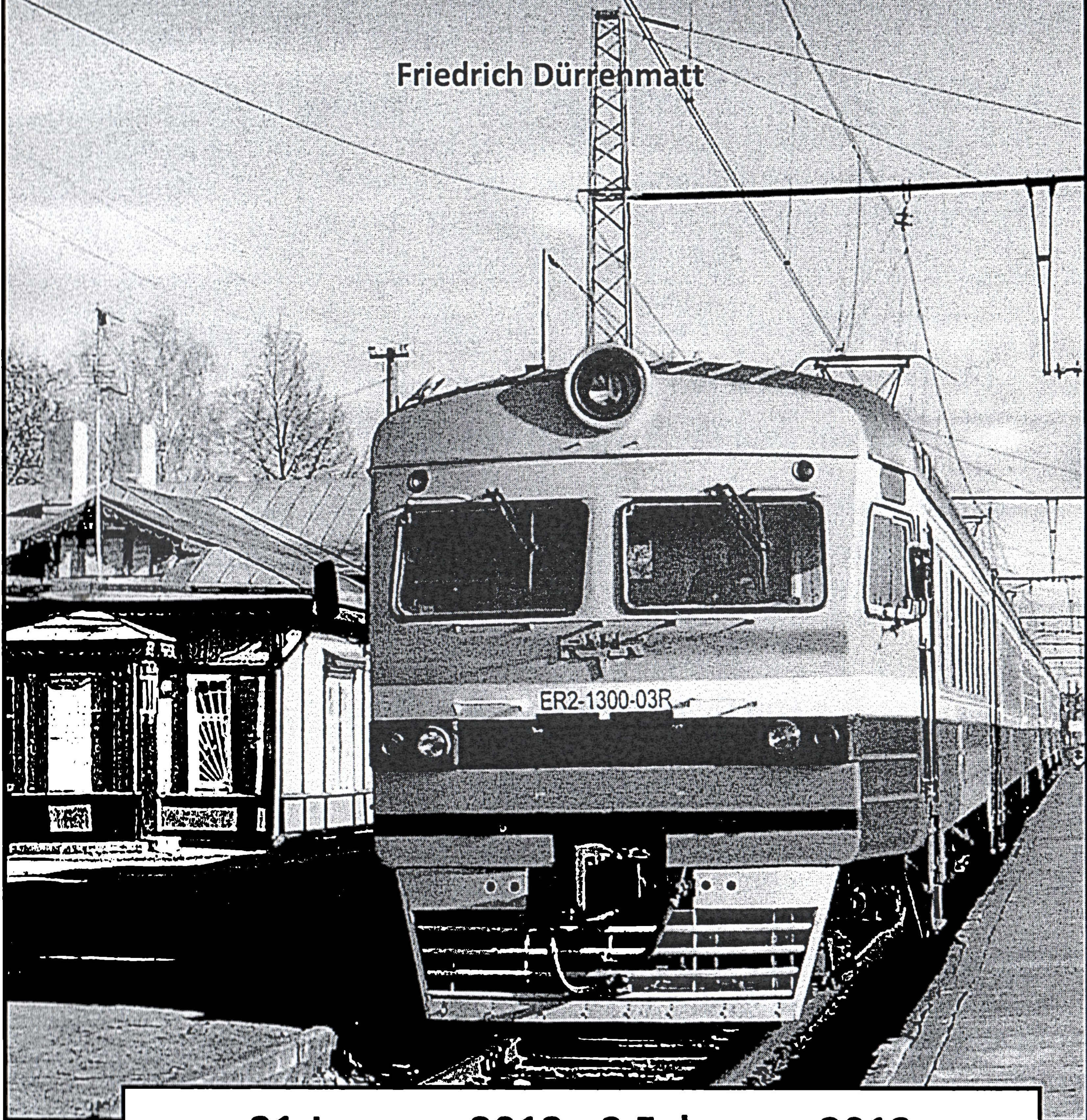




**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

THE VISIT

Friedrich Dürrenmatt



31 January 2013 - 2 February 2013



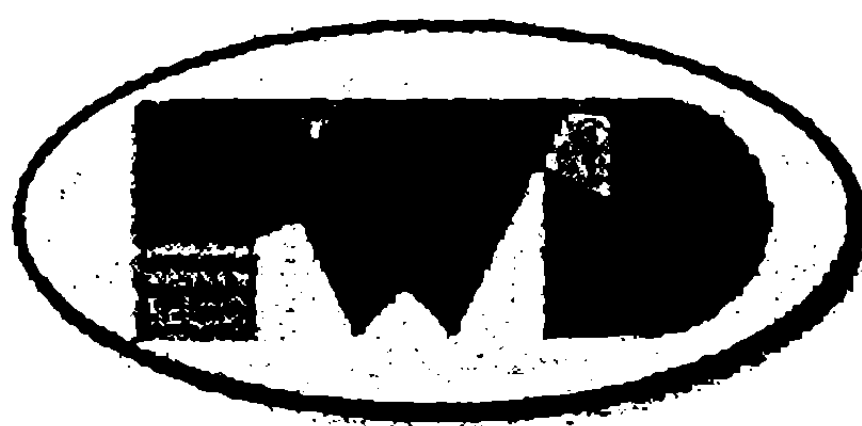
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Leeds Arts Centre is a prestigious amateur theatre group founded in 1945, and member of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild.

