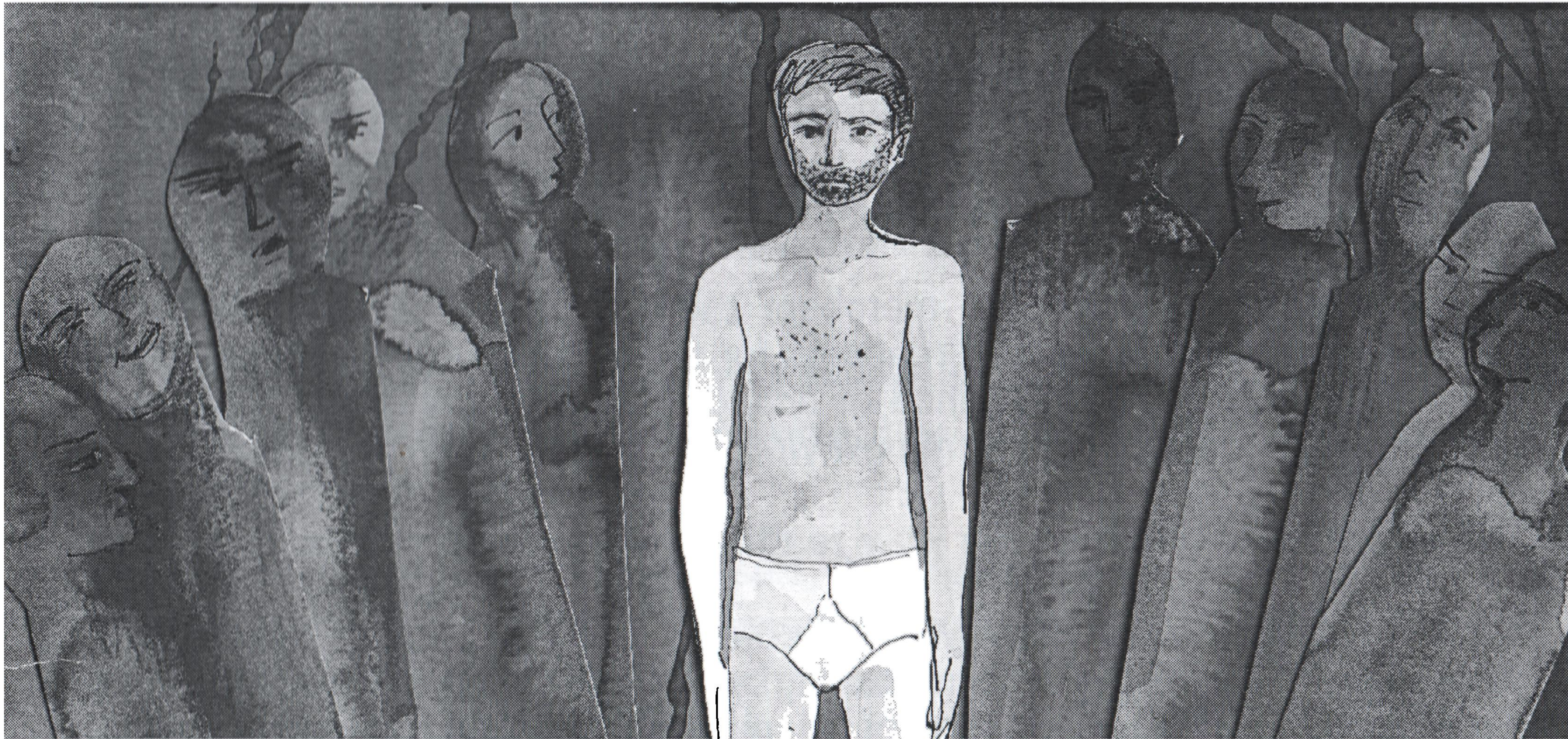




presents

Unspoken



By Neil Rathmell with Trudy Stewart

A play about a man and his stammer

Directed by Trudy Stewart

Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, Leeds

Wednesday 5th to Saturday 8th July 2017





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 production standards. 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 Civic Arts Guild.

'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 production of Unspoken

Director's ramblings

Stammering is a much misunderstood issue. It is not just what you may observe or hear but can affect a person's feelings about themselves and others and the choices he/she makes about how they live.

