



LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

at the CIVIC THEATRE, LEEDS.

10th – 14th OCTOBER, 1972.

THE
WHITE
DEVIL

by John Webster

Webster's Tragedy of "The White Devil"

John Webster's "The White Devil" was first performed in 1612 but "in so dull a time of winter" and in "so open and black a theatre" that the audience was both small and unappreciative. During the following twenty years it was "divers times acted by the Queenes Maisties servants at the Phoenix in Drury Lane". Since that time the play has occasionally been revived, the most recent production being that of the National Theatre in 1969.

"The White Devil" tells the story of Vittoria Accoramboni, who had been murdered in Padua on 22nd December, 1585. It is not known how the story came to Webster, and in his stage version many of the details differ from the fact, but the real events were just as horrific as those presented in the play.

The Story of "The White Devil"

The play is set in Rome, where Vittoria Corombona and the Duke of Brachiano are lovers, brought together by the agency of Vittoria's brother, Flamineo. Brachiano and Flamineo arrange the murders of Vittoria's husband, Camillo, and Brachiano's wife, Isabella.

Vittoria and Flamineo are brought to trial for the murder of Camillo. Their judges are Isabella's brother, the Duke of Florence, and Camillo's cousin, Cardinal Monticelso. There is not enough evidence to convict Flamineo but Vittoria is confined to a House of Convertites.

With the aid of Brachiano, whom she subsequently marries, Vittoria escapes to Padua accompanied by her family.

The Duke of Florence, seeking revenge for his sister's murder, employs the services of Count Lodovico, who had secretly been in love with Isabella. Disguised, they follow Vittoria and Brachiano to Padua.

During his marriage celebrations, Brachiano is poisoned and then strangled by Lodovico and his companion, Gasparo. These two later murder Flamineo and Vittoria. The Duke of Florence returns safely to Rome, leaving the murderers to suffer the consequences of their deeds.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Monticelso , a Cardinal; afterwards Pope Paul IV.	<i>Tony Nelson</i>
Francisco de Medicis , Duke of Florence; afterwards disguised for a Moor, under the name of Mulinassar.	<i>Graham Alchorne</i>
Paulo Giordano Ursini , Duke of Brachiano.	<i>Edwin Barraclough</i>
Isabella , sister to Florence and wife to Brachiano	<i>Pam Wilson</i>
Giovanni , son to Isabella and Brachiano	<i>James Stevenson</i>
Camillo , kinsman to Monticelso	<i>Dennis Stevenson</i>
Vittoria Corombona , a Venetian lady; first married to Camillo, afterwards to Brachiano.	<i>Thelma Stoker</i>
Flamineo , brother to Vittoria and Secretary to Brachiano.	<i>Martin Key</i>
Marcello , brother to Vittoria and Flamineo, and an Attendant of Florence.	<i>John Armitage</i>
Cornelia , mother to Vittoria, Flamineo and Marcello	<i>Monica Brown</i>
Lodovico , an Italian Count, but decayed.	<i>Chris Richmond</i>
Gasparo , his friend and a Dependant of Florence.	<i>Gordon Wilson</i>
The Cardinal of Arragon.	<i>Trevor Money</i>
Hortensio , one of Brachiano's Officers.	<i>Dennis Stevenson</i>
Zanche , a Moor, servant to Vittoria.	<i>Pam Swift</i>
Doctor Julio	<i>Jack Clark</i>
A Conjuror	<i>Trevor Money</i>
A Lawyer	<i>Jack Clark</i>
Matrona of the House of Convertites	<i>Win Clark</i>
Officers	<i>Geoff Mountain, David Marshall-Unitt</i>
Ladies, Courtiers, Ambassadors, Attendants.	<i>Barbara Gilmour, Betty Johnson</i> <i>Betty Triggs, Win Clark</i> <i>Dennis Stevenson, Trevor Money</i>

Directed by Malcolm Brown

ACT I : Rome — Murder

“Excellent devil!
She hath taught him in a dream
To make away his duchess and her husband.”

