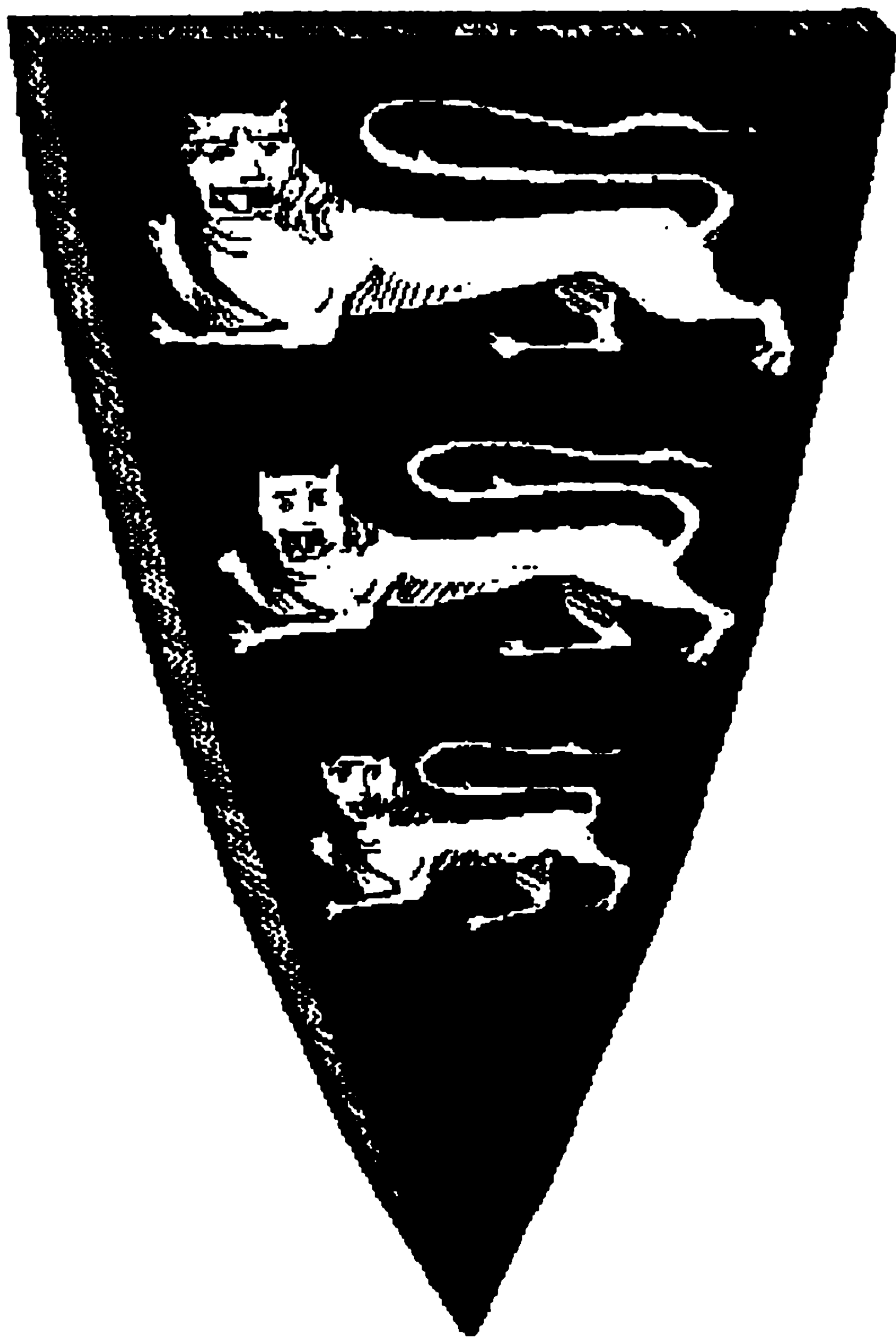


Leeds Arts Centre

presents

**The Lion in
Winter**

by **James Goldman**



Leeds Civic Theatre

28th March to 1st April 1995

The L

The Play's the Thing

To the purist, this play by **James Goldman** presents a number of problems. Some people - even without a degree in mediaeval history - might take exception to such items as Christmas trees and Christmas presents appearing in a 12th century setting. Also it is unlikely that the events described in the play could ever have taken place as there is no record of the characters concerned ever having been at Chinon together at the same time.

However, I hope that as a member of our audience, you will agree with us that the anachronisms simply add power to this funny, dramatic and ultimately moving play. There are plenty of precedents set by authors who did not let absolute historical accuracy get in the way of a good story - just take a good look at Shakespeare's Julius Caesar for instance.