In a previous life as a Speech & Language Therapist I have been privileged to hear many stories of individuals. I never failed to marvel at their courage and resilience.

One specific person was on my mind when starting the writing process. You can read his story later in this programme: I have called him Patrick (although that is not his real name).

During the writing and in rehearsals, the stammering community across Yorkshire and the British Stammering Association have given their time to help Unspoken be an authentic and credible representation of stammering. I and the whole cast benefited enormously from discussions with, and mentoring from them, which I believe has added another dimension to the interpretation and performances you will see tonight. I hope this play will go some way towards a better understanding of what it is to live alongside this problem.

Finally, my thanks go to the whole cast and production team. We have had so much fun bringing this together. I hope you will have as much enjoyment seeing it performed.

Please grab a drink from the bar at the end of the show and come back for the post show discussion with the cast and others from the stammering community.

Thanks for coming!

Dr Trudy Stewart



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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsArtsCentre/)

News and info



<http://twitter.com/#!/leedsartscentre/>

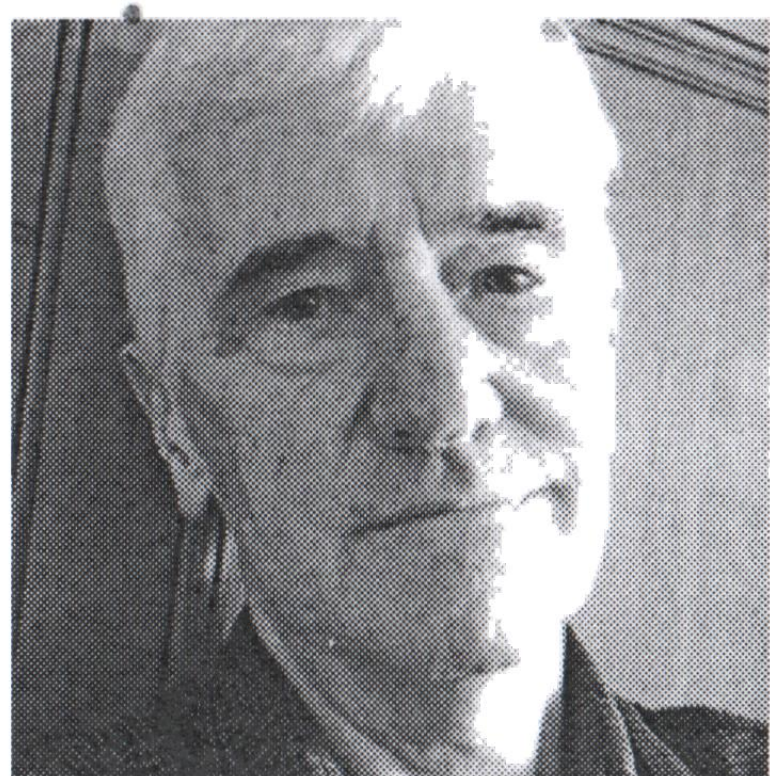
Updates on the go

Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/



Biographies

Neil Rathmell - Writer



Neil Rathmell grew up in Yorkshire, where he now lives. His first experience of theatre was as a member of Bradford Civic Playhouse when he was a pupil at Woodhouse Grove School. He read English at Jesus College, Cambridge, and has worked in state schools in England as teacher, adviser and inspector. His published work includes novels, short stories, plays, poems and essays. His first novel, *The Old School*, was published by Faber & Faber. *'Integrity and exactness*

shine forth from every page' (Sunday Times). His short works of fiction have been published in literary magazines in the UK and Ireland.
www.neilrathmell.com

Trudy Stewart - Director and Writer



Dr Trudy Stewart worked as a speech and language therapist for nearly 40 years, specialising in stammering. She was Clinical Lead of the Stammering Support Centre in Leeds, a researcher, conference presenter and author of several texts on stammering. Her last book 'Stammering: a resource book for teachers' was published last year. Currently, she is writing children's stories, learning French and directing plays.

Oliver Sapier - Alex



Oliver Sapier is currently studying Business Management at the University of Birmingham. He has been acting for 9 years, playing over 20 characters, and wants to pursue acting as a career due to his passion for the arts. This passion was born after playing The Artful Dodger (from Oliver) when he was 10. He prides himself on being a versatile actor, considering every

role available to him. However, he has a keen interest in thought-provoking drama, much like *Unspoken*.



