



presents



After Midnight – Before Dawn

by David Campton

&

The Rose and Crown

by J. B. Priestley

Directed by Ken Taylor

CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE
Millennium Square, Leeds

Wednesday 26th - Saturday 29th
April 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. The Drama group is a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of its productions and after sixty years at the Civic Theatre it now presents 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.

We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known.

'Green Room' offers members the opportunity to perform short plays, extracts and rehearsed readings for a restricted audience; it gives newer members experience of acting, directing, backstage work and also offers 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 and subscriptions, plus other fund-raising activities.

Our members range in age from 16 to 80+ and we have a strong core of both younger and older members, who come from all walks of life and 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 The Rose and Crown and After Midnight – Before Dawn

It has been said of David Campton that he is an exponent of the 'Comedy of Menace', in a similar vein to Harold Pinter. There is little to laugh at in After Midnight – Before Dawn, written in 1978, but there is plenty of menace, which culminates in violence. He explores the reactions of ordinary women caught in a situation that they struggle to understand, and how such a situation can lead to extraordinary reactions. Which of us can say that the imminence of death would make us behave any better than some of the characters in the play do? They all know that they face a slow agonising death and some, when shown an opportunity to avoid it, decide to risk all.

In this same theme of reaction to the inevitability of death, J.B Priestley explores in The Rose & Crown, (written for television in 1946), how his characters cope with the possibility that they must shortly die. He uses his well-tried method of allowing characters to unthinkingly condemn themselves, before being called to account by an implacable judge. It may be useful to reflect that in 1946 the country was struggling with the after effects of a savage, draining, war. Food and vital commodities were still rationed, and the notion of sacrificing one's life for the benefit of others had been all too common a factor for the previous six years.

Being short, these plays represent a considerable challenge to director and actors in getting across character and meaning in a fairly brief time. I am indebted to my casts, and to the always brilliant but unseen team of creatives who have worked extremely hard to bring this production to you.

Kind regards

Ken



Leeds Arts Centre

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
<http://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/>