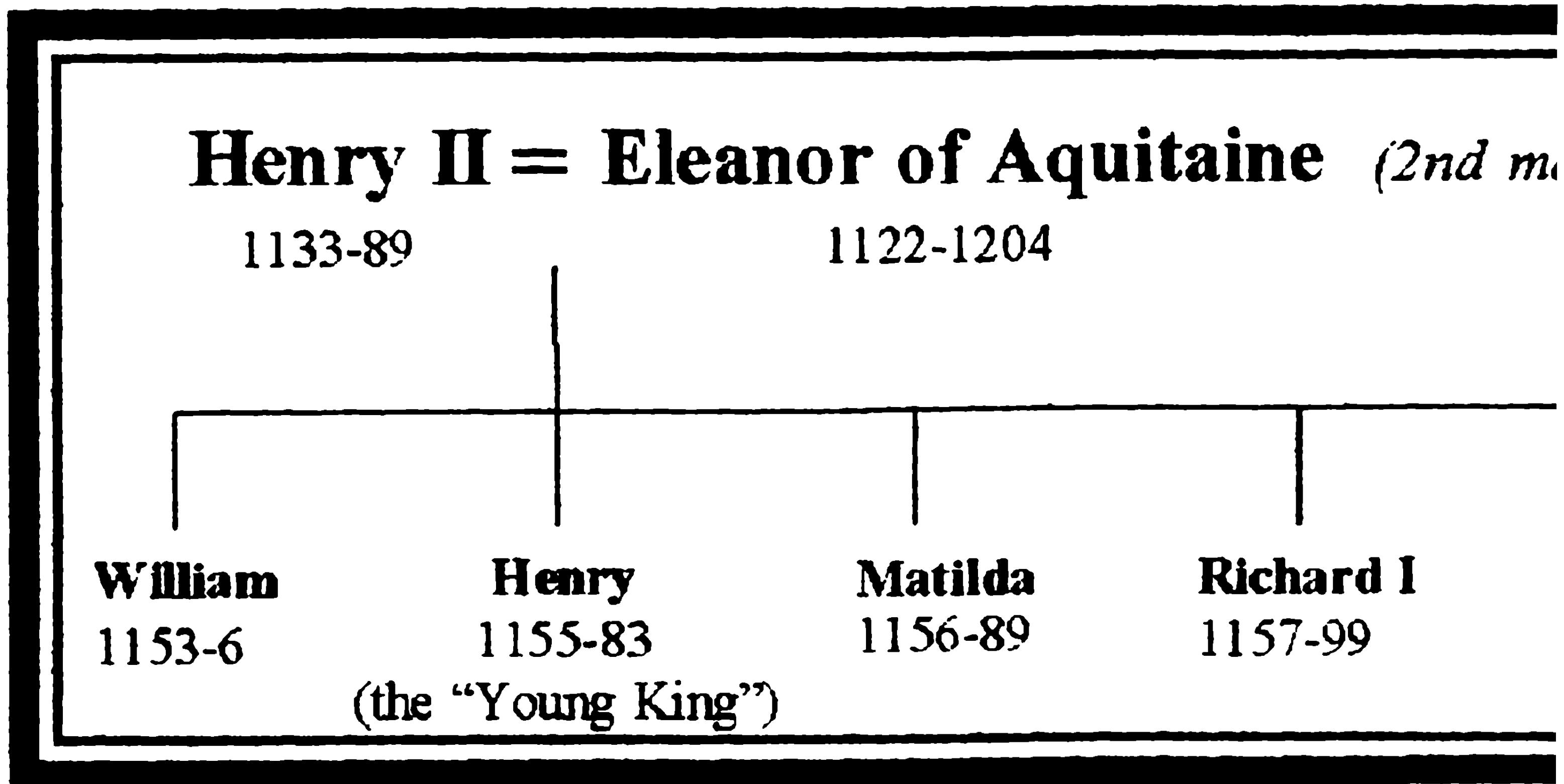
So please follow the best theatrical traditions; suspend your disbelief and share with us in the glory and the heartache of the contest for the throne of England.

Chris Ward

Historical Characters

Henry II (King of England 1154) Duke of Anjou and (through his wife), Aquitaine; Count of Anjou, Maine and Touraine; overlord of Brittany. Son of Geoffrey, Count of Anjou, and Matilda, daughter of Henry I and granddaughter of William the Conqueror. The most brilliant, dynamic and able ruler of his time, a skilled tactician, a wily negotiator, author of an effective system of justice and administration. Contemporaries described him as a 'human chariot', who never took a moment's rest and said that "to be in his household was to know the fury of hell", especially when he fell into one of the demonic rages which characterized the whole family.

on in Winter by



Eleanor of Aquitaine Duchess of Aquitaine in her own right, she married Louis VII to become queen of France at the age of 15. Vivacious and amorous, she became the focus for the new ideas of courtly love and the centre of a great many scandalous stories - not all of them completely unfounded. A contemporary chronicler described her as "an incomparable woman, beautiful yet gracious, strong-willed yet kind, unassuming yet sagacious, (which is a rare combination in a woman)" and a German student wrote "If all the world were mine from the sea-coast to the Rhine I'd gladly give it all to have the Queen of England lying in my arms".

Richard I (King of England 1189). Nicknamed the Lionheart and best remembered for his heroic leadership of the third Crusade. Although he is known to have written music and poetry, he was above all else a superb military strategist and exceptionally able soldier but he had little interest in government and spent only five months in England during his 10-year reign.