Biographies

Pam Wilson - Mother, Sophia, Course Leader, Parveen & Customer 1



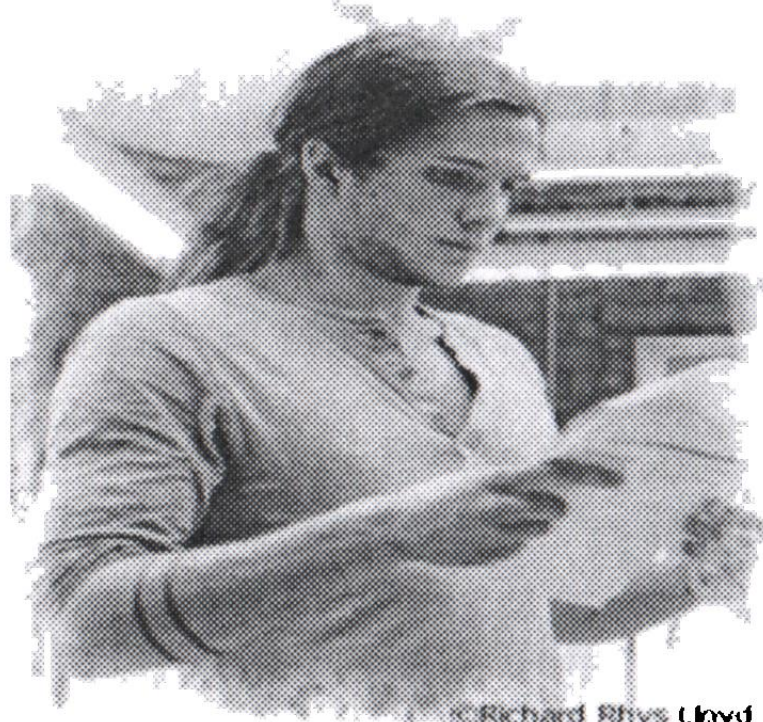
Pam is amazed to realise that she has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for more than 40 years, running the whole gamut of roles from naive ingénue to curmudgeonly old woman (with several sub-human characters on the way) and occasionally directing. Off-stage she has contributed to wardrobe, props and set-painting - none of which involve learning any lines - and now edits Leeds Arts Centre's monthly newsletter.

Maureen Willis - Grandmother, Jennifer, Course Leader, School Librarian & Caller 1



Maureen (Mo to us!) is currently Chair of Leeds Arts Centre, which she joined in 2012. Since then she has enjoyed a variety of roles. Offstage she has contributed to wardrobe, props, set painting and also organises the group's play reading evenings.

Djo Fisher— James, Garage Mechanic, Class Teacher, Customer 2, Careers Teacher, Bus Driver & Caller 2

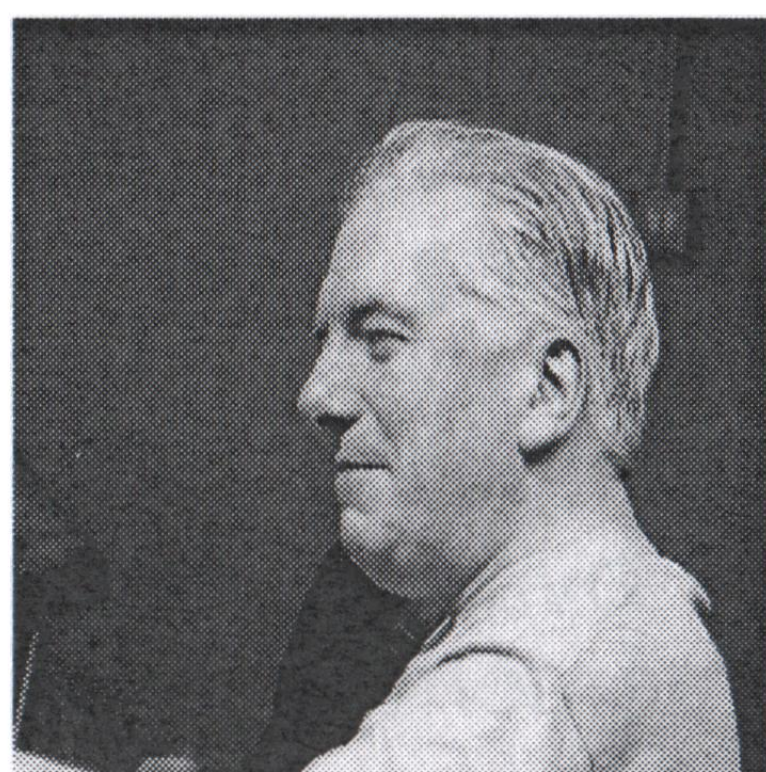


Djo was born and grew up in Leeds. He is a new member of Leeds Arts Centre and this is his first time acting. He has always loved writing and performing poetry and thought it was about time he dipped his toe into the world of acting.



