

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS

A COMEDY DOUBLE BILL

It's A Miracle

AND

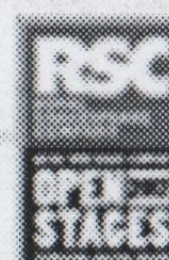
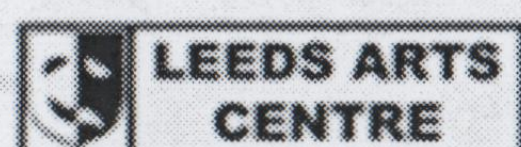
THE COLIN ATKINS STORY

WED 4 - SAT 7 JULY 2018, 7.45PM
BOX OFFICE 0113 376 0318

CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE
MILLENNIUM SQUARE, LEEDS

CARRIAGEWORKSTHEATRE.CO.UK

LEEDSARTSCENTRE.ORG.UK





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). 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 which 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 double bill production of 'It's a Miracle' and 'The Colin Atkins Story'

Director's notes

It's often said that playwrights should never direct their own plays. It's true that directing your own work presents some problems. When you're writing you generally have a very clear idea of what each character looks and sounds like. You've heard them all speaking in your head. Writing a play sometimes feels like copying down what you hear. So when you're confronted in rehearsal with actors who look and sound quite different, it can be hard to accept that where the play belongs isn't in your head but on the stage. You have to remind yourself that there are as many ways to play a part as there are actors to play it.

Directors can be stubborn at the best of times and a writer/director can be doubly stubborn. Sometimes justifiably so, but not always. The art of directing lies in enabling actors to discover their parts for themselves. Directors who insist on their own interpretation rather than the cast's are likely to end up with productions that are lifeless, performed by puppets instead of actors. You have to keep reminding yourself that it's the actors who do the real work, not you.

The playwright is usually an invisible presence whose intentions can only be guessed at and who has no direct role to play once the script has been handed over. What might be seen as an added advantage for the writer/director can easily become just the opposite, upsetting the equilibrium of the rehearsal process. It is not a good idea to keep saying, "I wrote it! I should know!" You need to remind yourself that it doesn't necessarily follow.

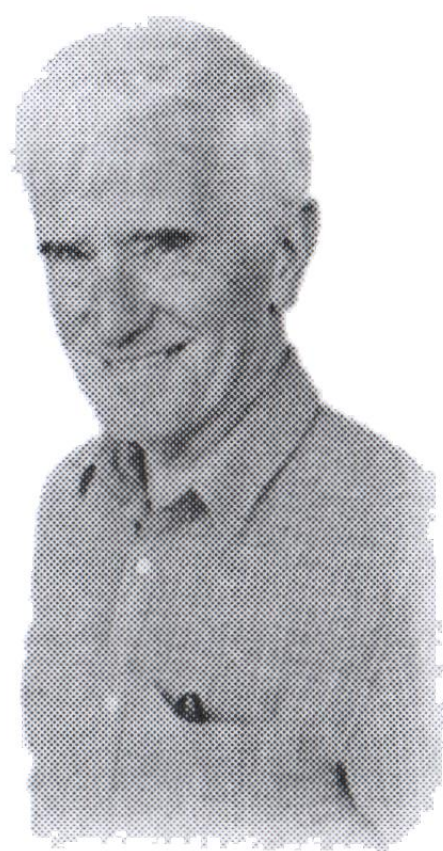
What matters in the end is what the actors do in performance, not what the director does in rehearsal. The audience has the last word and, if the audience doesn't like it, as writer and director, I stand to get twice the blame. Perhaps that's the real reason why directing your own work is not such a good idea.