News and info



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

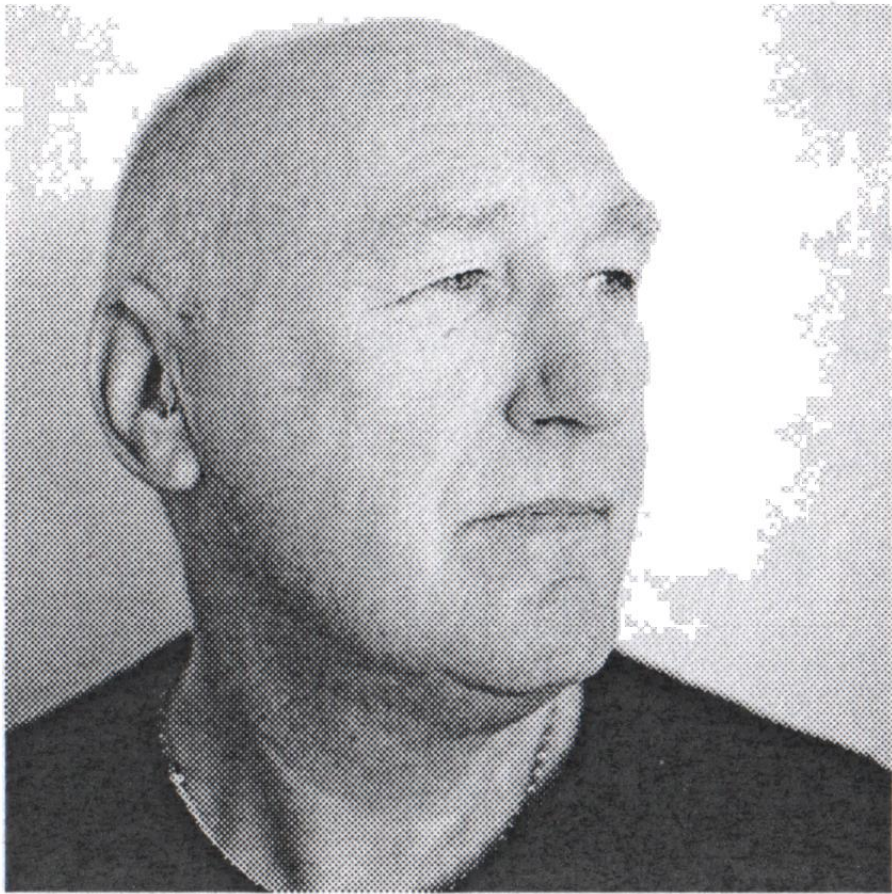
Updates on the go

Visit <http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/>



Biographies

Ken Taylor - Director

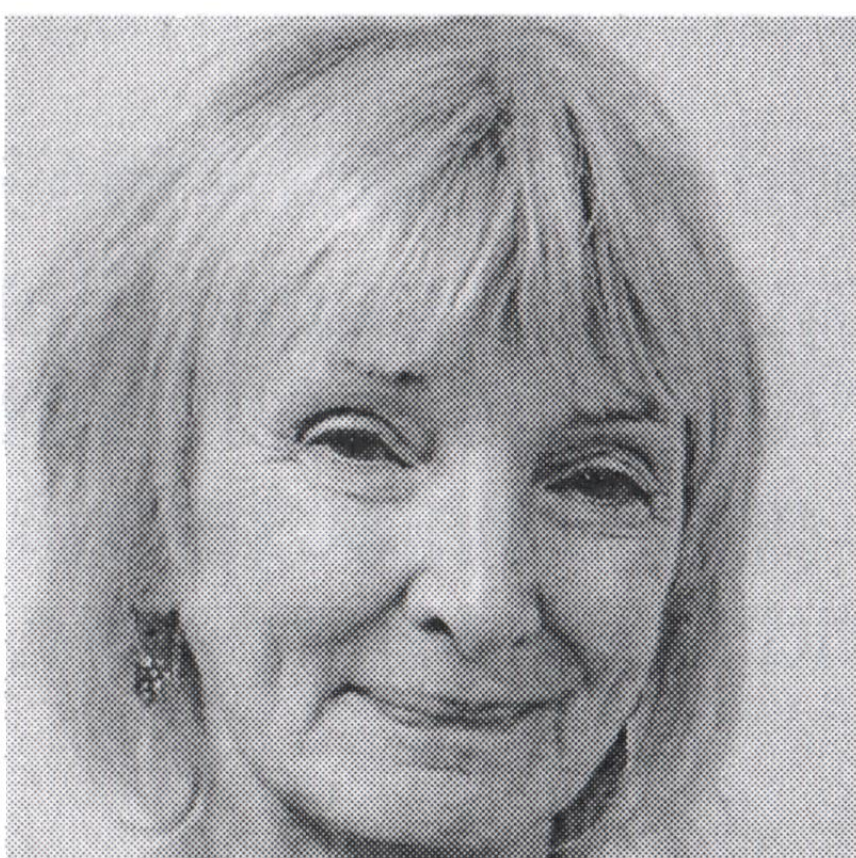


Ken is a very experienced actor and director, and has been with Leeds Arts Centre since 2012. He has acted on stage and on film, and in 2016 directed a team of actors from Leeds Arts Centre in an RSC production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Alhambra in Bradford, and at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford-upon-Avon.

LAC FACT OF THE DAY:
Peter O'Toole played Simon in
Dick Whittington for Leeds Arts Centre
in December 1952

After Midnight – Before Dawn Biographies

Maureen Willis - Pious Woman



Maureen (Mo to us!) is currently Chair of Leeds Arts Centre, which she joined in 2012. Since then she has appeared in 'Duets', 'The Visit', 'Vagina Monologues', 'Dry Rot, Kindertransport', 'Sense & Sensibility', 'Harvey', and 'Top Girls'.



After Midnight - Before Dawn Biographies

Anji Clark - Neat Woman



Anjana or Anji, has been with Leeds Arts Centre for about a year and this is her stage debut for us. Anji started acting at school, continued through college and university, and has recently completed a course in Film and T.V. acting with Act up North. She has had a successful acting experience to date and hopes to continue this with Leeds Arts Centre.

Rachel Bickerdike - Embittered Woman



This is Rachel's first play with Leeds Arts Centre, although she has performed with the Cosmopolitan Players another Leeds Civic Arts Guild group. Her favourite role was Alice in the Vicar of Dibley, and she recently took on the challenge of playing twins in John Godber's Muddy Cows.

Sarah Moorin - Simple Woman



Sarah has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for 3 years, and this is her first appearance on stage. She is a regular attender of play readings and has performed in Leeds Arts Centre's open mic sessions. She is a great fan of all theatre, and is a keen reader.



After Midnight - Before Dawn Biographies

Fiona Galloway - Frightened Woman



Fiona has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre since 2011 when she was involved in her first production Accrington Pals. Since then she has been heavily involved and has been lucky to take part in many productions both on and off stage. Her highlight so far was, along with other fantastic LACers, getting to be the Yorkshire representatives in the RSC's Midsummer Night's Dream tour!

Jessica Glanz - Calm Woman



Jess joined Leeds Arts Centre in 2016, but has been acting as long as she can remember. This is her fourth production with the company, following Macbeth, Top Girls, and Intersections in Real Time.

Did you know: John Craven (Countryfile) was a member in 1958. He was assistant stage manager in a musical called Hannibal's Highway, written by two members. He was born in Leeds in 1940 and joined Leeds Arts Centre whilst working as an apprentice at Yorkshire Copperworks, writing for their company magazine.



Notes on After Midnight - Before Dawn and The Rose and Crown

Thankfully, it's rare that any of us have to face our own mortality. Both of our plays, although very different in time and location, deal with how people react when faced with the prospect of their own imminent death. Some stick to their principles. Some show that they will do anything to help them avoid their fate.

In After Midnight-Before Dawn, the condemned prisoners struggle to understand how they have arrived in a prison cell to await execution at dawn, when they are guilty of no crime. They each try to come to terms with the situation in their own way by prayer, by hope for a reprieve when the 'mistake' is discovered, by refusing to recognise the reality, by understanding that it is the avarice of neighbours that has brought them here, and in one case by steadfast belief in rescue by a Higher Power, the Devil. This rescue can only be achieved by giving something in return. What better currency to offer than the souls of fellow sufferers? But how? As the play progresses, we discover how.

In The Rose & Crown, the occupants of the Snug Bar are unhappy about their daily struggles in the autumn of 1946. The war has been won, but the cost is still being paid in shortages and discomfort. Only the local 'wide boy', Harry, is in any way content. They compare their miseries, unaware that they have been joined by a stranger, who is keenly listening to their complaints. He has a solution for one of them. If life is such a misery, why not end it? He is the Angel of Death, and he is looking for a companion. Who will he take, and why?

There will be a 20 minute interval

**PLEASE NOTE THAT PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO RECORDING ARE NOT
PERMITTED. KINDLY ENSURE THAT MOBILE PHONES ARE SWITCHED
OFF. SMOKING AND E-SMOKING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED
THROUGHTOUT THE CARRIAGEWORKS**



Cast for After Midnight - Before Dawn

In order of speaking

Pious Woman	Maureen Willis
Neat Woman	Anji Clark
Embittered Woman	Rachel Bickerdike
Simple Woman	Sarah Moorin
Frightened Woman	Fiona Galloway
Calm Woman	Jessica Glanz

Cast for The Rose and Crown

In order of appearance

Mr. Stone	Stuart Gordon
Mrs. Reed	Maria Kwater
Percy Randle	Alex Dawson
Ivy Randle	Rachael Cawte
Ma Peck	Pam Wilson
Harry Tully	Joe Saxon
Stranger	The 'Angel of Death'

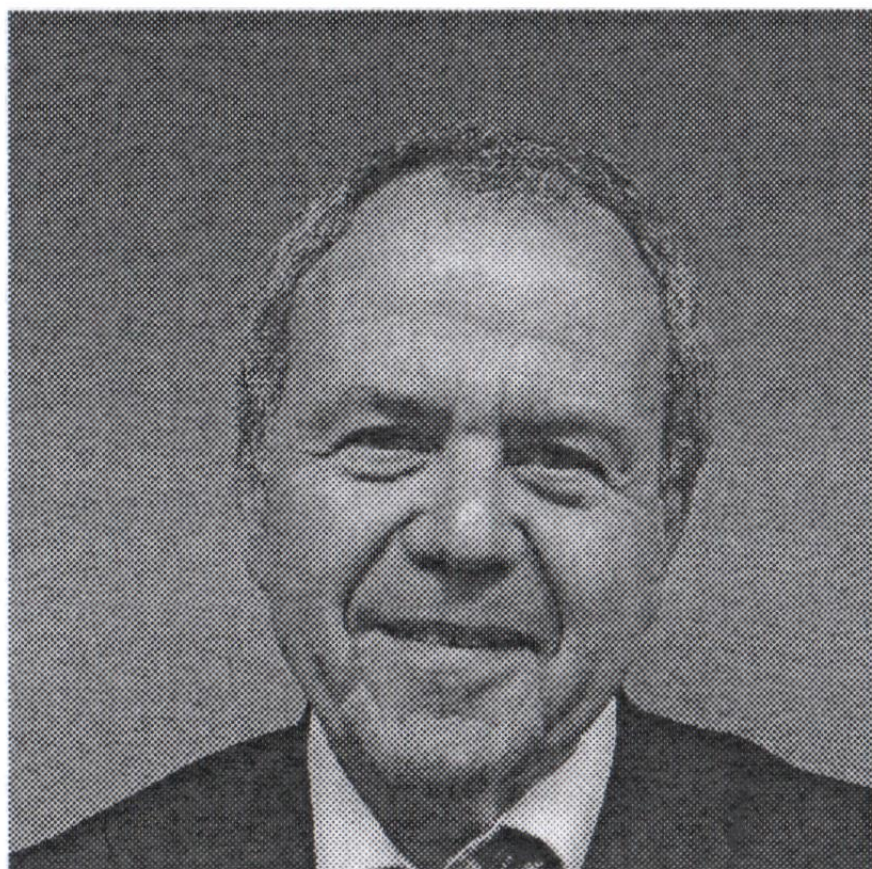
Production Team

Director	Ken Taylor
Production Manager	Alan Buttery
Stage Manager	Dean Franklin
Set Design	Ken Taylor
Set Construction	Alan Buttery, Rich Francis, Martyn Drake and Ken Taylor
Properties	Lucy Rowe
Wardrobe	Zoe Freedman, Maggie McCulley and Lena Gazey
Sound	Ed Corbet
Lighting	Carriageworks technical team
Front of House Team	Camilla Asher and Leeds Arts Centre members
Programme Editor:	Jenny Carter



The Rose and Crown Biographies

Stuart Gordon - Mr. Stone



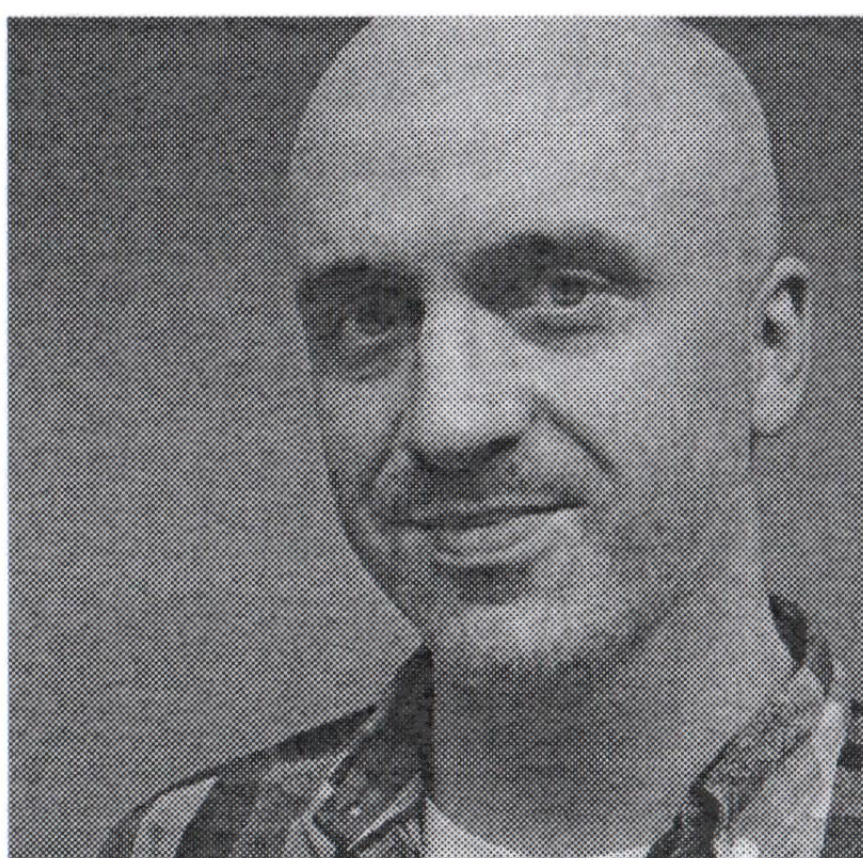
Since winning Leeds Civic Arts Guild's Best Actor award (for "Strangers on a Train") in 2009 Stuart has done two things of note: he appeared again at The Carriageworks in 2011 in the farce Ding Dong; and joined Leeds Arts Centre 7 months ago. This is his first outing for them, playing old grump Ted Stone, a role Stuart says he was born to play.

