

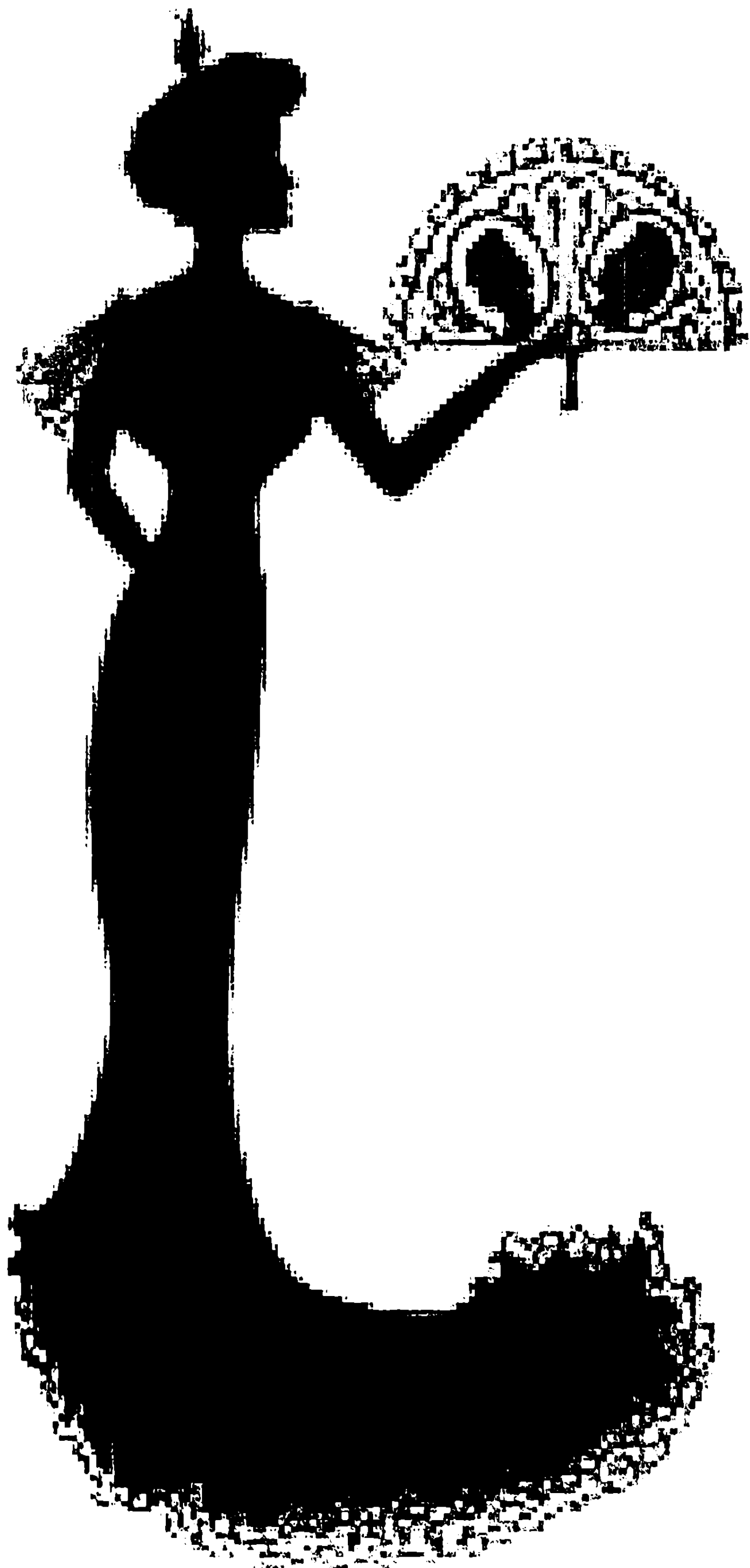


the  
carriageworks  
the next stage



[www.leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk)

Registered Charity No. HS503872R



Mr. Oscar Wilde's  
period drama

# A Woman of No Importance

Designed and directed by  
Mr. Gerry Armytage

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February to Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 19<sup>th</sup> 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

16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE  
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## **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 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](mailto: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](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk)



## **FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS**

27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2006

### **Straight and Narrow**

By Jimmie Chinn  
Directed by Peter Sandles

21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> 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

15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February 2006 @ 7.30pm