Neil Rathmell



Director and Cast Biographies

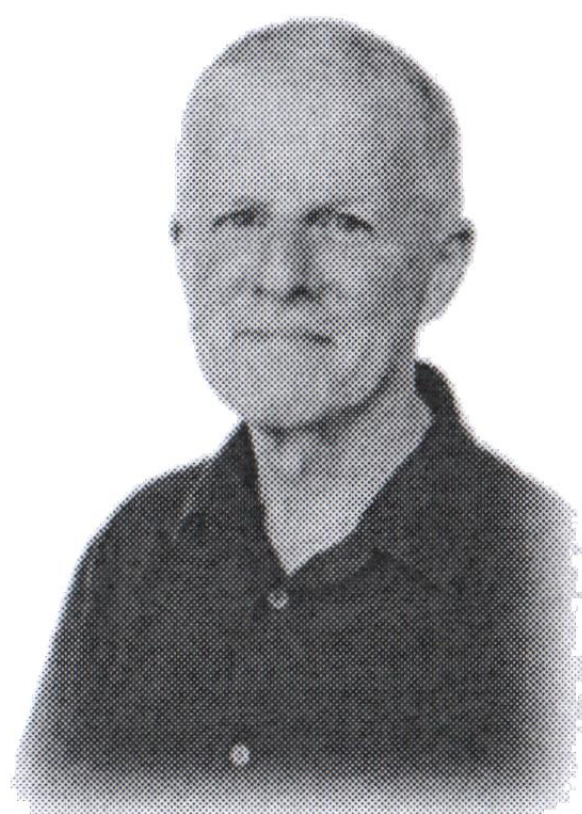
Director and Writer - Neil Rathmell



Neil Rathmell's last play for Leeds Arts Centre, *Unspoken - the story of a man and his stammer*, written in collaboration with speech and language therapist Dr Trudy Stewart, enjoyed five sell-out performances at the Carriageworks in July 2017. That production, directed by Trudy, went on to enjoy further success with performances in London and Antwerp. As a drama teacher and youth arts centre director, Neil wrote and directed many plays for children and young people. His first novel, *The Old School*, was published by Faber & Faber in 1976. More recently, his short fiction has been published in literary magazines in the UK and Ireland. For more information about his work go to neilrathmell.com.

It's A Miracle

Father Bentley - Howard Russell



Howard is in his first year with Leeds Arts Centre and has acted in a Green Room presentation of Pinter's 'The Collection' plus a Carriageworks main house production of the evergreen 'Charley's Aunt'. He is looking forward to performing a miracle on the studio stage this evening!



Cast Biographies

Harriet Bottomley - Maureen Willis



Maureen has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for 6 years. She has enjoyed a wide variety of roles including props and costume and has acted in several productions. Her last role was Ouiser in *Steel Magnolias*, and before that Grandma in *Unspoken*. The highlight of her time with LAC was performing *Unspoken* in both Antwerp and London. She organises LAC Play Readings. She is also a member of artistic director Alan Lyddiard's performance ensemble.

Maggie Turner - Pam Wilson



Pam is amazed to realize that she has been a member of LAC for more than 40 years, running the whole gamut of roles from naïve ingenue to curmudgeonly old woman (with several sub-human characters on the way) and occasionally directing. Her most recent appearances for the Centre were in *Rose & Crown* (another old lady!) and *Unspoken*. Off-stage she has contributed to wardrobe, props and set-painting - none of which involve learning any lines - and now edits LAC's monthly newsletter.



Cast Biographies

The Colin Atkins Story

Mrs Atkins - Carrieanne Vivianette



Carrieanne became a member of LAC in July 2017, and considers her involvement invaluable - she is certainly enjoying her first acting role with the company as Mrs Atkins in 'The Colin Atkins Story'. Carrieanne came to LAC with knowledge of theatre and performance from both her academic studies - a BA Hons in Contemporary Performance Practices and a UK Masters in Theatre Studies. She looks forward to applying and increasing her knowledge of theatre further with LAC in the spring of next year when she will direct a production of Jean-Paul Sartre's play 'No Exit'.

Doreen - Olivia Richardson



Olivia is a new member of LAC and is returning to the stage after moving to Leeds this year. She is excited to be back treading the boards having previously acted with the National Youth Theatre, as well as at the West Yorkshire Playhouse as part of National Theatre connections.

Mr Atkins - Adrian Wedgewood



This is Adrian's first foray into the world of acting and he is thoroughly enjoying the experience so far, from the cerebral challenge of learning lines to the teamwork involved in making a script come to life on the stage. He considers that all the cast members and director have been superb tutors over the past couple of months as he finds his feet, and feels that opening night can't come soon enough.



Cast Biographies

Colin - Zack Jackson



Zack has been a member of LAC since 2009 and has acted in numerous plays with the group including 'Immaculate', 'Sense and Sensibility', 'The Birthday Party', 'Harvey', and 'Blood and Ice'. He has also performed in a number of Green Room performances.