We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. We produce four to five plays each year at the Carriageworks, as well as organising workshops to help members to develop their acting, directing and production skills.

We offer opportunities to all who are interested in becoming involved with any aspect of drama, including acting, directing, stage management, props, designing, costumes, lighting, sound, publicity and front of house.

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 please 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 Carriageworks
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD
or e-mail us at: publicity@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.

Leeds Civic Arts Guild



The Leeds Civic Arts Guild is the 'umbrella' association of various amateur dramatic, musical, operatic and other voluntary arts societies & companies, that are based in the centre of Leeds, at the Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has their own identity, however they all come together as part of the Guild, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. The member societies are:

Cosmopolitan Players
Leeds Amateur Operatic Society
Leeds Arts Centre
Leeds Art Theatre
Leeds Children's Theatre
Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society
LIDOS
Leeds Writers Circle
Leeds Youth Opera
Morley Amateur Operatic Society
Shatterproof Theatre Company
STARS
St. Mary's Youth Theatre
West Riding Opera

To learn more about the groups and societies, why not come along to the Carriageworks theatre bar on the second Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm where you can meet a member of the Guild Executive for an introductory chat, and a tour of the facilities at the Carriageworks Theatre.

For more information please visit <http://www.lcag.btck.co.uk/> or <http://lcag.boards.net>



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

Friedrich Dürrenmatt's

THE VISIT

The time is the present, the place, Guellen, somewhere in central Europe.

The rich and powerful Claire Zachanassian arrives in the town of her childhood, now a place of poverty, depression and decay.

The citizens hope for financial aid from Claire to stimulate the economy and bring prosperity back to Guellen.

Alfred Ill and Claire were once young lovers and the town's folk are relying upon Alfred to encourage Claire's benevolence. He is popular and his anticipated success in securing Claire's generosity has resulted in much acclaim and promise of advancement.

However the gift, when offered, is not unconditional...

'The Visit' is a consummate blend of hilarity, horror, and vertigo, in which acclaimed Swiss author Friedrich Dürrenmatt has fashioned a macabre and entertaining parable that is a scathing indictment of the power of greed.

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION IS:

A V-Day Leeds 2013 Benefit Production of

Eve Ensler's

The Vagina Monologues

The Carriageworks Theatre, 25th to 27th April 2013

Supporting V-Day 2013 and

Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL)

www.vday.org

www.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk

Cast

Claire Zachanassian
Alfred Ill

Pam Wilson
Jonathan Byrne

Mayor
Headteacher
Priest
Police Inspector Hahncke
Doctor Nuesslin

Robin Thornton
Kerry Griffiths
Steven Hart
David Wheatley
Edwin Barracclough

Matilda - Ill's Wife
Karl - Ill's Son
Otilie - Ill's Daughter
Anni Dummermut - Mayor's Wife

Margaret Savage
Oliver Barnett
Camilla Asher
Jill Canham

Station Master
Hofbauer
Helmesberger
Hagholzer
Painter
Minne
Marta

Ben Hopwood
Asador Guzelian
Tom Nicholson
Alan Buttery
Richard Baker
Maureen Willis
Mary Nelson

Boby - Claire's Butler
Toby - Ex-American Gangster
Roby - Ex-American Gangster
Koby (Jacob Chicken)
Loby (Louis Perch)
Moby/Hoby/Zoby - Claire's Husbands

Tony Nelson
Rob Sherwood
Ed Corbett
James Bell
Barry Green
Paul Haywood

Ticket Inspector

Chris Watson

Reporter 1
Reporter 2
Commentator

Tori Morgan
Fiona Galloway
Tori Morgan

Guelleners

Rebekah Johnston, Anne Griffiths, Emma Sargison, Camilla Asher, Oliver Barnett, Tori Morgan, Fiona Galloway, Jill Canham, Maureen Willis, Mary Nelson, Chris Watson, Ben Hopwood, Gareth Taylor, Alan Buttery, Richard Baker, Tom Nicholson, Asador Guzelian.