Biographies

Rich Francis– Father, Waiter, Bully, English Teacher, Bank Clerk & Caller 3



Rich Francis has been with LAC for 30 years. He has worked behind the scenes on more shows than he can remember. Along with many smaller roles he has appeared on stage as Caliban in 'The Tempest', and as Mr. Horner in 'The Country Wife'. Rich is also a director and has directed 'Billy Liar', 'The Dresser', 'Art', 'Waiting for Godot', and 'Macbeth'.

Mark Sowden - Wrestler, Supply Teacher & Caller 4



It is 30 years since Mark was last on stage in his home town of Leeds, when he played Creon in Kay Mellor's production of 'Antigone'. He is delighted to return in such an original and socially-relevant play as 'Unspoken' – a marked contrast to his last role as Lawrence in the stage musical 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels'.

Victoria Bailey - Helen, Infant Teacher, Shop Assistant & Katy



Since graduating with an honours degree in Drama 10 years ago, you will have seen Victoria on your screen in various commercials such as, The Three Network, Foxy Bingo, WeBuyAnyCar.com to name a few. She's had success with a role on Kay Mellor's drama 'In the Club 2' last year and has just finished filming the role of 'Joanne' for Kay Mellor's new show 'Love, Lies and Records' which will be aired later this year. Victoria is one of our newest members of the LAC but is no stranger to the Carrigeworks stage. The last time she performed here, she was crowned as our very own 'Miss Leeds' 2009 and went on to be 3rd in Miss England!



Notes on Unspoken

Unspoken: a new play about stammering.

Neil Rathmell and Trudy Stewart collaborated and wrote this interesting representation of one man's struggle to live openly with his stammer.

The narrative of the play centres around Alex, a young man who has been hiding his stammer all his life. The audience see Alex preparing to go out and we learn that he plans to propose to his girlfriend during the evening. However, this event appears less important as Alex is grappling with a bigger issue. He must decide whether to tell the woman he loves the secret of his stammer. Can he risk being open? As the memories of his stammering flood his thoughts, he must choose. Will he tell her, or once again let it remain UNSPOKEN?

The play addresses 5 themes which people who stammer and speech therapists will recognise:-

- The feeling of being different from others.
- The feeling of vulnerability that often accompanies a stammer.
- The issue that each person has a choice in how they manage and live with their individual weaknesses.
- The compromises that an individual makes in order to minimise what other people see of their stammer.
- The burden of experience or memory - how we all choose to remember times gone by which can then define and limit how we live.

There will be a 15 minute break before the post show discussion.

WARNING: The play contains some strong language

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



Cast

Burden
of-
memory

Alex:	Oliver Sapier
Mother, Sophia, Course Leader, Parveen & Customer 1:	Pam Wilson
Grandmother, Jennifer, School Librarian & Caller 7:	Maureen Willis
James, Garage Mechanic, Class Teacher, Customer 2, Careers Teacher, Bus Driver & Caller 2:	Djo Fisher
Father, Waiter, Bully, English Teacher, Bank Clerk & Caller 3:	Rich Francis
Wrestler, Supply Teacher & Caller 4:	Mark Sowden
Helen, Infant Teacher, Shop Assistant & Katy:	Victoria Bailey

Production Team

Director:	Trudy Stewart
Production Manager:	Rich Francis
Set and Sound:	Steve Fryatt
Properties:	Jenny Carter, Denise Davies & Elizabeth Hayes
Wardrobe:	Pam Wilson & Kathryn Francis
Voice Coach:	Mary Nelson
Stammering Coach:	Jordan Halkier
Wrestling Consultant:	Martin Key
Lighting:	Carriageworks Technical Team
Front of House Team:	Camilla Asher & LAC members



“Patrick’s” story: the real story of stammering

When Patrick came for therapy he told his therapist that he didn't want anyone to know he had a stammer but lived trying to hide it. Even his wife of 25 years did not know. You may think that it is impossible for a person to hide a stammer to the extent that even their nearest and dearest do not know. Well, Patrick used many, many strategies: he changed words; avoided situations; appeared rude and impatient to cover his anxiety in queues, restaurants, shops and at work; and used swearing when he anticipated stammering (because he could swear fluently).

