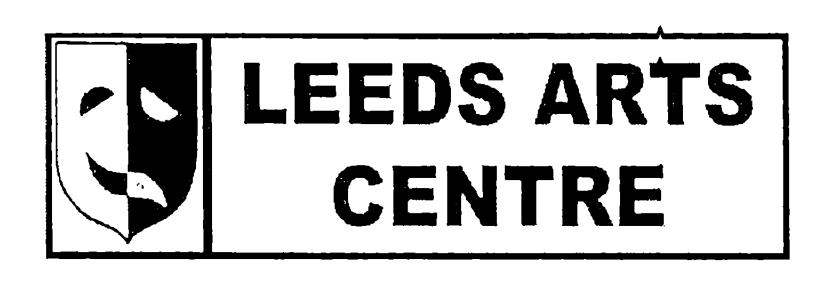


Alan Ayckbourn

23rd - 25th October 2014

THE CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE, MILLENNIUM SQUARE, LEEDS.



Leeds Arts Centre is a prestigious amateur theatre group founded in 1945, and member of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild.

We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. We produce four to five plays each year at the Carriageworks Theatre, 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 please 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 Theatre 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 www.leedsartscentre.org.uk.



The Leeds Civic Arts Guild is the 'umbrella' association of various amateur dramatic, musical, operatic and other voluntary arts societies & companies 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
Leeds Amateur Operatic Society
Leeds Arts Centre
Leeds Children's Theatre
Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society
LIDOS
Leeds Writers Circle
Leeds Youth Opera
Morley Amateur Operatic Society
Shatterproof Theatre Company
STARS
St. Mary's Youth Theatre
West Riding Opera

To learn more about the groups and societies, why not come along to the Carriageworks Theatre bar on the second Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm where you can meet a member of the Guild Executive for an introductory chat, and a tour of the facilities at the Carriageworks Theatre.

For more information please visit http://www.lcag.btck.co.uk/ or http://lcag.boards.net

Sir Alan Ayckbourn

Sir Alan Ayckbourn, CBE (born 12 April 1939) is a prolific English playwright. He has written and produced more than seventy full-length plays in Scarborough and London and was, between 1972 and 2009, the artistic director of the Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough, where all but four of his plays have received their first performance. More than 40 have subsequently been produced in the West End, at the Royal National Theatre or by the Royal Shakespeare Company since his first hit 'Relatively Speaking' opened at the Duke of York's Theatre in 1967.

In 1968 Alan Ayckbourn directed cast member Edwin Barraclough as the Gardener in Leeds Art Theatre's production of Mr Whatnot at the Leeds Civic Theatre. Despite it being an amateur production, it is notable because it was the first time Ayckbourn directed Bob Peck (best known for his role of the park gamekeeper in Jurassic Park), who at the time was the President of Leeds Art Theatre. There are similarities between Edwin's role in Comic Potential and Mr Whatnot, see if you can you work out what they are!

Comic Potential

Humanoid robot actor JCF31333 develops so many faults that she starts to malfunction, just like a real person.

'Jacie Triplethree' is a real live-wire and soon becomes the digital muse for aspiring writer Adam and his potential comedy TV show.

However, when Jacie learns about human society, slapstick and sex, the line between robot and human begins to blur and events take unexpected turns.

Ayckbourn's humorous satire of television leaves us asking ourselves: What is it that makes us human?

Notes from the Director

Comic Potential was first performed in 1998 at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough, over 12 years before a Japanese android Geminoid F starred alongside a human actress in a 20 minute play, "Sayonara" ("goodbye" in Japanese). Geminoid F is a creation of Hiroshi Ishiguro, a professor at Osaka University and researcher at ATR Intelligent Robotics and Communication Laboratories. A few years later Japanese firm Koroko and Osaka University launched Actroid-Sit (Geminoid F's cousin); a robot able to function autonomously, talking and gesturing while interacting with people. Ayckbourn wasn't too far off the mark!

Comic Potential deals with many themes, such as love, the television industry and the role of technology in society. Robots and artificial intelligence are playing an increasingly larger role in our lives, making us question – at what point can we call something 'alive' and can we imagine a world where we have truly intelligent artificial intelligence?

This has been a very challenging play requiring some imagination and a lot of hard work. Rehearsals have been such good fun, so I hope the show realises its comic potential!

Comic Potential

Some point in the future when everything has changed but human nature

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Scene 1 – TV Studio Scene 2 – TV Studio (later that day) Scene 3 – TV Studio (some days later)

Interval – 20 mins

Act 2

Scene 1 – TV Studio (shortly later)
Scene 2 – The Grand Hotel Foyer
Scene 3 – TV Studio
Scene 4 – The Hotel Restaurant
Scene 5 – TV Studio
Scene 6 – The Grand Hotel Bedroom
Scene 7 – Hotel Mombassa Bedroom

