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BETRAYAL

By Harold Pinter

Directed by Amy Dutton

Wednesday 20th to Saturday 23rd June 2007





LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

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

Director's Notes

Betrayal is one of Pinter's most autobiographical plays and is often said to be one of his most accessible works. Played out over a number of years – moving back and forth in time, we are given glimpses into the lives of Emma, Robert and Jerry. Three people who betray each other on different levels and for different reasons.

Far from being simply about the adultery between Jerry and Emma, the play looks at the corrosive nature of the lies we tell each other; they infect trust between lovers, damage friendships, destroy ideals and can ultimately bring everything we thought we knew crashing down around our ears.

None of these people is without blame – they betray each other, whether for self-preservation, revenge or to avoid a confrontation. As the play moves back through time, we see how deep these betrayals go and what at first seemed to be one simple affair goes much deeper.

First performed at the National Theatre in 1978 with Penelope Wilton, Michael Gambon and Daniel Massey *Betrayal* has been performed in theatres across the UK ever since. It is currently being performed at the Donmar in London with Dervla Kirwan, Toby Stephens and Sam West.

Amy Dutton
Director

Cast

(In order of appearance)

Emma	Catherine Land
Jerry	Gabriel G Keogh
Robert	Graham Greensit
Waiter	Edwin Barraclough

The scenes of the play

Scene 1	A pub	Present Day
Scene 2	Jerry's Study	Later that day
Scene 3	Jerry and Emma's Flat	Two years earlier
Scene 4	Robert and Emma's Living Room	One year earlier

Interval

Scene 5	A hotel in Venice	One year earlier
Scene 6	Jerry and Emma's Flat	Later that summer
Scene 7	A restaurant	Later that summer
Scene 8	Jerry and Emma's Flat	Two years earlier
Scene 9	Robert and Emma's bedroom	Three years earlier

The Running time of this production is approximately 1½ hours; there will be one interval of fifteen minutes during which the bar will be open.

Production Team

Director	Amy Dutton
Production Manager	Maria Kwater
Asst. Production Mgr.	Zoe Freedman
Set design	Amy Dutton
Set construction	Richard Francis and LAC members
Lighting	Steve Fryatt
Sound	Shirley Broadbent
Props	Pipa Robson, Denise Davies, Beth Lloyd
Costume	Maryline Pineau and cast
Prompt	Zoe Freedman
Front of House Mgr.	Katie Russell

Leeds Arts Centre acknowledges the continuing support of the Carriageworks staff. Thank you.

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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From The Telegraph - An edited version of an article which appeared on Monday 23 September 1996

THE playwright Harold Pinter and Joan Bakewell, the television broadcaster once hailed as "the thinking man's crumpet", were lying low yesterday after it was disclosed that they had had a long, extra-marital affair.

A new biography reveals that Pinter's *Betrayal* was based on his seven-year affair in the 1960s with Miss Bakewell, who was then married. Many believed that the work had been about the later affair that led to his second marriage, to Lady Antonia Fraser.

Pinter - married at the time of both affairs to actress Vivien Merchant - reacted furiously at the weekend to the revelation. But theatre critic Michael Billington, author of *The Life and Work of Harold Pinter*, claims that the playwright approved the details of the affair being made public.

Miss Bakewell, was married to Michael Bakewell, a BBC drama producer and friend of Pinter. Mr Billington says *Betrayal* is a close dramatisation of the Harold Pinter/Joan Bakewell/Michael Bakewell triangle.

Mr Billington says both of them confessed their affair to him during interviews for the biography. Miss Bakewell told him: "*Betrayal* is all about my relationship with Harold. It is accurate in its chronology and its events."

Mr Billington says it is now clear that the play concerns several acts of betrayal - not only by the lovers against their respective partners. During the affair, Pinter himself felt deeply betrayed. He had believed that the affair was secret but discovered that Mr Bakewell had known about it for two years.

Writing the play was Pinter's way of exorcising this act of treachery. Both Bakewells said they felt betrayed when the play appeared. She has, however, forgiven. "Harold and I are very fond of each other and have terrific lunches. Now when I see the play I feel it's a brilliant, convoluted piece of writing, even if it lacks the real characters of the people involved."

Pinter was unavailable for comment.

Nigel Reynolds



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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:

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