In effect, he was quite a different person, hiding his stammer than he was underneath. One night in group therapy, the group had been encouraged to bring their partners to the session. Patrick, of course, chose not to bring his wife and attended on his own. During the evening he saw one group member being supported in a lovely way by her partner while she struggled with her speech. Patrick realised that he was missing out. The following weekend he told his wife he was taking her out for dinner as he had something important to tell her. They went out and he told her he had a stammer. She was amazed, had no idea, but told him she would support him in any way she could. She subsequently came with him to group therapy a couple of times. Within a few weeks, Patrick decided he did not need therapy any longer and left.

Support and help for individuals who stammer is available from the British Stammering Association.

15, Old Fold Road, London, E2 9PJ

Tel: 0208 9831003

Email: mail@stammering.org

Helpline: 0208 8806590 or info@stammering.org



Rehearsal Photos



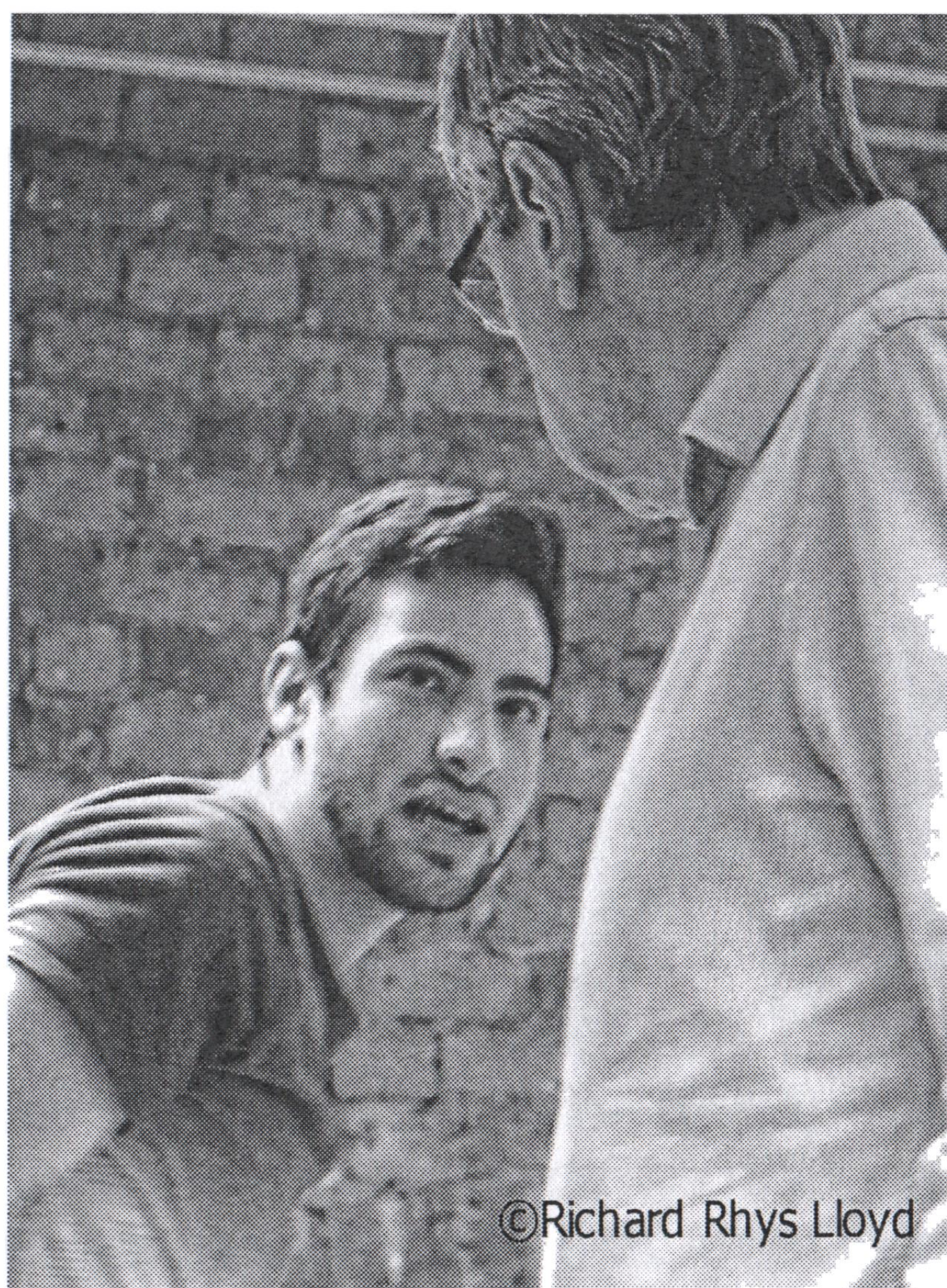


Rehearsal Photos





Rehearsal Photos



Photos by Richard Rhys Lloyd
www.imagesofrichard.com