Scene 8 – TV Studio

Cast in order of appearance

LM05623, an actor android (playing the Doctor and Farmer) - Ken Taylor

CW77502, an actress android (playing the Farmer's Wife) - Maria Kwater

LJM 54823, an actor android (playing the Son) – Zack Jackson

JCF 31333 (Jacie Triplethree), an actress android - Georgina Noble

Chandler (Chance) Tate – Ed Corbet

Prim Spring - Rachel Brewin

Trudi Floote - Tazmin Bennison

Carla Pepperbloom – Margaret Savage

Adam Trainsmith - James Steer

Lester Trainsmith – Barry Green

Marmion Cedilla – James Bell

Desk Clerk - Ed Baxter

Hotel Waiter 1 – James Bell

Hotel Waiter 2 - Ed Baxter

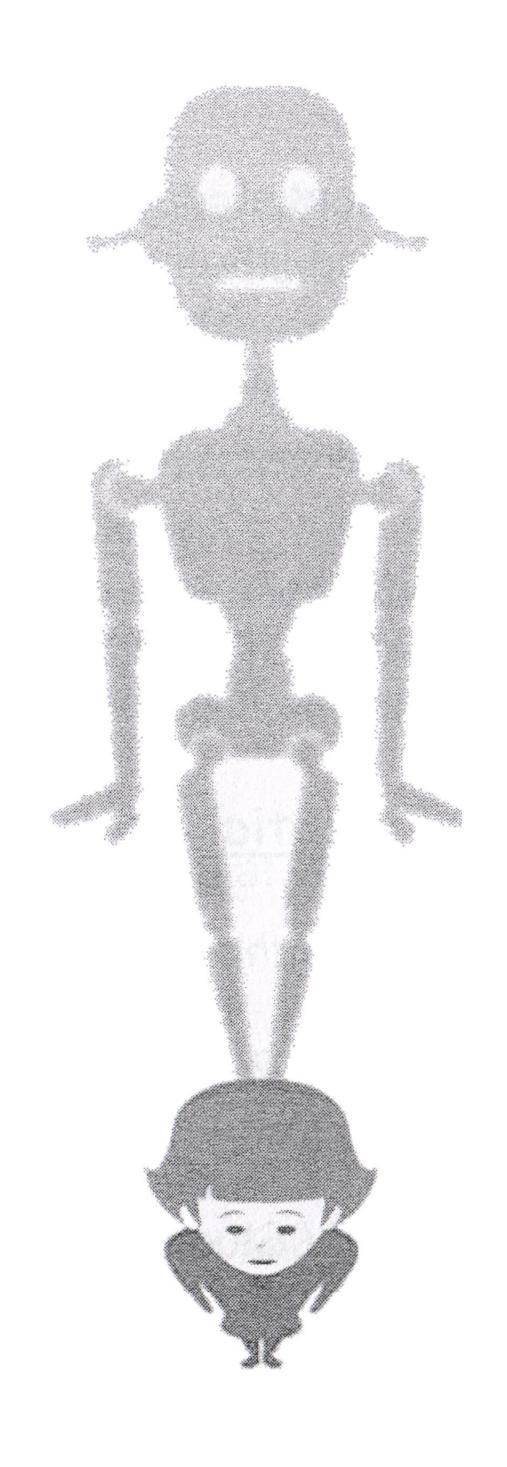
Man in Restaurant – Edwin Barraclough

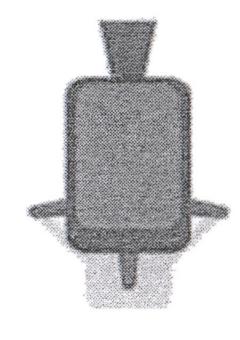
Women in Restaurant - Mary Nelson

Prostitute - Tazmin Bennison

Turkey – Ken Taylor

Technician – Zack Jackson





Crew

Director – Camilla Asher

Production Manager – Alan Buttery

Stage Manager – Steve Fryatt

Assistant Director – Pam Wilson

Properties and Set – Ben Hopwood

Artwork / Design - Kerry Griffiths

Construction – Steve Fryatt

Costume – Zoe Freedman, Caroline Webster, Ayshea Megyery

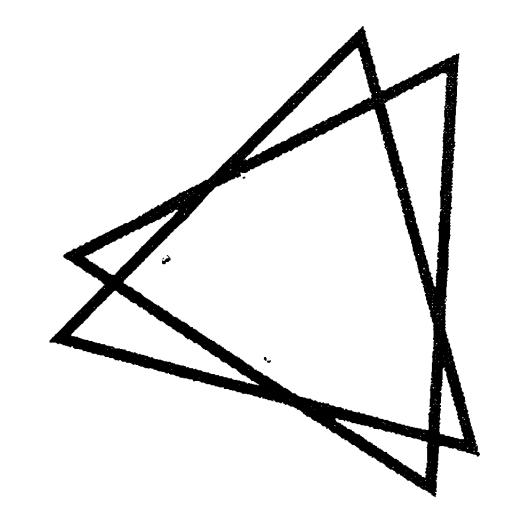
Prompt – Fiona Galloway

Sound - David Bower

Lighting – Carriageworks Theatre Staff

Stage Hands – Chris Watson, Tom Nicholson

Front of House – Lydia Waller & LAC members





Acknowledgements

This play could not have happened if it wasn't for the help and hard work of the cast and crew but also lots of people and organisations from the local community. Thanks for helping us a make a play which was lots of fun to make and hopefully you enjoy even more watching it!

