

Leeds Arts Centre invites you to...

# Dinner

A deliciously satirical black comedy

*by Meira Buffini*

*Directed by Camilla Asher*

**Carriageworks Theatre  
Millennium Square**

**9th - 12th February  
7:30pm**



[leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://leedsartscentre.org.uk)





**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 and was based in the Civic Theatre (now Leeds City Museum). Leeds Arts Centre moved to its new home at the Carriageworks in 2005. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of our productions. We now present four plays every season, usually in February, March/April, May/June and October, at the Carriageworks Theatre under the umbrella of Leeds Community Arts Network.

**Green Room** events give members the opportunity to perform short plays, extracts and rehearsed readings for a members only audience. They give newer members experience of acting, directing, backstage work and also offer the chance to perform new writing or more experimental work.

The company 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](mailto: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, subscriptions and fund-raising activities.

Our members range in age from 18 to 80+ and we have a strong core of both younger and older members, who come from a wide range of backgrounds. To find out more, why not visit [www.leedsartcentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartcentre.org.uk) where you can complete an application form in the 'Join Us' section.

# Welcome to Leeds Arts Centre's production of

## *Dinner*

### Director's note

I first read *Dinner* in 2016 when I was looking for my fourth play to direct. I instantly loved its dark humour, witty and pungent script, but was slightly daunted at the thought of staging an extraordinary three course meal. Years later, a willing 'chef' props man took on the challenge, backed by two sous-chefs, allowing me to bring this play to life!

I have staged the play in the round for two reasons - firstly, the practical issue of a large dining table in the studio and secondly to create a claustrophobic atmosphere and increase the intensity of the play.

Originally planned for July 2020, this choice ended up being a fortunate decision ahead of its time as the seating is more 'covid safe'. I hope you enjoy coming to *Dinner*.

### Moira Buffini

Moira Buffini is an award winning playwright and screenwriter who has written over a dozen plays, many of which have been performed at the National Theatre and by the RSC. She has worked in film and television, including an adaptation of *Jane Eyre*, the BBC show *Harlots* and the 2021 Netflix film, *The Dig*. As a playwright Buffini is characterised by stories with diverse and imaginative themes, arch dialogue and darkly whimsical narratives.

## **Cast**

*(in order of appearance)*

*The Waiter* Connor Houlton

*Paige* Vic Bingham

*Lars* Simon Twine

*Wynne* Enya Lucas

*Sian* Fiona Galloway

*Hal* Ed Corbet

*Mike* Chris Watson

The action takes place in the dining room  
of the Janssen household, The White  
Lodge, Oak Avenue.

Time: the present

Act 1 – 1 hour 15 mins

Interval – 15 minutes

Act 2 – 50 minutes

### **Production Team**

Director	Camilla Asher
Assistant Director	Thom Marshall
Costume	Zoe Freedman and cast
Properties	Ben Hopwood, Elizabeth Relins, