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Registered Charity No. HS503872R

A Resounding Tinkle

by N. F. Simpson

...and...

The Dumb Waiter

by Harold Pinter

Wednesday 14th to Saturday 17th October 2009



Leeds Arts Centre is a prestigious amateur theatre group which was founded in 1945. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. We produce four 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 why not 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



The Dumb Waiter and Harold Pinter

Harold Pinter died on Christmas Eve 2008, aged 78. He was a prolific writer, director and actor for stage, screen and TV. In his lifetime, he was given many awards, including the Legion d'Honneur in 2007 and the Nobel Prize for Literature in 2005. He was also a vociferous anti-war campaigner.

Although written in 1957, *The Dumb Waiter* was not performed until 1960. It carries a marvellous menu of suspense and dark comedy that seamlessly blends the everyday prattle of life and death, power and control, toilets and two teas without sugar. When the play was revived for its fiftieth anniversary two years ago, Michael Billington of the *Guardian* commented:

Pinter knows exactly how to balance comedy and fear to imply that we are all in the grip of invisible, higher powers.

What Horace Engdahl of the Swedish Academy said at the playwright's Nobel award ceremony is particularly true of this piece: *Pinter restored theatre to its basic elements: an enclosed space and unpredictable dialogue, where people are at the mercy of each other and pretence crumbles.* This production of *The Dumb Waiter* has been set timelessly.

In his Nobel Prize acceptance speech, Pinter summed up what his plays meant to him:

Truth in drama is forever elusive. You never quite find it but the search for it is compulsive...But the real truth is that there never is any such thing as one truth to be found in dramatic art. There are many. These truths challenge each other, recoil from each other, reflect each other, ignore each other, tease each other, are blind to each other. Sometimes you feel you have the truth of a moment in your hand, then it slips through your fingers and is lost.

Enjoy the show, but don't get too comfortable.....

Maria Kwater - Director



Production Team

Production Manager
Stage Manager
Asst. Stage Managers

Joyce King
Steve Fryatt
Martyn Drake
Chris Czuhra
Edwin Barraclough
Pete Sandles and
LAC Members

Set Construction

Design and construction of
the dumb waiter
Properties

Pete Sandles
Catherine Land &
Rob Sherwood
LAC Team

Costumes
Lighting

Chaz Elliott and
Peter Waddicor

Sound recording
Sound operation
Prompt

Jim Marshall
Pauline Ashworth
Cal Rake, Debs Sandles &
Carol Plant
Amy Dutton

Front of House Mgr.



Cast
(in order of appearance)

A Resounding Tinkle
directed by Zoë Freedman

Bro	Robin Thornton
Middie	Amy Grindle
Uncle Ted	E. Feist

The Dumb waiter
directed by Maria Kwater

Ben	Simon Twine
Gus	Ed Corbett

**The Running time of this production is approximately
two hours including one interval of fifteen minutes
during which the bar will be open.**



A Resounding Tinkle and N.F. Simpson

In the 1960s N. F. Simpson was a celebrated absurdist playwright whose name was up in lights with Beckett and Pinter and who was acclaimed by Kenneth Tynan as *"the most gifted comic writer the English stage has discovered since the war"*.

The theatre's answer to Spike Milligan, he came to fame in 1958 with *A Resounding Tinkle*, which concerns a suburban couple who have been delivered the wrong-sized elephant. (*"If it goes berserk in the night I'm not getting up for it."*). In *A Resounding Tinkle*, Simpson shows his aversion to plot and establishes his talent for memorable one-liners and non-sequiturs. As with all of his subsequent work, the play demands absolutely straight delivery from actors. They have to convince the audience that the characters are living in a form of reality – a world where the formation of a government can be arranged via a door-to-door salesman, for example. The extraordinary and impossible are treated as perfectly rational everyday events.

Among other plays, Simpson produced his masterpiece, *One Way Pendulum*, which again featured a suburban family - this time training 500 Speak Your Weight machines to sing the Hallelujah Chorus.

These comedies of suburban life inspired an entire generation of comic writers: Peter Cook and Dudley Moore, The Monty Python Team and John Bird all cite Simpson as having an effect on their style of writing. Indeed this type of absurd humour is now part of mainstream TV, but N. F. Simpson's work vanished from the professional stage and Simpson himself now lives as a semi-recluse in rural Cornwall.

Be prepared to laugh, be baffled and enter the surreal world of N.F. Simpson.

Zoë Freedman - Director



Advertising & 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 that would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.

