

Leeds Arts Centre
at the
Civic Theatre

*Celebrates the
J B Priestley
Centenary
with*

When we are Married

21st to 26th June 1994

When we are Married

1994 sees the 100th anniversary of the birth of John Boynton Priestley, that great Yorkshire man of letters who has kept audiences amused, mystified, but above all entertained since his first play appeared in 1932. Born in Bradford in 1894, the son of a schoolmaster, he left school early to work in a wool office where he began to write pieces for the local newspapers.

After war service he read History and English Literature at Cambridge and then turned his attention fully to writing - reviews, essays, criticisms, novels and eventually plays. His output has been vast and although he has sometimes fallen foul of the critics, his ability to tell a good story, peopled by credible characters, has generally delighted the theatre-going public.

When we are Married was written and first produced at the St Martin's theatre in October 1938. In Priestley's own words *"It has been popular ever since. I enjoyed writing this broadly farcical comedy because I had a lot of fun remembering and then using various aspects of West Riding Life and manners known to my boyhood. The plot is nonsensical but the characters and their attitudes and their talk are all authentic. It was during the early part of its run that I had to take over, at twenty four hours notice, the part of Henry Ormonroyd, the drunken photographer, and thus did some acting of a sort, about which I have boasted ever since"*.

Leeds Arts Centre has presented **When we are Married** twice before - in 1963 and 1977. In this production, Philip Weston returns to the part of Joe Helliwell which he originally played in 1963 alongside the young (and then unknown) John Craven as Gerald Forbes the chapel organist. Betty Triggs and Jean Blundell repeat the roles they played in the 1977 production.

No doubt audiences will continue to laugh at the predicament of those upright pillars of the Edwardian community, the Helliwells, Parkers and Soppitts, for many years to come. Perhaps they will agree with Priestley's own view of himself as a writer:- *"I have no genius but I have a hell of a lot of talent"*.

Leeds Arts Centre is proud to present one of his most popular comedies in this his centenary year.

by
J B Priestley

Cast in order of appearance

Ruby Birtle	<i>Sarah Oldknow</i>
Gerald Forbes	<i>Richard Francis</i>
Mrs Northrop	<i>Jean Blundell</i>
Nancy Holmes	<i>Kathryn Heneachon</i>
Fred Dyson	<i>David Mallinson</i>
Henry Ormonroyd	<i>Malcolm Brown</i>
Joseph Helliwell	<i>Philip Weston</i>
Maria Helliwell	<i>Christine Wilson</i>
Albert Parker	<i>Gordon Wilson</i>
Herbert Soppitt	<i>Chris Ward</i>
Clara Soppitt	<i>Monica Brown</i>
Annie Parker	<i>Betty Triggs</i>
Lottie Grady	<i>Pam Wilson</i>
Reverend Clement Mercer	<i>Edwin Barraclough</i>

Directed *by* Gordon Carlin

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For the Arts Centre:

Stage Manager	<i>Martyn Drake</i>
Assistant Stage Manager	<i>Gwynneth Hadley</i>
Set construction	<i>George Westmoreland, George Teale and David Mallinson</i>
Properties	<i>Doreen Parker and George Judd</i>
Lighting	<i>Laurie Ball</i>
Sound	<i>Jim Marshall</i>
Prompt	<i>Shirley Burgess</i>
Costumes	<i>Margaret Rhodes and wardrobe team</i>
Front of House	<i>June Stevenson and Shirley Broadbent</i>
Publicity	<i>Chris Ward</i>
Box Office	<i>Margaret Rhodes and June Stevenson</i>

For the Civic Theatre:

Theatre Manager	<i>Steven Cartwright</i>
Assistant Manager	<i>Vivien Simpson</i>
Chief Technician	<i>Peter Waddicor</i>
Technicians	<i>Simon Anderson, Sandy Clarke and Chas Elliott</i>
Publicity.....	<i>Steven Cartwright and Damon Chapman</i>
Box Office	<i>Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall Tanya Owram and Damon Chapman</i>
Front of House....	<i>Sylvia Gooding, Susie Haynes and James Wood</i>

Synopsis of scenes:

The action takes place one evening about eighty five years ago in the sitting room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckleywyke, a town in the West Riding of Yorkshire.

ACT 1 A September evening

ACT 2 About half an hour later

Interval of fifteen minutes

ACT 3 About quarter of an hour later

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Next Week.....

The Proscenium Players present
Hobson's Choice
by Harold Brighouse

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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

Costume Hire

Costumes of various types and periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates either by drama societies or by individuals for fancy dress occasions.

Please telephone Leeds 756796 and discuss your requirements with Mrs Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress.

About Leeds Arts Centre...

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur Society to encourage and foster interest in the Arts. Members come from all walks of life and include some who have worked in and others who aspire to the professional theatre.

Our activities are now mainly centred around the theatre with the **Drama Group** mounting four or five plays each year at the Civic Theatre. These often include a musical or review type show.

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 they tackle major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre. Prospective members are welcome to attend these performances.

The **Fine Arts Group** meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work. Annual exhibitions are held of members' work.

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

New Members...

We are always glad to welcome **new members** and our lively **Green Room Group** provides a friendly atmosphere in which younger and less experienced members develop their potential - making friends in the process. If you are interested in acting, producing, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please have a word with one of our members tonight or write to:

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

Don't miss.....

A Midsummer Nights Dream

By William Shakespeare

Directed by Malcolm Brown

11th to 15th October 1994

Leeds Arts Centre 1994-95 Season of Plays

A Midsummer Nights Dream

Perhaps Shakespeare's most popular comedy. A cautionary tale about the problems that can follow when the members of the fairy kingdom interfere with the course of true love in the mortal world. This is the perfect play both for Shakespeare lovers and those who are trying his works for the first time.

Director: Malcolm Brown

11th to 15th October 1994

Cabaret

This musical is familiar to many of us as a film but it takes on a new light on the live stage. The intimacy of the theatre draws us closer into the life of Sally Bowles, sharpens the sleazy atmosphere of the KitKat Club and allows the Nazi shadow to fall more darkly over the watching audience.

The music is still the same though and we can be sure of an entertaining evening at the KitKat club.

Director: Michael Brooksbank

7th to 11th February 1995

The Lion in Winter

James Goldman's witty drama about the power struggle between Henry I and his wife Eleanor of Aquitaine over who should inherit the throne of England - will it be their legendary son Richard the Lionheart or much-maligned John?

Towering characters from history plot and counterplot, pushing each other to the very edge in this exciting and yet highly amusing play.

Director: Chris Ward

28 March to 1st April 1995

Sisterly Feelings

There are four possible versions of this hilarious comedy by Alan Ayckbourn. The toss of a coin determines whether Abigail or her sister Dorcas will choose to go off with handsome Simon, in either case with riotous consequences. Come only if you enjoy laughing!

Director: Pam Wilson

13th to 17th June 1995

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Booking: City Centre Booking Office, Civic Theatre, Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 8BH. Open 10am to 8pm Monday-Saturday. Telephone 0532 76962 or 455055.