

Leeds Arts Centre

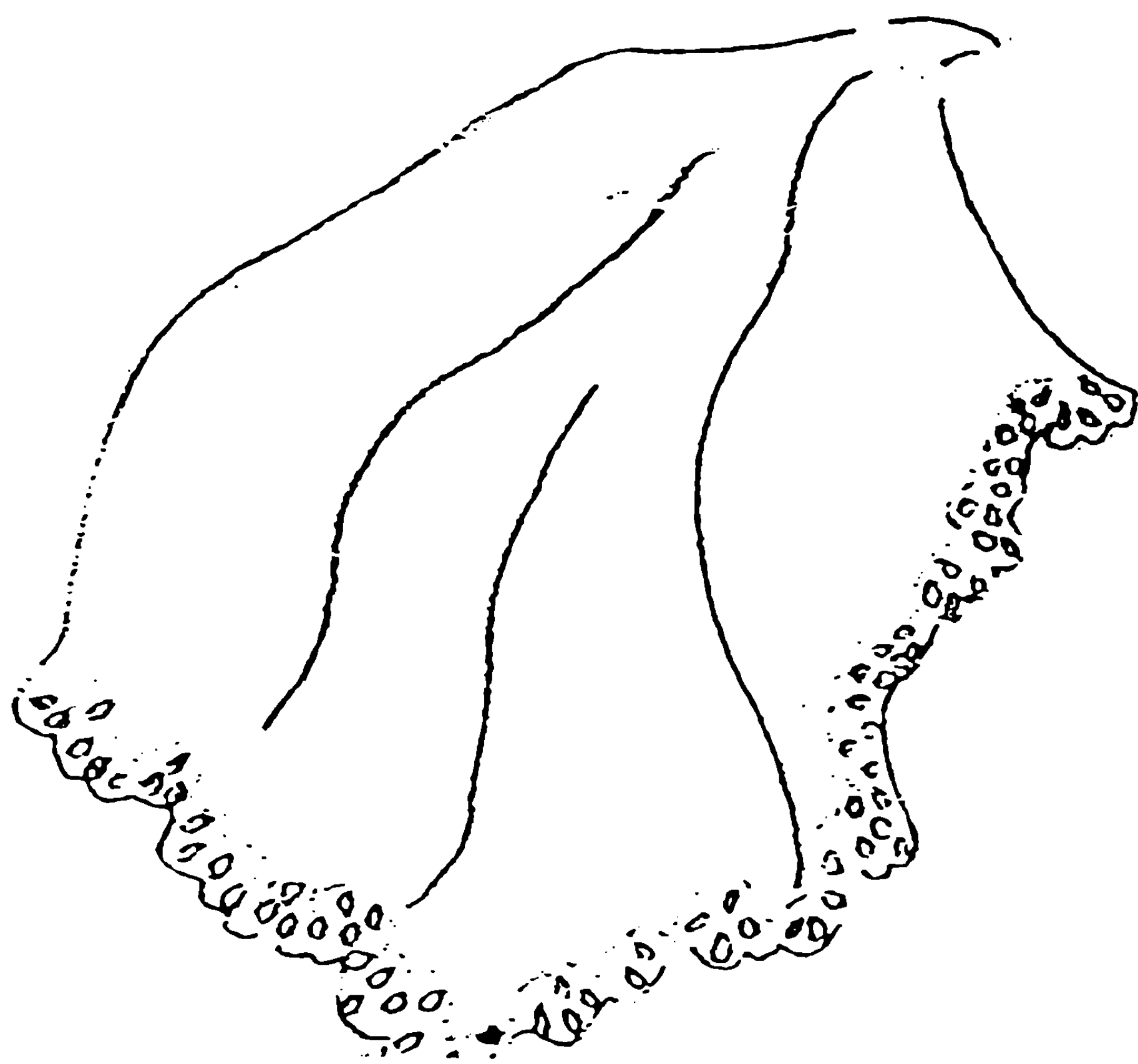