Geoffrey Duke of Brittany, through his marriage to Constance, daughter of its Duke and his father's claim to overlordship of the duchy. Inherited much of his father's ability and is said to have rated cunning as highly as combat. According to one contemporary "He was not easily deceived and one would have called him most sagacious were it not for his

James Goldman

marriage, previously married to Louis VII of France)

Geoffrey	Eleanor	Joan	John
1158-86	1162-1215	1165-99	1167-1215

readiness to deceive others". He was fatally wounded in a tournament in 1186.

John (King of England 1199). Youngest son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine. Dubbed 'Lackland' by his father because there was no obvious part of the Angevin dominions that could be given to him. The name became more appropriate when he lost Normandy to Philip, King of France. He was an able and effective king but lacked the charisma and leadership of his father and elder brother and is chiefly remembered for having signed the Magna Carta and for losing his personal treasure and baggage train in the Wash.

Philippe II Augustus (1165-1222) King of France. Only son of Eleanor's first husband, Louis VII of France, by his third wife. A wily character who intrigued constantly with Henry's sons and with John during Richard's reign. Achieved his prime ambition - the destruction of the Angevin power - with the acquisition of all Henry's continental provinces during John's reign.

Alais Capet Elder half-sister of Phillipe. Sent to England as a child to be betrothed to Richard with the important county of the Vexin as her dowry, she was rumoured to have become Henry's mistress, possibly even to have had a child by him. Later offered by her brother as a possible bride for John, she ultimately married the Count of Ponthieu.

The Lion in Winter

Cast

HENRY	<i>Brian Butler</i>
ELEANOR	<i>Pam Wilson</i>
RICHARD	<i>Laurie Toczec</i>
GEOFFREY	<i>Andrew Williams</i>
JOHN	<i>Matthew Brighton</i>
PHILIP	<i>Stuart Watson</i>
ALAIS	<i>Julie Hopton</i>

The action takes place in Henry's castle at Chinon, Christmas 1183

Production Team

Stage Manager	<i>Rich Francis</i>
ASM	<i>Martyn Drake</i>
Set Construction	<i>Martyn Drake, Rich Francis, Dave Mallinson, George Teale, George Westmoreland, Gordon Wilson</i>
Prompt	<i>Joyce King</i>
Lighting	<i>Anita Christie, Laurie Ball</i>
Props	<i>Doreen Parker, Mary Nelson</i>
Costume and Set Design	<i>Malcolm Brown</i>
Wardrobe	<i>Margaret Rhodes and wardrobe team</i>
Front of House Manager	<i>Shirley Broadbent</i>

Directed by *Chris Ward*

We are grateful to Willshaw and Newton for the loan of the barrels.

There will be an interval of fifteen minute at the end of Act I

Civic Theatre Staff

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*
Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*
Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*
Technicians - *Sandy Clark*
Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*
Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Sylvia Gooding*

In accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Sub-Committee of Leeds City Council:

- a. The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open.
- b. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions.
- c. Persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the intersecting gangways, or stand in any other unseated space in the auditorium, unless standing in such a space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Committee. A notice is exhibited in that part of the auditorium in which standing has been sanctioned.
- d. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance to make sure it is in proper working order.

FRIENDS OF LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

Join the 'Friends' and support this delightful little theatre.

Application forms available from the foyer

Watch out for

Bugsy Malone

A Masquerade Youth Theatre production -19th to 22nd July

About Leeds Arts Centre

Since its formation in 1945 Leeds Arts Centre has established itself as one of the leading amateur theatre companies in the area. Four or five productions each year are mounted at the Civic Theatre in Leeds as well as a number of one-act plays and other Green Room activities for our members.

New Members

We are always glad to welcome new members with an enthusiasm for acting, directing, production, set design, set building, painting scenery, helping back stage, lighting, front of house or publicity. So if you are interested in joining a friendly team that works hard to maintain its high standards of performance and production please write with details of your experience and areas of interest to:

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

Don't miss our next two Jubilee Year productions:

Sisterly Feelings

There are four possible versions of this hilarious comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. The toss of a coin initially determines whether Abigail or her sister Dorcas will forsake their menfolk for handsome Simon. As their father becomes daily more eccentric and his policeman brother-in-law tries to expose the 'unnatural practices' on Pendon common, the consequences are riotous. This is undoubtedly one of Ayckbourn's funniest plays.

Director: Pam Wilson
13th to 17th June 1995

Macbeth

Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece portrays the inevitable downfall of a man driven by his wife's ruthless ambition and his own lust for power.

Tortured by guilt and haunted by the forces of evil, his increasing paranoia forces him to eliminate anyone who stands in his way and thus ensnares him in an intricate web of murder and deceit which is the tragedy of Macbeth.

Director: Malcolm Brown
10 to 14 October 1995

Next Week: Leeds Children's Theatre in

Toad of Toad Hall by AA Milne

Join wise old Mr badger, shy Mr Mole and clever Mr Rat as they try to keep the conceited but lovable Mr Toad out of mischief. Songs, battles, and adventures make this a must for family entertainment
Tuesday 4th to Saturday 8th April at 7pm nightly