



**LEEDS ARTS  
CENTRE**

presents

Carlo Goldoni's comedy

# **THE SERVANT OF TWO MASTERS**



**LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE**

**Wednesday, 16th to Saturday, 19th October, 2002**

**at 7.30 p.m.**

## **Commedia del'Arte**

*Commedia del'Arte* has been a major influence on Western theatre from Shakespeare to the Marx Brothers. Its roots lay in ancient Roman comedy, and it emerged in the streets, markets, and fairs of Italy in the sixteenth century. With its masked actors, stock characters, comic sight gags and improvised comedy, it flourished all over Europe until the early eighteenth century. In 1745, when *Commedia del'Arte* began to fall from public favour, Carlo Goldoni took the stock characters and created a script with them, capturing the traditions of improvisational theatre in the enduring comedy classic: *The Servant of Two Masters*.

### **The Servant of Two Masters**

*The Servant of Two Masters* is set in Venice, and revolves around the servant, Truffaldino, and the comic situations that arise as he tries to serve two masters simultaneously, without their finding out about each other. The lively plot is further complicated by the fact that one "master" is a woman, Beatrice, disguised as her dead brother, while the other master is Florindo, Beatrice's lover who killed her brother in a duel! Confusion abounds in this comedy of disguise, deception, love and an empty belly, but, in the best traditions of such plays, the ever more convoluted plots are eventually unravelled, and all ends happily.

### **Our Production**

The Leeds Arts Centre's production updates the action of *The Servant of Two Masters* from the eighteenth century to the beginning of the twentieth century. This is a period when the clothes were much closer to those of our own time, but servants were still an everyday part of life for the upper classes, daughters could still be the subject of arranged marriages, and people still fought duels....

## Carlo Goldoni

Carlo Goldoni, a native of Venice, was considered by many Italians to have carried dramatic art in Italy to its highest point of perfection. He was born in 1707, the son of a physician, and inherited his dramatic tastes from his grandfather. He was educated as a lawyer, and held lucrative posts as secretary and councillor, but an unexpected summons to Venice, after an absence of several years, changed his career and, from then on, he devoted himself to writing plays and managing theatres.

He aimed to supersede the masks and intrigue of the *Commedia del'Arte* by representations of actual life and manners. He was successful in this, despite powerful opposition from Carlo Gozzi, who had obtained a wide reputation with his fairy dramas, and accused Goldoni of depriving the Italian theatre of the charms of poetry and imagination. Goldoni moved to Paris, where he received a position at court, and passed the latter part of his life in composing plays and writing his memoirs in French. Although his works became extremely popular in Italy, he never visited his native land again. In his last years he was afflicted with blindness, and died in extreme poverty in 1792.

Goldoni modelled his plays upon those of Molière, whom he revered as the true monarch of the comic stage, and by the middle of the eighteenth century many people described Goldoni as the Italian Molière. Voltaire said that "The appearance of Goldoni on the stage, might ... be termed: 'Italy Delivered from the Goths.'"

The subjects for his comedies came from his fertile imagination, and his facility of composition meant that he sometimes produced a verse comedy of five acts within as many days. Although his plays depict the manners and characters of a past age, they retain all the freshness of our own, and deserve their continued revivals.

# Cast

PANTALONE DEI BISOGNOSI, a Venetian Merchant	Martin Key
CLARICE, his daughter	Rachel Morgan-Trimmer
DR. LOMBARDI	Edwin Barraclough
SILVIO, his son	Chris Hudson
BEATRICE RASPONI, a lady of Turin, disguised as her brother, FEDERIGO RASPONI	Jo Carr
FLORINDO ARETUSI, a gentleman of Turin	Ian Major
BRIGHELLA, an innkeeper	Malcolm Padwell
SMERALDINA, maidservant to Clarice	Kate Thorpe
TRUFFALDINO, servant to Beatrice, and afterwards to Florindo	Richard Francis
FIRST WAITER	Tom Bailey
SECOND WAITER	David Cooper
PORTER	Tom Bailey

ADAPTED, DESIGNED AND DIRECTED  
by Malcolm Brown

The scene is set in Venice  
The action takes place in a single day  
There will be one interval of twenty minutes  
during which the theatre bar will be open

SWORD STICKS made by David Thirlwall of Houlgate  
Village, Murton Park, Murton, York, YO1 3UF

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Margaret Davey
STAGE MANAGER	Joyce King
SET CONSTRUCTION	Tony Nelson and Chris Wilson
PROPERTIES	Denise Davies and Doreen Parker
LIGHTING	Peter Waddicor
SOUND RECORDING	Jim Marshall
SOUND OPERATION	David Mallinson
FIGHT ARRANGER	Martin Key
PROMPT	Monica Brown
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	Jean Blundell
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Samantha Sied
BOX OFFICE MANAGER	Maggie Rhodes

### **Civic Theatre**

Theatre Manager	Steven Cartwright
Assistant Manager	Vivien Simpson
Chief Technician and Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Technicians	Sandy Clark, David Simpson
Catering for Crown Point Foods	Shirley Tarran
Box office	Margaret Rook, 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 all times 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 space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Sub-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 show that it is in proper working order.



# **LEEDS ARTS CENTRE**

## **Advertising and Sponsorship**

Leeds Arts Centre is a member of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild, and is a registered charity and non profit-making organisation. We are currently looking for companies and organisations who would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.

To find out more, contact our Publicity Officer at:

**Publicity Officer,  
Leeds Arts Centre,  
c/o The Civic Theatre,  
Millennium Square,  
Leeds, LS2 8BH.**

or e-mail us at:  
**[info@leedsartscentre.org.uk](mailto:info@leedsartscentre.org.uk)**

**To find out more about the activities  
and forthcoming productions of the**

**Leeds Arts Centre**

Visit our

**Website**

at

**[www.leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk)**



# **LEEDS ARTS CENTRE**

**Leeds Arts Centre** is an amateur dramatic society which was formed in 1945. We have members from all walks of life, including people who have worked in the theatre, others who hope to make a career on the stage, and many who are very happy to remain amateurs. We are a very friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known, and we always aim to enjoy ourselves.

We produce four plays each year at the Civic Theatre, as well as **Green Room** productions to help members develop their acting, directing and production skills.

## **New Members are always Welcome**

If you are interested in acting, directing, designing or making scenery or costumes, helping backstage with stage management or props, or lending a hand with publicity, then why don't you speak to one of our members front of house this evening, or in the theatre bar after the show?

You can also write, with contact telephone number, for further information to:

**The Secretary,  
Leeds Arts Centre,  
c/o The Civic Theatre,  
Millennium Square,  
Leeds, LS2 8BH.**

or e-mail us at:

**[info@leedsartscentre.org.uk](mailto:info@leedsartscentre.org.uk)**



**LEEDS ARTS  
CENTRE**

**FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS**

**Week commencing 3rd February, 2003**

**WHAT THE BUTLER SAW**

**by Joe Orton**

**directed by Chris Hudson**

**Week commencing 24th March, 2003**

**ROMEO AND JULIET**

**by William Shakespeare**

**directed by Rachel Morgan-Trimmer**

**Week commencing 16th June, 2003**

**HARVEY**

**by Mary Chase**

**directed by Eddie Butler and Laurie Ball**

**Next Guild production at the Civic Theatre**

**Week commencing 30th October**

**Cosmopolitan Players**

**NOT WITH A BANG** by Mike Harding