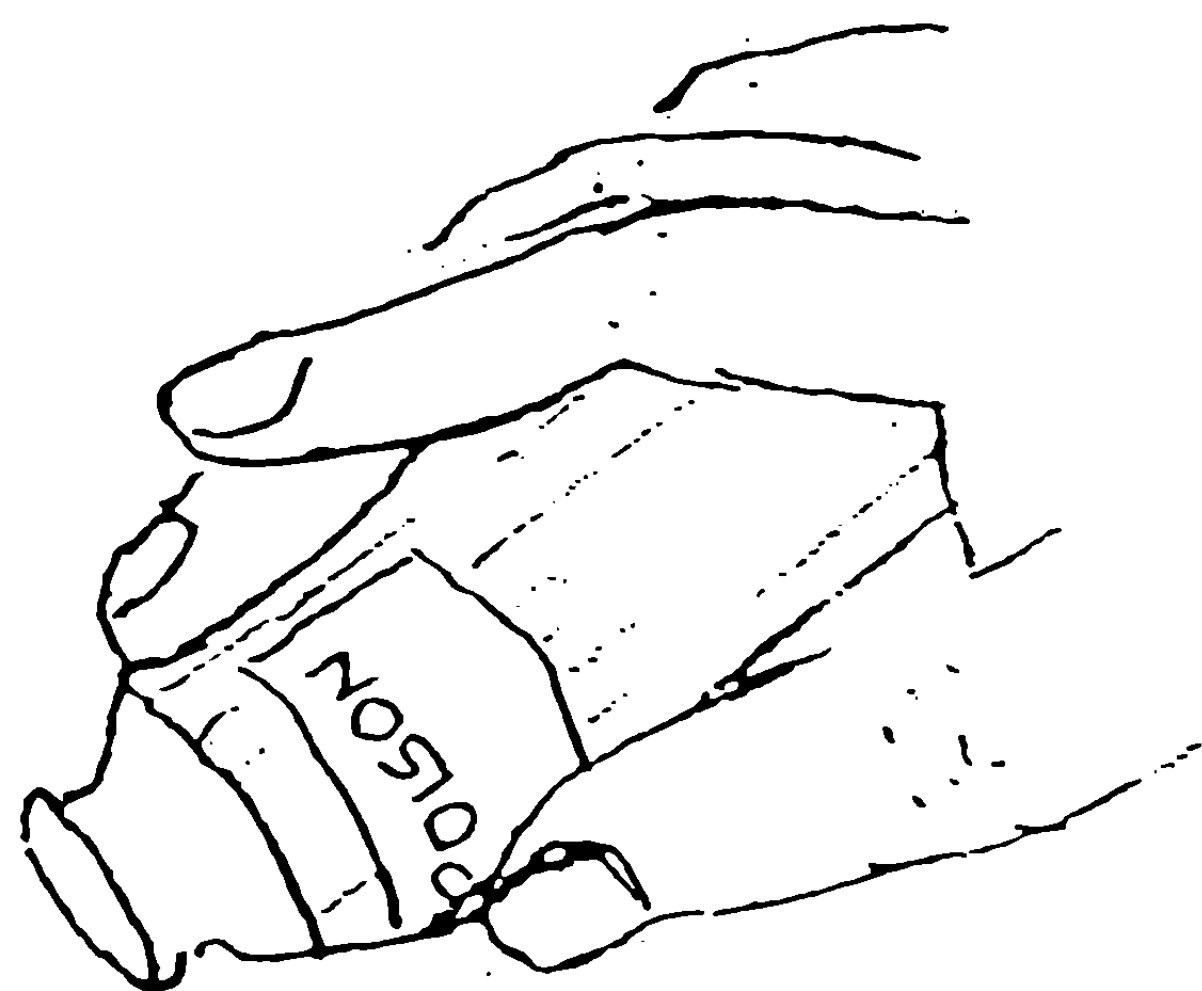
presents