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

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

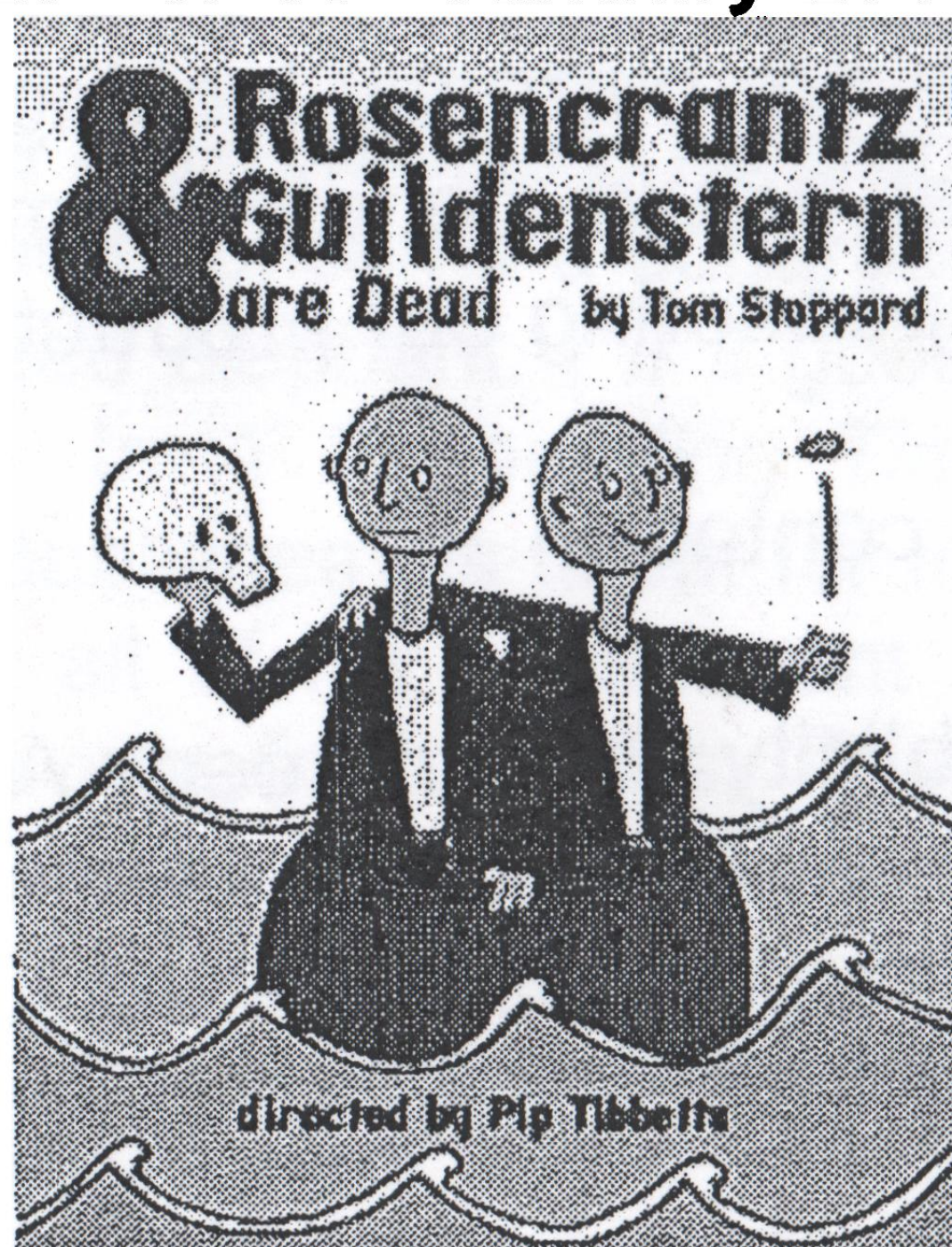
Lewis Francis Blackburn
solicitors

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE
0114 272 9721

Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank the Carriageworks
management, stage crew and all the team for their
continued support and assistance.

Forthcoming Productions at the Carriageworks

27th to 30th January 2010



14th to 17th April 2010

The Dresser

by Ronald Harwood
directed by Rich Francis

June 2010

The Deep Blue Sea

by Terrence Rattigan
directed by David Lancaster

The next Leeds Civic Arts Guild production at the Carriageworks
Cosmopolitan Players
A Kick in the Baubles

Wednesday 21 - Saturday 24 October 2009
7.30pm