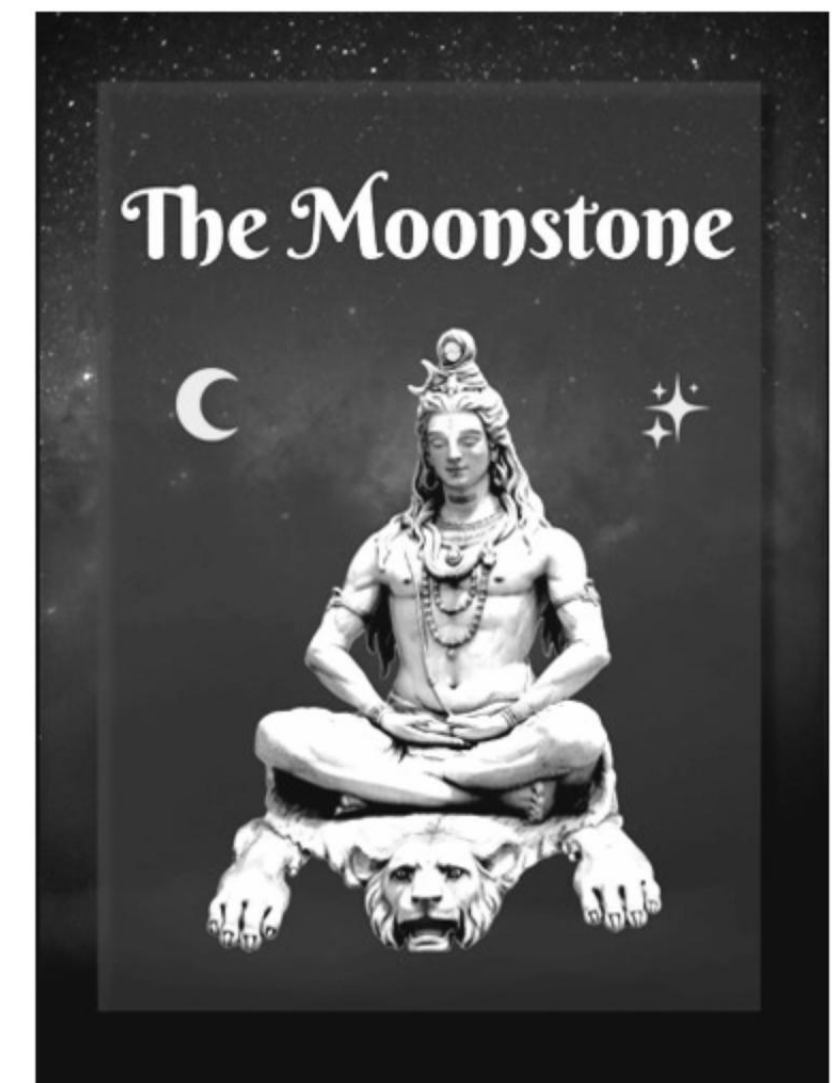
Our next production will be

THE MOONSTONE

A play by Robert Kauzlaric
directed by Laurie Toczek

Wednesday 5th - Saturday 8th July 2023

An adaptation of the Wilkie Collins classic mystery with its cast of memorable characters.



We will begin our **2023 - 2024** season with a production of

ROPE

by Patrick Hamilton, directed by Spike Marshall -
every bit as thrilling as the famous Hitchcock film
which the stage play inspired!



www.leedsartscentre.org.uk

Also at The Carriageworks later this year.....

LEEDS CHILDREN'S THEATRE presents

Charlotte's Web

based on the book by E.B. White
adapted by Joseph Robinette
directed by Dan Dainter



Wednesday 8th – Saturday 11th November

When Wilbur, the runt of the litter, discovers his eventual fate, a wise and kind-hearted spider named Charlotte hatches a plan to save him. More information, offers, prices and booking at charlottesweb.live