Mr. Oscar Wilde’s period drama

A Woman of No Importance

Designed and directed by Mr. Gerry Armytage

Thursday 2nd February to Saturday 4th February 2006
Leeds Arts Centre is an amateur dramatic society founded in 1945. We have members from all walks of life, including people who have worked in the theatre, others who hope to make a career on the stage, and many who are very happy to remain amateurs. We are a very friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known, and we always aim to enjoy ourselves. We produce four plays each year at the Civic Theatre, as well as Green Room productions to help members develop their acting, directing and production skills.

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
Director’s Notes

A Woman of No Importance
by Mr. Oscar Wilde

“A Woman of No Importance” was first presented as “A new and original play of modern life” at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket on the 19th April 1893.

For me, it is a melodrama, a moral tale of retribution and forgiveness revolving around the lines spoken by Lord Illingworth, “Children begin by loving their parents, after a time they judge them. Rarely, if ever, do they forgive them”. This is surely a dilemma in which many parents find themselves today.

Lord Illingworth and the other three protagonists, Mrs Arbuthnot, Gerald and Hester, experience events which will change their lives forever. Gerald is the catalyst in these changes, even though he is the only truly innocent and unflawed character in the piece. For the rest of the play, it is peopled by personalities developed from the rules and hypocrisies of the social sphere in which they exist. Their flaws, many unrealised and unintended, and the social codes which created them are under constant attack from the author, Wilde’s brilliance and sparkling humour shimmer throughout, creating for his audience an evening which we hope will be moving, witty and highly entertaining.

The “Carriageworks” is probably the most spectacular “gift” to any amateur organisation. It is very likely unique in this country, maybe in the world. A new theatre like this demands new approaches, fresh ideas and an adventurous spirit. Nostalgia can be treated with affection, but a new venture like the “Carriageworks” insists upon optimism.

Gerry Armytage
Director
Characters

Lord Illingworth  Mr. Mark Haigh
St John Pontefract  Mr. Martin Key
Lord Alfred Rufford  Mr. Michael McGrath
Mr. Kelvil, M.P.  Mr. Malcolm Brown
The Ven. Archdeacon. Daubney, D.D.  Mr. Edwin Barraclough
Gerald Arbuthnot  Mr. Gabriel G. Keogh
Francis  Mr. Christopher Hoyle
Lady Jane Hunstanton  Mrs. Shirley A. Broadbent
Lady Caroline Pontefract  Mrs. Monica Brown
Lady Stutfield  Miss Amy Dutton
Mrs Allonby  Miss Rachel Vernelle
Miss Hester Worsley  Miss Katherine Russell
Alice  Miss Rachel Creamer
Mrs. Arbuthnot  Mrs. Margaret Savage

The scenes of the play

Act I.  A Terrace at Hunstanton Close.  Afternoon.

Act II.  The same.  That evening.

Act III.  The Hall at Hunstanton Close.  Fifteen minutes later.

Act IV.  Sitting Room in Mrs Arbuthnot’s House at Wrockley.  The following morning.

Time  -  Summer 1893

Place  -  The Shires

The action of the play takes place within twenty-four hours.
Production Team

Design and Direction  Mr. Gerry Armytage
Production Manager  Mr. Martin Key
Set Construction  Mr. Peter Sandles and the LAC team
Stage Manager  Mr. Stephen Fryatt
Assistant Stage Managers  Mr. Tony Nelson
Stage Crew  Peter Sandles, Robert Sherwood, Michael Wood
Costumes  W. A. Homburg Ltd., LAC Wardrobe
Set Dressing/Properties  Mrs. Doreen Parker, Mrs. Denise Davies, Miss Young Mi Song
Wigs and hair  Mrs. Jean Blundell
Lighting  Mr. Peter Waddicor
Sound Operation  Mlle. Anne-Lise Vaur
Prompter  Mrs. Mary Nelson
Front of House Manager  Mr. Robin Thornton

The Running time of this production is approximately two hours; there will be one interval of fifteen minutes during which the bar will be open.
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The programme for this production was produced with the kind assistance of

Lewis Francis
solicitors

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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 our Publicity Officer at:

Publicity Officer
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
FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

27th to 29th April 2006

Straight and Narrow
By Jimmie Chinn
Directed by Peter Sandles

21st to 24th June 2006

Billy Liar
By Keith Waterhouse & Willis Hall
Directed by Rich Francis

October 2006

Theatre Suite
Written and Directed by Martin Key

The next Leeds Arts Guild Production at the Carriageworks

Cinderella by Massenet
Presented by Leeds Youth Opera

15th and 18th February 2006 @ 7.30pm