Policeman - James Bell



James first acted with LAC in 2003 as The Taxi Driver in 'Harvey'. He re-joined LAC in 2012 after numerous experiences working with varying groups, first acting in Shakespeare plays in 2001/2. A number of his key performances are: Mercutio and Prince Escalus in 'Romeo and Juliet'; Herr Flick in 'Allo Allo'; Walter in 'The Money's in the Bank'; McCann in Harold Pinter's 'The Birthday Party' and as Dr Chumley in 'Harvey' in 2016.

Brenda - Enya Lucas



Enya has been a member of LAC for over a year and has enjoyed getting involved in a number of different roles. She has recently performed as Shelby in 'Steel Magnolias' and is looking forward to performing again in a comedic role. Enya has also taken on the Assistant Director Role in this production, where she has thrived in bossing people about.



The Plots

It's a Miracle

When Harriet breaks a pact with Maggie and tells Father Bentley the secret they have kept since they were children seventy years ago, he doesn't believe her. All she can do to convince him is to ask Maggie to back her up. Just one problem - Maggie is dumb.

This new play by Neil Rathmell is a Leeds Arts Centre première.

Colin Atkins Story

One day in 1957, when a fifteen year old boy called Colin Atkins was sent home from school for not wearing school uniform, the events which followed unleashed a hitherto unknown force onto British society - teenagers. A phenomenon which has puzzled sociologists for decades is finally explained.

A Leeds Arts Centre revival, 'this marvellous comedy' had its first outing at the Shropshire Drama Festival in 1982, when it 'stole the show and most of the laughs'.

There is one interval of 20 minutes

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



Cast

(in order of appearance)