Interval of five minutes

ACT II : Rome — Justice

“— you have ravish’d justice;
Forc’d her to do your pleasure.”

Interval of fifteen minutes

ACT III : Padua — Revenge

“There are some sins, which heaven doth duly punish
In a whole family. This it is to rise
By all dishonest means!”

The theatre bar will be open during the second interval. Coffee is also available in the bar and ice cream will be sold in the auditorium.

Set & Costume Design	Malcolm Brown	Costumes	Maggie Rhodes, Anne Robinson & members of Leeds Arts Centre Wardrobe Team
Stage Managers	Anne Robinson Geoff Mountain	Properties	Doreen Parker, Dorienne Wilkinson
Lighting	Alan Upton	Box Office	Hazel Irving, Jo Davy, John Pemberton
Music and Sound Effects	Anita Mountain Chris Wilson	Publicity	Gordon Wilson
Prompt	June Stevenson	Front of House Manager	Joan Kent
Resident Stage Manager	Fred Mower		
Theatre Manager	Derek Rose		

We should like to thank Mr. Charles Gardiner and Intake School for the loan of swords, halberds and other properties.

“The end of the matter is that Webster was a great writer
The world called Webster is a peculiar one. It is inhabited by people driven, like animals, and perhaps like men, only by their instincts, but more blindly and ruinously. Life there seems to flow into its forms and shapes with an irregular, abnormal and horrible volume. This is ultimately the most sickly, distressing feature of Webster’s characters, their foul and indestructible vitality. It fills one with the repulsion one feels at the unending, soulless energy that heaves and pulses through the lowest forms of life. They kill, love, torture one another blindly and without ceasing. A play of Webster’s is full of the feverish and ghastly turmoil of a nest of maggots. Maggots are what the inhabitants of this universe most suggest and resemble. The sight of their fever is only alleviated by the permanent calm, unfriendly summits and darkneses of the background of death and gloom. For that is equally a part of Webster’s universe. Human beings are writhing grubs in an immense night. And the night is without stars or moon. But it has sometimes a certain quietude in its darkness; but not very much.”

Rupert Brooke

“The public may leave the Civic Theatre at the end of the performance 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 chairs or any obstruction. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before each performance to confirm that it is in proper working order.”

Leeds City Council Watch Committee

Do not miss “Death of a Salesman” by Arthur Miller, to be presented at this theatre from Tuesday 24th to Saturday 28th October, 1972 by

Leeds Art Theatre.