Particular special thanks go to Ben and Alan for their relentless resourcefulness and constant support right from the inception of the play to its delivery and ensuring I didn't completely lose the plot! I couldn't have done it without you.

Thank you to all the talented artists who helped shape this piece and get it where it is today, Joe Cowan, Will Saunders, Joe Atkinson, Kerry Griffiths and Kay Buttery.

Studio Raygun for the design of the flyer and poster and for hosting the competition draw.

The Carriageworks Theatre staff for helping us create the illusion and for your knowledge, friendliness and assistance.

Thanks to the The Queen Victoria Hotel an O'Neills public houses for extra space to rehearse in, for being helpful and supportive and for serving the thirsty cast and crew after rehearsals!

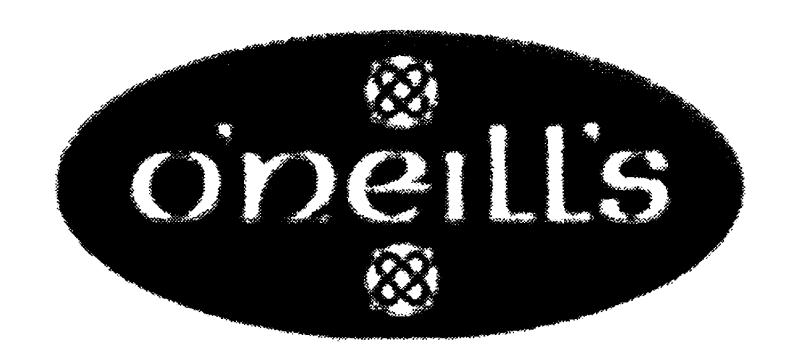
The programme for this production was produced with the kind assistance of



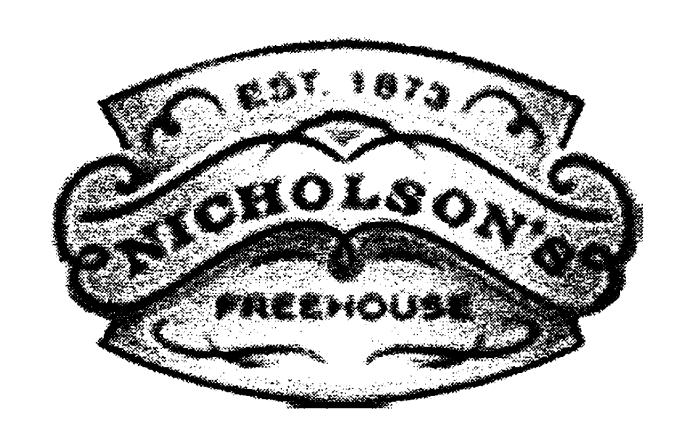
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www.leeds.gov.uk/carriageworks

Advertising and Sponsorship

Leeds Arts Centre 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:

The Publicity Officer, Leeds Arts Centre

c/o Carriageworks Theatre
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD
or e-mail us at: publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk



http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsArtsCentre/

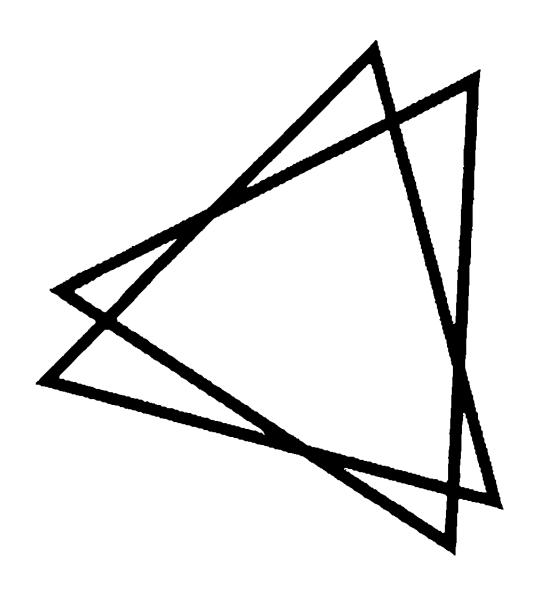
News and info



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

Updates on the go

Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk to see an archive of previous productions.





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THE NEXT LEEDS ARTS CENTRE PRODUCTION IS

KINDERTRANSPORT

by Diane Samuels directed by Rachel Vernelle Thursday 5th to Saturday 7th February 2015

Tickets on sale now £12, £9 concessions

Contact the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office on 0113 224 3801

Forthcoming Production

Thursday 23rd April to Saturday 25th April 2015 *Sense & Sensibility*By Jane Austen (and adapted by Jessica Swale)

Directed by Maria Kwater

Upcoming Leeds Civic Arts Guild productions at the Carriageworks

Leeds Children's Theatre present

The Railway Children

by Edith Nesbit (adapted by Mike Kenny)

Wednesday 12th November 2014 to Saturday 15th November 2014

St Mary's Youth Theatre present

Scrooge – The Musical

By Leslie Bricusse (adapted from Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol)

Thursday 27th November 2014 to Saturday 29th November 2014



