



The Tragical History of
the Life and Death of
DOCTOR FAUSTUS

DOCTOR FAUSTUS

THE AUTHOR

Christopher Marlowe was born in 1564 in Canterbury. He gained a scholarship to King's School and later to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he received the degrees of B.A. and then M.A.

In 1587 he left Cambridge and achieved immediate success as a playwright with "Tamburlaine", which brought on to the English stage a new kind of hero: a superman dominated by the thirst for power. Marlowe himself seems to have been of a violent and unruly nature, and Thomas Kyd, who shared a room with him in 1591, refers to his 'rashness in attempting soden and pryvie injuries to men'.

Marlowe was also said by Kyd 'to jest at the divine scriptures, gybe at praires, & stryve in argument to frustrate & confute what hath byn spoke or wrytt by prophets & such holie men'. In his plays "Tamburlaine, Part Two" and "The Jew of Malta", Marlowe certainly seems to delight in portraying Christians disparagingly.

"Edward II" can be regarded as expressing a sympathy with homosexuality, and Richard Baines ascribed to Marlowe the statement that 'all that loue not Tobacco & Boies were fooles'.

In 1593 Marlowe was implicated by Kyd in an outbreak of political disorder, the Privy Council issued a warrant for his arrest, and he was ordered to attend their lordships daily until he was licensed to the contrary. Ten days later Marlowe was killed in a tavern brawl in Deptford.

THE PLAY

"Doctor Faustus" was probably written towards the end of Marlowe's life, though there is much controversy over its date and over the authenticity of the two very different versions of the text which survive.

Very few scholars are prepared to ascribe the whole play to Marlowe. The major scenes have all the characteristics of Marlowe's best work, but the farcical scenes in the middle are generally ascribed to another hand, possibly that of Samuel Rowley.

Faustus himself is clearly the creation of Marlowe: a man refusing to be confined by the normal limits of human knowledge and power, and striving through Black Magic to achieve more than any other man. His failure is almost as spectacular as his original ambitions.

This Production uses a combination of the two major texts of the play.

LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

by Christopher Marlowe

BLACK MAGIC

The ultimate aim of black magic was stated by the serpent in the Garden of Eden. Adam and Eve feared death if they ate the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, but the serpent said: 'Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and YE SHALL BE AS GODS, knowing good and evil'.

Hunger for power is the main driving force behind black magic, and carried to its extreme, the black magician's ambition is to wield supreme power over the whole universe — to make himself a god.

This is Faustus's ambition as he states it at the start of the play:

*'These metaphysics of magicians
And necromantic books are heavenly;
Lines, circles, letters, and characters:
Ay, these are those that Faustus most desires.
O, what a world of profit and delight,
Of power, of honour, of omnipotence,
Is promis'd to the studious artisan!
All things that move between the quiet poles
Shall be at my command: emperors and kings
Are but obey'd in their several provinces,
Nor can they raise the wind or rend the clouds;
But his dominion that exceeds in this
Stretcheth as far as doth the mind of man:
A sound magician is a demi-god;
Here tire, my brains, to get a deity!'*

There will be one interval of twenty minutes during which the theatre bar will be open. Ice cream will be on sale in the auditorium, coffee will be available in the bar and garlic, if needed, may be obtained at the box office.

Publicity photographs for this production were taken at Abbey House Museum, Kirkstall by **Anthony E. Mitchell** with the kind permission of the Director, Leeds City Art Galleries.

6th–10th December 1977

FOR THE ARTS CENTRE:

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Properties
Back Stage Staff
Music and Sound Control
Sound Recording
Prompt
Front of House Managers
Set and Costume Design
Wardrobe

Trevor Money
George Westmoreland
Doreen Parker
Dennis Stevenson and Peter Manning
Christine Wilson
Sydney Irving
Anne Robinson
June and Dennis Stevenson
Malcolm Brown
Anne Robinson, Margaret Rhodes
and Members of the Wardrobe Team
Gordon Wilson and the Publicity Team
John Pemberton

FOR THE CIVIC THEATRE:

Theatre Manager
Resident Stage Manager
Lighting Technician

Fred Mower
Julia Piggott
Nick Morris

costume hire

You may not realise that the costumes you have seen tonight and countless others from different periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates.

If you are interested please telephone Leeds 756796 and discuss your requirements with Mrs. Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress.

New Members are always welcome so if you are interested in acting, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please write to:

*The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre,
Stansfeld Chambers, Great George Street,
Leeds 1.*

by Christopher Marlowe

CAST

A Religious Old Man, Neighbour to Doctor Faustus, acting as Chorus		<i>Gordon Carlin</i>
Good Angel		<i>Gordon Carlin</i>
Doctor John Faustus, of Wittenberg		<i>Robin Polley</i>
Wagner, a Student, his Servant		<i>Stuart Mitchell</i>
Valdes		<i>Leonard Sheldon</i>
Cornelius	Magicians	<i>Chris Richmond</i>
Two Scholars, Friends to Faustus		<i>Robin Clayton</i>
		<i>George Teale</i>
Pope Adrian		<i>Gordon Wilson</i>
The Archbishop of Rheims		<i>Leonard Sheldon</i>
Charles V, Emperor of Germany		<i>George Teale</i>
A Knight		<i>Robin Clayton</i>
The Duke of Vanholt		<i>Geoff Mountain</i>
The Duchess of Vanholt		<i>Monica Brown</i>
Robin		<i>Michael Eaves</i>
Dick		<i>Geoff Mountain</i>
A Horse-Courser		<i>Michael Eaves</i>
A Carter		<i>Gordon Wilson</i>
Mephistophilis, Minister to Lucifer		<i>Tony Nelson</i>
Evil Angel		<i>Tony Nelson</i>
Lucifer, Arch-Regent of all Spirits		<i>Leonard Sheldon</i>
Beelzebub, his Companion Prince in Hell		<i>Chris Richmond</i>
Pride		<i>Stuart Mitchell</i>
Covetousness	The Seven	<i>George Teale</i>
Envy		<i>Monica Brown</i>
Wrath		<i>Robin Clayton</i>
Gluttony	Deadly Sins	<i>Gordon Wilson</i>
Sloth		<i>Gillian Thresh</i>
Lechery		<i>Chris Polley</i>
Alexander the Great	Spirits	<i>Chris Richmond</i>
His Paramour		<i>Chris Polley</i>
Helen		<i>Chris Polley</i>
A Devil		<i>Betty Triggs</i>

Friars, Courtiers, Ladies and Devils played by Members of the Cast.

DESIGNED AND DIRECTED BY MALCOLM BROWN

The public may leave the Civic Theatre at the end of the performance, or in the event that real devils are conjured therein by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from magic circles or any obstruction. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before each performance as an obeisance to Lucifer.

Coming shortly

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

Directed by Margaret Rhodes

7th to 11th February 1978

Our productions for the rest of the season will be:

11th to 15th Rookery Nook by Ben Travers.
April 1978 Directed by Stan Smith.

20th to 24th Another original musical revue.
June 1978 Music and lyrics by David Carrack.
Directed by George Westmoreland.

BOOKINGS

If you would like tickets for any of these shows
please ask at the box office during the interval
or telephone Leeds 892346.

Tickets can also be obtained from the Tourist
Information Bureau at the Leeds Central Lending
Library during the month before each show.

Next season our programme will include

RICHARD III

by William Shakespeare.