It's a Miracle

Father Bentley

Harriet Bottomley

Maggie Turner

Howard Russell

Maureen Willis

Pam Wilson

The Colin Atkins Story

Mrs Atkins

Doreen

Mr Atkins

Colin

Policeman

Brenda

Carrieanne Vivianette

Olivia Richardson

Adrian Wedgewood

Zack Jackson

James Bell

Enya Lucas

Production Team

Director and Writer

Assistant Director

Production Managers

Properties

Wardrobe

Front of House

Sound and Lighting

Set

Neil Rathmell

Enya Lucas

Jenny Carter and Camilla
Asher

Denise Davies and Elizabeth
Hayes

Zoë Freedman, Maria
Kwater and Elaine Smith

LAC members

Steve Fryatt and Ben
Hopwood

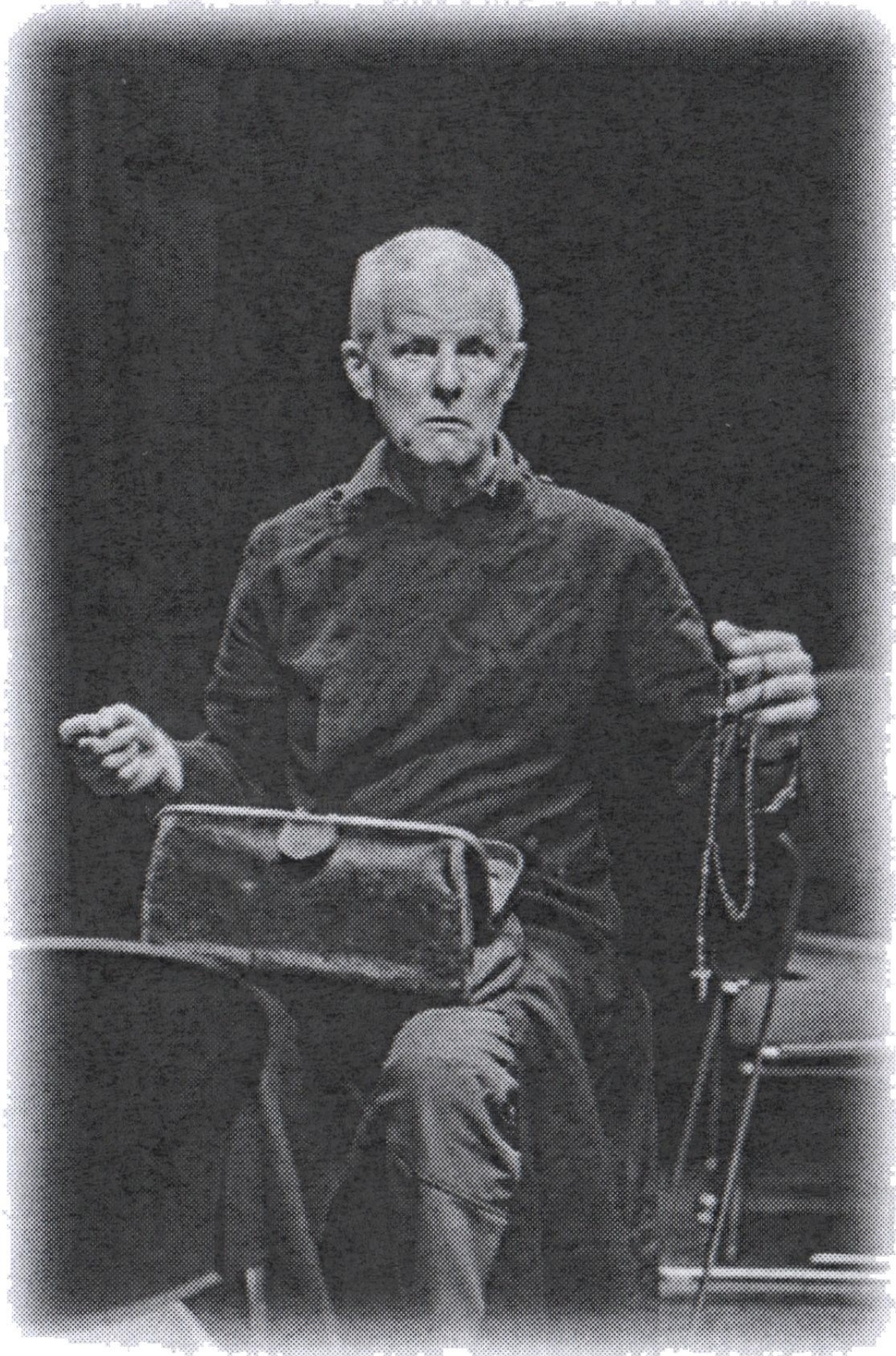
Margaret Savage, Alan
Buttery, Steve Fryatt,
Ken Taylor, Ben Hopwood,
Dean Franklin and Łukasz
Pietrzykowski

Poster design made possible through collaboration with LeedsCAN



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

Rehearsal Photos



Thank you to Mark Hillyer for the photos

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



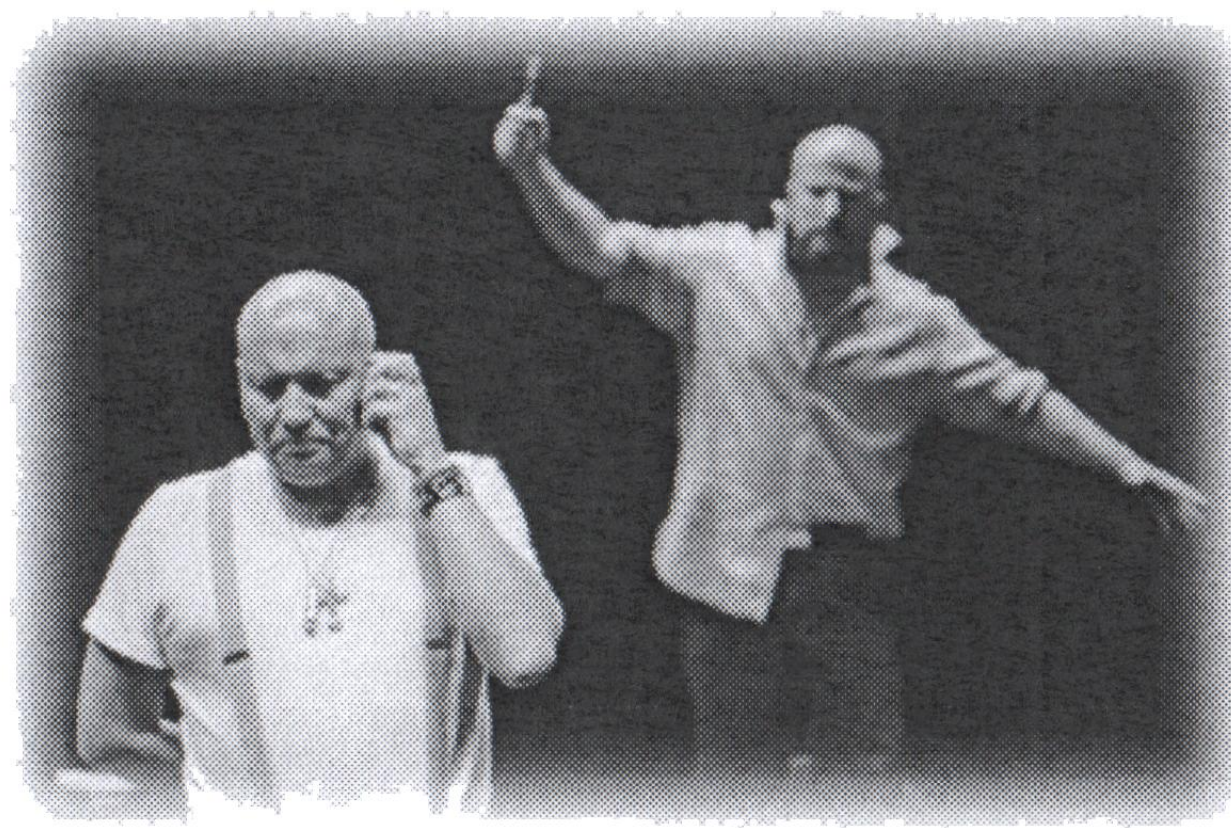
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Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