Maria Kwater - Mrs. Reed



Maria has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for 11 years. She has enjoyed a wide variety of roles, including directing, production managing, props, costume, sound, and has acted in several productions. She will be directing an adaptation of Thomas Hardy's 'Far From the Madding Crowd' for Leeds Arts Centre's 2017/18 season.

Alex Dawson - Percy Randle

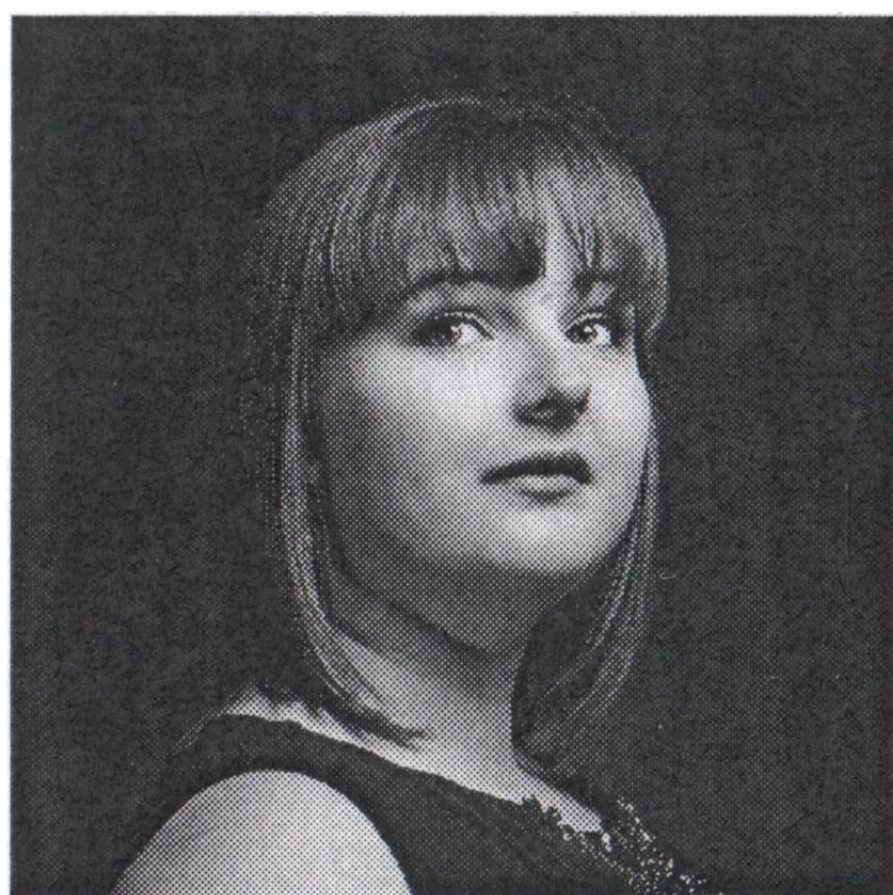


Alex joined Leeds Arts Centre in 2015, and has acted in productions of 'Harvey' and 'Macbeth', and in Green Room performances of 'The Birthday Party' and 'Charley's Aunt.' He urges anyone who has an unfulfilled passion for theatre to get involved: 'It'll be the best thing you ever do!'



The Rose and Crown Biographies

Rachael Cawte - Ivy Randle



Rachael joins Leeds Arts Centre for the first time as Ivy Randle in "The Rose and Crown". Having recently graduated from Leeds College of Music, where she studied classical vocal performance, she has been enjoying exploring the world of performance and has really enjoyed the rehearsal process with Leeds Arts Centre. Rachael will be pursuing a career in opera, gaining performance experience along her journey.

Pam Wilson - Ma Peck



Pam is amazed to realize 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.



