

The Civic Theatre Leeds



Programme

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join the

THEATRE CLUB ?



NOW !!

FROM THE CENTRE

Once again, we welcome you to our opening production of a new season. We look forward to seeing you often at the Civic during the coming months. Later in these notes, you will find details of our season ticket scheme and other concessions which may prove useful to you.

BLITHE SPIRIT, we feel, is a happy choice for an opening production. The play was first presented in 1943 and shows Coward at his wittiest. It is many years since one of his plays has been seen at the Civic, but he is beginning to enjoy a series of welcome revivals. Recent professional productions include **PRESENT LAUGHTER**, **PRIVATE LIVES** and the National Theatre production of **HAY FEVER**. There is also the musical version of this evening's play—**HIGH SPIRITS**. **BLITHE SPIRIT** is an interesting combination of sophisticated humour and farce—an unusual combination for Coward.

Gerald Armytage, who has directed the play, has made no attempt to recreate the period of the 1940's, which is too recent to be amusing. His is a fresh, modern presentation. The dialogue remains entirely unchanged, except for a few references to items of furniture, which are different from the original production. Mr. Armytage has attempted to bring into use his experience as an Ideal Home Colour Consultant in designing the settings and costumes.

After many years of scorn, it is once more being appreciated what Coward has to offer. The audience is asked to do no more than sit back and enjoy. We hope you will.

Our next production at the Civic will be **A SCENT OF FLOWERS** by James Saunders. This will run from December 7th to 11th. James Saunders' first success was **NEXT TIME I'LL SING TO YOU**, when Kenneth Tynan wrote '... a witty and gifted writer has unquestionably arrived'. **A SCENT OF FLOWERS** unfolds the story of a girl, and why she killed herself. James Saunders has been accused of being over-experimental and it is true that, in this play, the audience is asked to accept unusual conventions. But the play is written with intelligence, wit and a very moving tenderness. Harold Hobson wrote in **THE SUNDAY TIMES** that James Saunders communicates 'a loveliness, a glimmering joy, an affection, a yearning after good' in a play which forms 'a unique, an unforgettable experience'. The play will be directed by Sydney Irving, who last season directed **THE DEVILS**.

The remainder of our 1965/66 programme is as follows:—

February 1st-5th: **THE WAY OF THE WORLD** by Congreve.

March 23rd-April 2nd: **TWELFTH NIGHT** by Shakespeare.

May 24th-28th: **HEDDA GABLER** by Ibsen.

If you would like a reserved seat for each of our plays, our season ticket scheme will be of interest to you. Under this scheme, patrons who book at the beginning of the season for all five plays pay only for four tickets—and there is no need at this stage to commit yourself to the performance you would like to attend. We will either reserve a fixed seat for each production or, if you prefer it, arrange a booking to suit your convenience before each production. You may have your ticket for this evening's performance converted to a season ticket at the following prices:—

5/- tickets for an extra fifteen shillings.

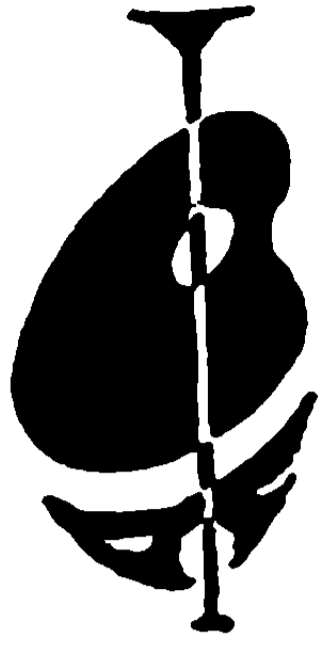
4/- tickets for an extra twelve shillings.

3/- tickets for an extra nine shillings.

Please visit the box office during one of the intervals or contact Mrs. E. H. Irving, 241 Otley Road, Leeds 16. Telephone 51665.

We also offer reduced admission prices to parties of ten persons or more. This can be very useful for schools, clubs and adult organisations. The box office will give you full details.

Continued.



Tuesday, 28th September to Saturday, 2nd October, 1965

BLITHE SPIRIT

by NOEL COWARD

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

| | | | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------------|
| EDITH, a maid | - | - | - | - | - | JUNE STONEHOUSE |
| RUTH CONDOMINE | - | - | - | - | - | MAUREEN RUTTER |
| CHARLES CONDOMINE | - | - | - | - | - | LEONARD SHELDON |
| DOCTOR BRADMAN | - | - | - | - | - | EDWARD MACRO |
| MRS. BRADMAN | - | - | - | - | - | IRENE WELLS |
| MADAME ARCATI | - | - | - | - | - | OLIVE RICHARDSON |
| ELVIRA | - | - | - | - | - | JOSEPHINE WARD |

Designed and directed by GERALD ARMYTAGE

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SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The action of the play takes place in the livingroom of Charles Condomine's house in Kent.

ACT I

- Scene 1. Before dinner on a summer evening.
Scene 2. After dinner.

ACT II

- Scene 1. The next morning.
Scene 2. Late the following afternoon.
Scene 3. Early evening; a few days later.

ACT III

- Scene 1. After dinner; a few days later.
Scene 2. Several hours later.