Production Team

Director	Martin Key
Assistant Director	Debs Sandles
Production Manager	Maria Kwater
Stage Manager	Steve Fryatt
Assistant Stage Managers	Dena Marsh, Emma Arnold
Set Design	Martin Key
Set Construction	Rich Francis
	Steve Fryatt
Set Painting	LAC Members
Sign Design and Construction	Martin Key
Sign Painting	Malcolm Brown, Denise Davies
Sedan Chair Design and Construction	Pete Sandles
Props	Margaret Davey, Corine McAlary, Denise Davies
Costumes	Zoe Freedman, Sarah Wareham
Sound Recording	Martin Key, Richard Key
Additional Sounds	Paul Haywood, Jonathan Byrne
Sound Operation	Andrew Allan
Lighting Design	Martin Key
Lighting Technician	Peter Waddicor & Carriageworks Theatre Staff
Fly operators	Peter Sandles, John Kendell
	<i>Continued overleaf</i>



Production Team continued

Prompt	Debs Sandles
Front of House Manager	Joyce King
Front of House Team	LAC Members
Photography	Rich Francis
Publicity	David Wheatley
Poster Design	Martin Key
Poster Photograph	Paul Haywood

Notes from the Director

My first introduction to Friedrich Dürrenmatt's tragi-comedy 'The Visit' was in the 1970s when I played the part of one of the townsfolk of Guellen, a small town somewhere perhaps in central Europe. My belief that it was a play providing a tremendous impact was further enhanced when I witnessed an A-Level Drama class presentation of a version adapted by the students for their final practical assessment. However, it was not until I embarked upon the direction of this tragic-comedy that I began to realise its true potential as a piece of theatre capable of challenging our emotions, our sensibilities, our humanitarianism and our understanding of human frailty when offered an escape from financial desperation.

If ever there was a play which so successfully condemns our 'acquisition society' this is it. Written in 1956 how much more poignant has the play's message become today, 56 years on in our materialistic society where trusted banks illicitly fix interest rates, where finance houses trade in questionable debts, where Governments borrow beyond a country's means and where the average family debt in our land, excluding mortgages, is measured in tens of thousands! The play further questions the inviolability of rule by the majority, a factor which insidiously gathers pace through the progression of the play until the only possible conclusion is the corrupt justice wickedly purchased by the Zachanassian millions.

As the play commences the re-uniting of the formidable and eccentric central character, Claire Zachanassian, now a billionaire, with her childhood lover, the failed store keeper Alfred Ill, initially brings hope, reconciliation, the promise of advancement and a rekindling of their love - or so it seems.

Later in the play and in total contrast we hear that Claire, with her bizarre entourage, her extreme wealth and her zealous intent to return to Guellen and effect her revenge on the community, was watched 37 years ago by the town while she as a young girl left alone, destitute and rejected, banished to life as a prostitute. Alfred is reminded of his part in Claire's downfall but he dismisses his actions as mere history and not worthy of consideration

Initially he enjoys unequivocal community support only to find that with time a majority can be persuaded to change its mind. Anticipated wealth, accumulated debt and a complacency which denies the inexorable progression into insolvency, lead us to an ever more certain conclusion.

The poignancy of 'The Visit' is further enhanced by strangely comic and absurd elements during the earlier scenes. These lure the audience into a false sense of mirth which by no means prepares them for the final outcome, rather the opposite. The result is much greater theatrical impact as the play concludes and challenges our own moral attitudes as we wonder if Claire Zachanassian is justified in her actions, if Alfred deserves her justice, if majority rule is the be all and end all of democracy.

The play has a large cast of 31 and a total of 13 different scenes which present a management task of enormous proportions. Not since directing musicals such as 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 'Joseph', 'Oliver' and 'Oh What a Lovely War' with my pupils at the then Intake High School have I been faced with such a task. However, it has been a one I have relished in spite of what appeared at time to be several insurmountable problems. The show has provided an excellent vehicle to involve a large number of our members and indeed has attracted many new comers to our society.

We hope you find the show entertaining but challenging.

Martin Key

Acknowledgments

The director and Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank the following for their help with this production:



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www.statravel.co.uk

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www.johnheath.co.uk

The programme for this production was produced with the kind assistance of

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To find out more, contact:

The Publicity Officer, Leeds Arts Centre
c/o The Carriageworks
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD
or e-mail us at: publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk

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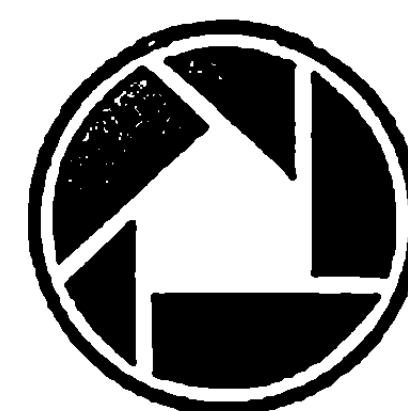
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25th to 27th April 2013

**All proceeds from this production will go to support V-Day 2013 and
Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds (SARSVL)**

www.vday.org

www.supportafterrapeleeds.org.uk

Tickets on sale now £12, £9 concessions

Contact the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office on 0113 224 3801

Future productions:

Dry Rot

by John Chapman

20th June to 22nd June 2013

Upcoming Leeds Civic Arts Guild productions at the Carriageworks

Leeds Youth Opera present

Candide

13th to 16th February 2013

Cosmopolitan Players present

Scenes Unseen: The Early Years

27th February to 3rd March 2013

Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society present

The Sorcerer

17th to 23rd March 2013

<http://www.lcag.btck.co.uk> <http://lcag.boards.net>

<http://www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk/>