*Leeds Arts Centre are very proud of our superstar member **Barry Green** as he has been offered a role in Benidorm (the TV show) he begins filming in May and it will be aired next year. Watch out for him!*



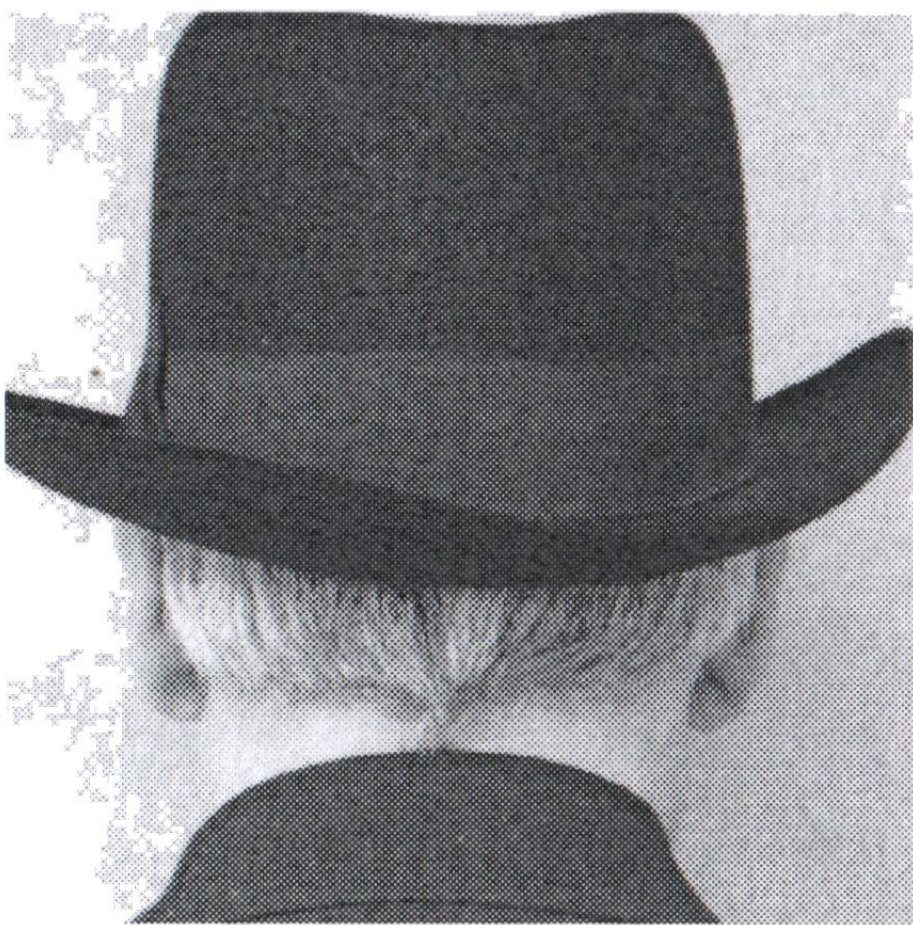
The Rose and Crown Biographies

Joe Saxon - Harry Tully



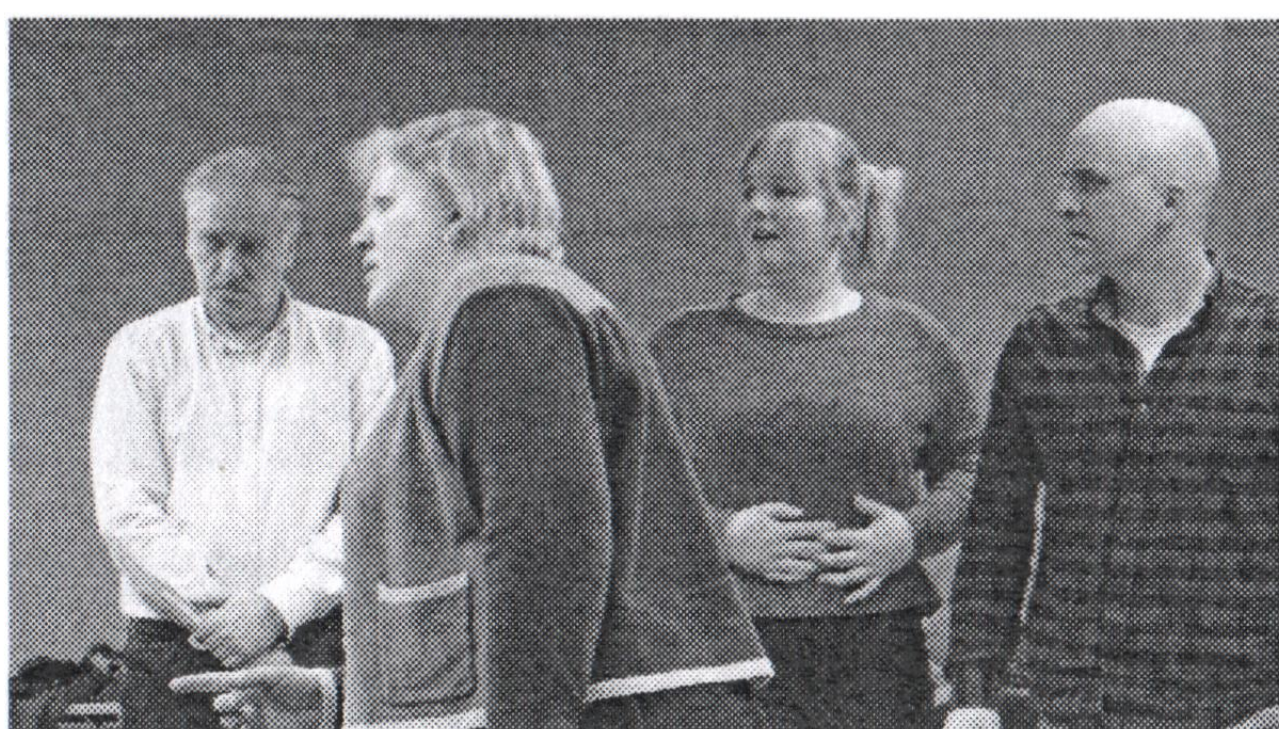
Joe grew up in America and Switzerland, and says that the resulting identity crisis pushed him into acting. He has acted in 'The Crucible', and 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', and this is his second play for Leeds Arts Centre after an appearance in 'Amazing Grace'.

'The Angel of Death'- Stranger



The 'Angel of Death' has been with Leeds Arts Centre for 30 years. He has worked behind the scenes on more shows than he can remember. He has appeared on stage as Caliban in 'The Tempest', and as Mr. Horner in 'The Country Wife' and has directed 'Billy Liar', 'The Dresser', 'Art', 'Waiting for Godot', and 'Macbeth'. He is very shy of his 'Earthbound' persona becoming known.

Rehearsal Photographs





The 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 – Northern Youth
Theatre Company (NYTC)*