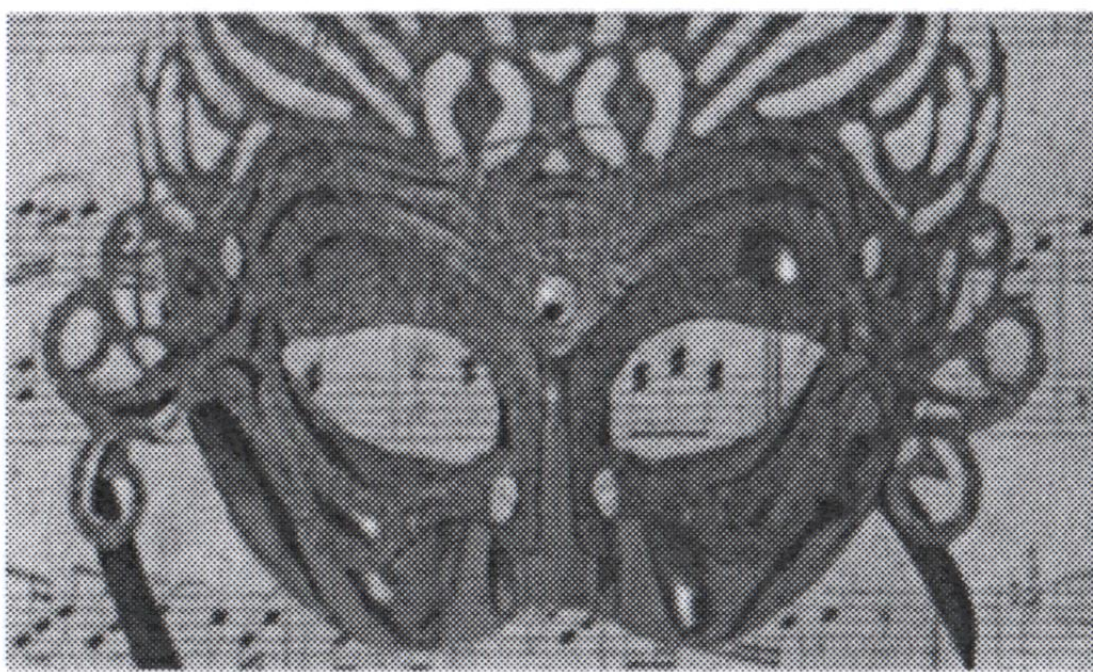


Leeds Civic Arts Guild is the 'umbrella' association of various dramatic, musical, operatic and arts societies that are based in the centre of Leeds at the Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has its own identity, however they all come together as part of the Guild, working with Leeds City Council and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

Cosmopolitan Players (COS) - Leeds Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS) - Leeds Arts Centre (LAC) - Leeds Children's Theatre (LCT) - Leeds Gilbert and Sullivan Society (G&S) - LIDOS - Leeds Writers Circle - Leeds Youth Opera (LYO) - Morley Amateur Operatic Society (MAOS) - St Mary's Youth Theatre - Shatterproof - STARS

For more information visit www.lcag.org.uk

More great upcoming shows from Leeds Civic Arts Guild Groups



A Masked Ball (LYO) – 5th – 8th July, The Carriageworks

Rent (LIDOS) - 12th - 16th September, The Carriageworks

Sweet Charity (MAOS) – 27th – 30th September, Morley Town Hall

Goodnight Mister Tom (LCT) – 15th – 18th November, The Carriageworks



Acknowledgements

We are currently looking for companies and organisations that would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.