Thank you for coming

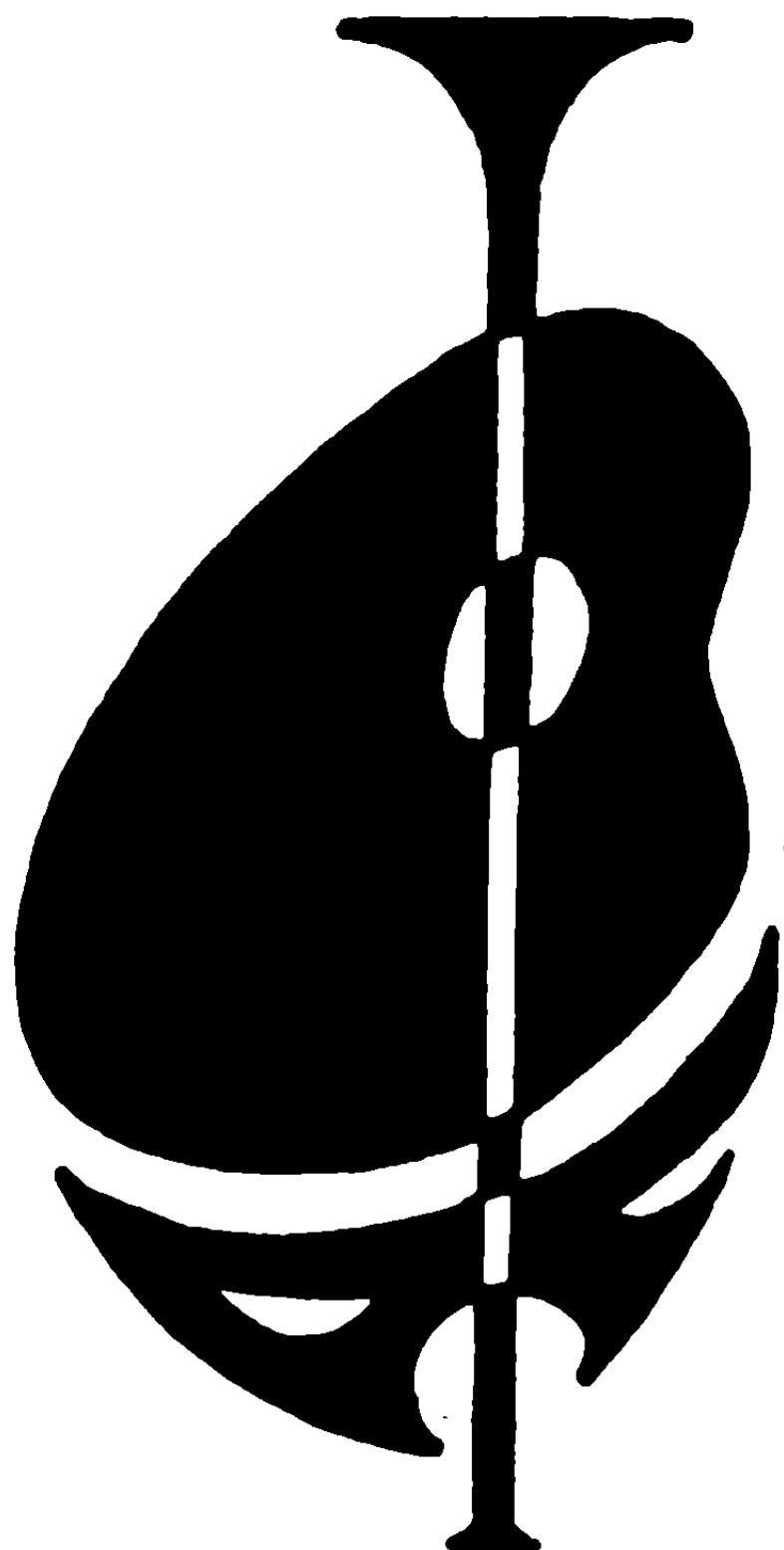
We hope that your enjoyment of "The White Devil" will encourage you to come and see the rest of our programme for this season:

12th to 16th December	"Thieves' Carnival" by Jean Anouilh
6th to 10th February	"She Stoops to Conquer" by Oliver Goldsmith
8th to 12th May	"1066 and All That" by Reginald Arkell
19th to 23rd June	"Roots" by Arnold Wesker

You can book for any of these shows at the Box Office during the second interval. You might like to take advantage of our special "rest of season" membership which, for only £1, gives you a seat anywhere in the theatre for each of the four shows.

If you would like details of our productions and advance postal booking forms to be sent to you regularly in future, please leave your name and address at the Box Office or write to Gordon Wilson, Publicity Officer, Leeds Arts Centre, 44 Long Causeway, Adel, Leeds 16.

About Leeds Arts Centre



The Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur Society to encourage and foster interest in the arts.

The Drama Group mounts five plays each season at the Civic Theatre.

The Green Room Group puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members valuable experience of acting and producing before tackling major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre.

The Fine Arts Group meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work.

In addition there is a variety of social activities, such as theatre visits, outings, parties, etc.

New members are always welcome and if you are interested in joining or would like more information about any of the groups, please write to:-

The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre, 43 Cookridge Street, Leeds, 2.