For more information visit www.lcag.org.uk

More great upcoming shows from Leeds Civic Arts Guild Groups



Jekyll & Hyde (LIDOS) – 16th – 20th May, The Carriageworks

The Full Monty (LAOS) – 16th – 20th May, City Varieties

Sandcastles (COS) – 25th – 27th May, The Carriageworks

Bugsy Malone (NYTC) – 15th – 17th June, The Carriageworks

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

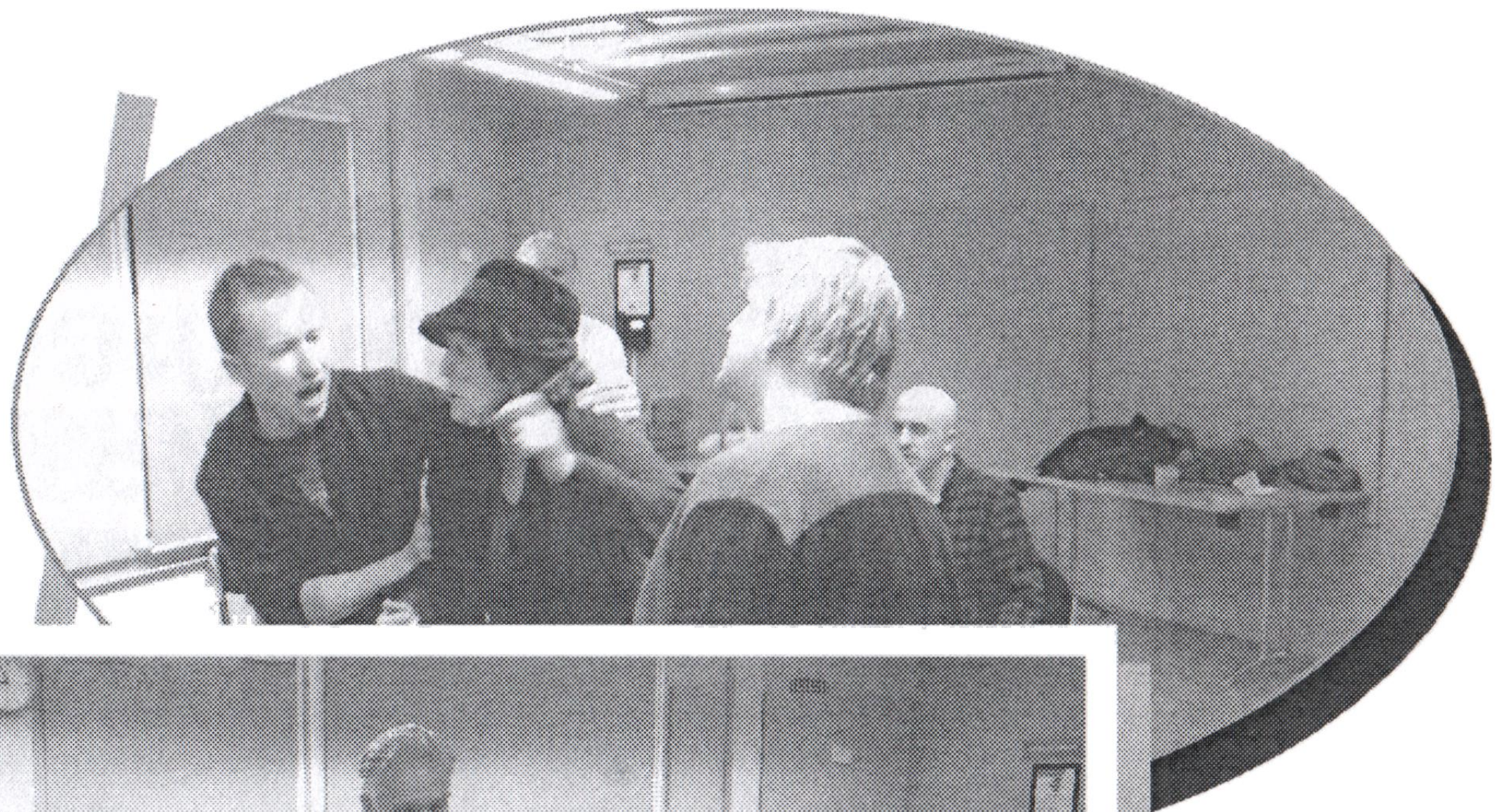
Sweet Charity (MAOS) – 27th – 30th September, Morley Town Hall

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



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

Rehearsal Photographs





Acknowledgements

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

Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank the following companies for their support with this production

Thank you to The Victoria Hotel for the loan of tables and chairs.
The Victoria Hotel is a favourite of the cast and crew, find us in there after the show.



The Victoria Hotel

28 Great George Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire,
LS1 3DL

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

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Phil Dodgson & Partners are Pudsey based accountants offering services throughout West Yorkshire and surrounding areas and are pleased to work with Leeds Arts Centre in the preparation of their annual accounts.

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



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions are:-

Unspoken by Neil Rathmell

Directed by Trudy Stewart

Wednesday 5th – Saturday 8th July 2017 (plus Saturday Matinee)

Alex has a stammer. He has had a stammer all his life but few people know about it. Tonight he is on the cusp of changing his life. He plans to ask the girl he loves to marry him and also tell her all about his stammer. A momentous evening lies ahead. But he is afraid. We meet Alex as he gets ready to go out. He enters drying his hair, wearing only his underpants. Six figures in dark grey cloaks appear in the shadows on either side of him. These are the voices he has carried in his head for years and still hears tonight while he is getting ready to go out. Voices of parents, friends, teachers, children, acquaintances, people who have in some way added to the story of his stammer. They have the power to provoke, tease, freeze or empower, as all our personal memories do. But what part will they play in Alex's evening? Will he be burdened by memory, leaving all he wants to say unspoken or will he find the strength to break out of his old way of being and make a new life?

Blood and Ice by Liz Lochhead

Directed by Camilla Asher

Wednesday 18 October – Saturday 21st October 2017

Liz Lochhead, Appointed 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

29 Jan – 3 Feb

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; Annette'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.

Tickets for Unspoken and Blood and Ice, available from the City Centre Box Office at the Town Hall or telephone 0113 376 0318.