Arsenic

And

Old

Lace



Directed by **Tony Nelson**

**LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE**

**21st to 23rd June 2001**

# Arsenic and Old Lace

Joseph Kesselring was born in New York City in 1902. He chose to follow a theatrical career early on in life and before turning to playwriting he taught music, assisted in amateur theatre productions, acted and directed.

Arsenic and Old Lace is Kesselring's best known play and a classic black farce. It was written in 1944 and was made into a highly successful film starring Cary Grant and Peter Lorre with Josephine Hull and Jean Adair as the Brooklyn ladies.

To assist those younger members and remind those older members of our audience some inside information might help:-

- ❖ Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt (1858 – 1919) became popular in the United States due to his exploits in the Spanish-American war. He became Republican Vice President in 1900 and President when McKinley was assassinated (1901). He was re-elected in 1905 to be followed by Taft 1909-1913 and then Woodrow-Wilson 1913-1921.
- ❖ Burns Mantle was a distinguished American theatre critic.
- ❖ Judith Anderson played Mrs Danvers in the film "Rebecca"

Arsenic and old Lace was presented by Leeds Arts Centre in 1976 – 25 years ago!

Mr Tony Nelson (our Director) played the part of Mortimer Brewster in 1951 – 50 years ago!!

**Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank Thackray Medical Museum for the loan of the medical case and instruments used in this production.**

This amateur production is by arrangement  
with Josef Weinberger

# Cast

|                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| Abby Brewster       | Shirley Broadbent   |
| The Rev. Dr. Harper | Tony Nelson         |
| Teddy Brewster      | Len Lumb            |
| Officer Brophy      | Hugo MacDonald Hull |
| Officer Klein       | Ian Major           |
| Martha Brewster     | Pat Foster          |
| Elaine Harper       | Margaret Davey      |
| Mortimer Brewster   | Chris Hudson        |
| Mr. Gibbs           | Laurie Ball         |
| Jonathan Brewster   | Adam Booth          |
| Dr. Einstein        | Tim Cragg           |
| Officer O'Hara      | Michael Brooksbank  |
| Lieutenant Rooney   | Rich Francis        |
| Mr. Witherspoon     | Edwin Barraclough   |

Directed by Tony Nelson

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Production Co-ordinator | Chris Wilson                                 |
| Set Design              | Tony Nelson                                  |
| Set Construction        | Malcolm Brown & LAC team                     |
| Stage Manager           | Rachel Morgan-Trimmer                        |
| ASM                     | Martyn Drake                                 |
| Lighting                | Peter Waddicor                               |
| Sound Recording         | Jim Marshall                                 |
| Prompt                  | Joyce King                                   |
| Wardrobe                | LAC team                                     |
| Properties              | Pam Wilson, Doreen Parker<br>& Denise Davies |
| Box Office              | Maggie Rhodes &<br>LAC team                  |
| Front of House Manager  | Monica Brown                                 |

## Civic Theatre

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| Theatre Manager              | Steven Cartwright                                   |
| Assistant Manager            | Vivien Simpson                                      |
| Chief Technician & Lighting  | Peter Waddicor                                      |
| Technicians                  | Sandy Clark & David Simpson                         |
| Catering (Crown Point Foods) | Shirley Tarran                                      |
| Box Office                   | Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall,<br>Sylvia Gooding |

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 all times be open
- (b) All gangways passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction.
- (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 space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Sub-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 show that it is in proper working order.

**The entire action of the play takes place in the living room of the Brewster home in Brooklyn.**

## **Act I**

**An afternoon in September**

## **Act II**

**That same night**

## **Act III**

### **Scene I**

**Later that night**

### **Scene II**

**Early the next morning**

**There will be two intervals of fifteen minutes during which the theatre bar will be open.**



# Leeds Arts Centre

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur society. Our members come from all walks of life and include people who have worked in the theatre, others who hope to make a career on the stage and quite a number who are very happy to remain amateurs. We're a friendly company, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. First and foremost we aim to enjoy ourselves.

Each year we produce plays at the Civic Theatre – but that's not all...

Our Green Room group devises plays, readings, quizzes and other entertainments to keep members not involved in current productions busy and to develop our skills in acting, directing and production.

Last, but not least, we enjoy a variety of other social activities, including theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

We welcome new members...

... so if you're interested in:

acting, directing, producing, set building & painting, making and repairing costumes back stage and front of house or publicity and promotion

... why not have a chat with one of our members front of house this evening or in the bar after the show. You can also write, with contact telephone number for further information to:

The Secretary  
Leeds Arts Centre  
C/o The Civic Theatre  
Cookridge Street  
Leeds LS2 8BH



# Forthcoming Productions

Wed 17<sup>th</sup> – Sat 20<sup>th</sup> October 2001

## The Picture of Dorian Gray

By Oscar Wilde  
Adapted and Directed by  
Malcolm Brown

W/C 4<sup>th</sup> February 2002

## Seasons Greetings

By Alan Ayckbourn  
Directed by Margaret Davey

The next Guild production at The Civic Theatre

## Peter Grimes

Composed by Benjamin Britten

Presented by  
Leeds Youth Opera

4th – 7th 2001 7.30pm

**Friends of the Civic Theatre**

If you would like to support this theatre – why not join the Friends  
Application forms available in the foyer