There will be one interval at the end of Act II scene 2

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|---|---|--|
| Scenic Artist | — | — | — | Fred Mower |
| Floral Decorations | — | — | — | Doreen Parker |
| Stage Manager | — | — | — | James Boyer |
| Assistant Stage Manager | — | — | — | Richard Strudwick |
| Properties | — | — | — | Christine Wilson, Patricia Hannam |
| Wardrobe | — | — | — | Betty Triggs, June Stonehouse, Margaret Stonehouse, Leslie Norton |
| Music | — | — | — | Edward Lakeland |
| Prompters | — | — | — | Gwen Hart, Janet Hanson |
| Box Office | — | — | — | Hazel Irvin John Pemberton |
| Front of House Manager | — | — | — | Sydney Irving |

CIVIC THEATRE, Cookridge Street, Leeds
Manager: J. W. Holmes, 12 Lanshaw Close, Leeds 10
In accordance with the requirements of the Watch Committee of
Leeds City Council:—

- (a) The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open.
- (b) All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any obstruction.
- (c) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance so as to ensure its being in proper working order.

FROM THE CENTRE—continued

If you are not already a member of Theatre Club, you may be interested to hear of its activities. Theatre Club members receive a price reduction of one shilling for the Tuesday performance of all Civic presentations and for the Wednesday performance of many of them. Private productions, lectures, discussions, visits to other theatres and social activities are arranged for members. The subscription is 10/6 a year and further details are available from the box office or from the Membership Secretary, Mrs. M. E. Smith, 10 Dunstarn Drive, Leeds 16. The next Theatre Club private production, by the way, will be Lorca's **THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA** on October 8th and 10th (two performances only) at 43 Cookridge Street—opposite the theatre. This is a Leeds Arts Centre presentation and admission is free to Theatre Club members, with a silver collection. Accommodation is limited and advance booking is essential—admission will not be possible without a booking. Please contact Mrs. Smith.

FUTURE PRESENTATIONS AT THE CIVIC

October 5th-9th: **JOHN GABRIEL BORKMANN**—Ibsen.

October 12th-16th: **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**—Priestley.

October 19th-23rd: **DEAR DELINQUENT**—Popplewell.

October 27th-November 6th: **MOTHER COURAGE**—Brecht.

November 9th-13th: **THE HOLLOW CROWN**—Barton.

November 16th-27th: **HANSEL AND GRETEL**.

December 7th-11th: **A SCENT OF FLOWERS**—Saunders.

THEATRE CLUB ACTIVITIES FOR OCTOBER

October 8th and 10th: **THE HOUSE OF BERNARDA ALBA**—see above.

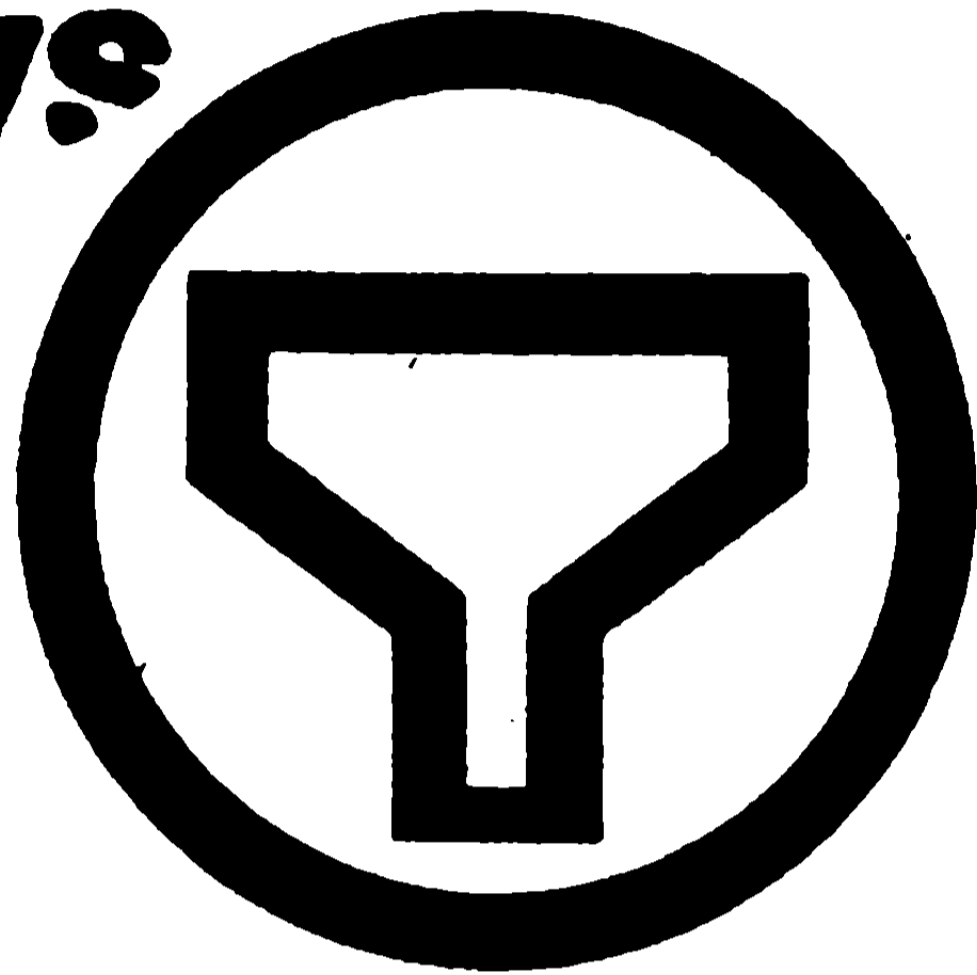
October 17th: **MUSICAL PROGRAMME** at Civic Theatre by The Gilbert and Sullivan Society and Headingley O. and D. Society.

October 22nd: Visit to Leeds Grand Theatre. **DIE FLEDERMAUS**—Leeds Thespians.

October 26th: **LECTURE** at 43 Cookridge Street. Subject and speaker to be announced.

For full details of Theatre Club activities, contact the Secretary.

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