With special thanks to the following people for their kind assistance:

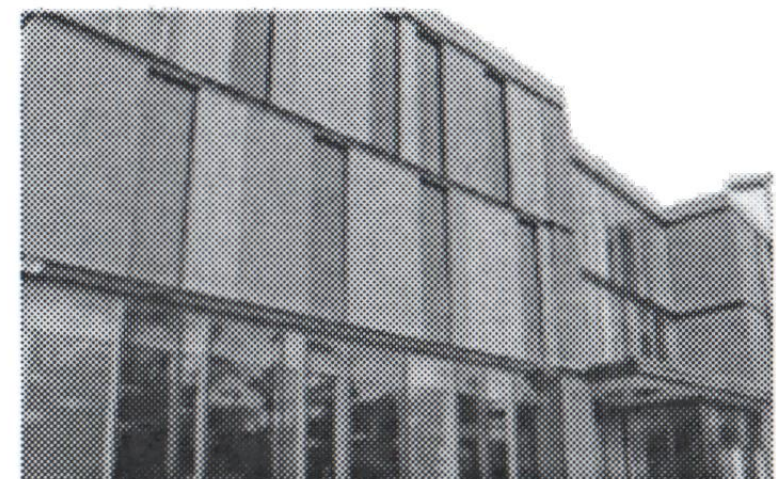
Maria Hayes for the artwork
<http://www.mariahayes.info/>



The British
Stammering
Association



Doncaster Self Help Group
Leeds Toolbox Group



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

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

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www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk



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 Leeds Arts Centres annual accounts.

49 Chapeltown, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, LS28 7RZ Tel: 0113 255 7406

Thanks to Freesound.org for supplying the sounds used in the production.
Scheming 1095 by Setuniman Office Phone Ring by visualasylumfirealarm.wav by consto



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions are:-

Blood and Ice by Liz Lochhead

Directed by Camilla Asher

Wednesday 18 October – Saturday 21 October 2017

Liz Lochhead, (Scots Makar – the National Poet for Scotland, from 2011-16) tells the tale of the creation of the story of Frankenstein. Through Mary Shelley's flashbacks we see eerie similarities between the story and her own life. The beautifully written play gives an interesting insight into the lives of Mary Shelley, Percy Bysshe Shelley and Lord Byron and covers philosophical and political issues that are almost as topical now as they were back in the 19th Century. Discover another side to 'Frankenstein' in its 200th year!

Steel Magnolias by Robert Harling

Directed by Zoe Freedman

Thursday 1 February – Saturday 3 Feb 2018

The play (on which the well-known 1980s film is based) opens with discussion of Shelby's wedding day to her fiancé, Jackson, in the fictional north western Louisiana parish of Chinquapin at Truvy's in-home beauty parlour where the women regularly gather. It covers events over the next three years and how the women interact, at times with conflict, but in the end resolved friends: Shelby's decision to have a child despite the complication that can result from her diabetes; Claire's friendship with the curmudgeon Ouiser; Annelle's transformation from a shy, anxious newcomer in town to a good-time girl then repentant revival-tent Christian; and Truvy's relationships with the men in her family. Although the main storyline revolves around Shelby, her mother M'Lynn, and Shelby's medical battles, the underlying group friendship among all six women is prominent throughout the drama.

Far from the Madding Crowd

**Adapted by Matthew White from the novel by
Thomas Hardy**

Directed by Maria Kwater

Thursday 3 - Saturday 5 May 2018

Bathsheba Everdene, a wilful and independent young woman, inherits her uncle's farm. She is loved and pursued by three men: Gabriel Oak, her steady, loyal and practical shepherd; William Boldwood, a prosperous neighbouring farmer who is obsessed by Bathsheba; and the dashing, bewitching, but irresponsible Sergeant Troy, who has a dark secret in his past. Who will Bathsheba marry, and will it all be plain sailing after the wedding? This iconic tale (with well-known film versions) involves passion, intrigue, murder and earthy humour as we find out Bathsheba's fate.....

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