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



Thank you to Mark Hillyer for taking rehearsal photographs



Thank you to Scott Penn for the poster / flyer design which was made possible through collaboration with Leeds CAN.

Poster/flyer image by Maria Hayes

Some of the sound effects contain samples from Freesound.org:

"Radio Noises" by mattwasser

"Slide Projector (Reflecta)" by soundslikewillem

"Static Radio" by kMoon

"Tea Kettle Boiling Whistling" by sethlind

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

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE

0114 272 9721

www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

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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



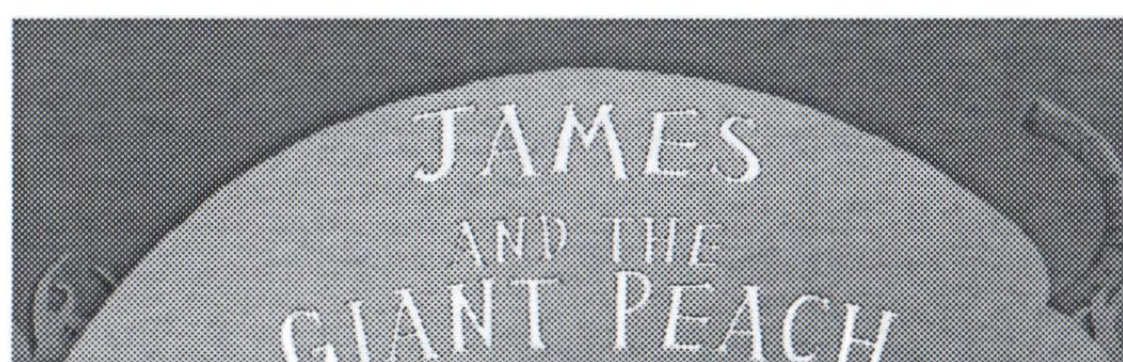
Leeds Community Arts Network (Leeds CAN), previously known as Leeds Civic Arts Guild, is a group of 14 community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies who mainly perform at The Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has its own identity, however they all come together as part of the 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 CAN groups:



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

Legally Blonde (St Mary's Youth Theatre) Nov. 2018

Carriageworks Theatre

James and the Giant Peach (LCT) 7 - 10 November 2018

Carriageworks Theatre



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions are:-

The Flint Street Nativity by Tim Firth

Directed by Ben Hopwood

7 - 10 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 Claudius. Hamlet is entreated by his father's ghost to take revenge. Hamlet schemes 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.

**No Exit (Huis Clos) by Jean-Paul Sartre (translated from the French
by Stuart Gilbert)**

Directed by CarrieAnne Cara Vivianette

April 2019

Three people are enduring a terrible existence that we can only imagine. Garcin, Inez and Estelle are strangers who find themselves impounded together after death as retribution for their sins in life. They are held captive in one room for eternity, abandoned in their own personal and vindictive hell. Left with only each other, the incarcerated trio attempt to come to terms with their situation. Each of the three has the power to exacerbate or alleviate this hell. Can they find resolution, or is there truly no exit?

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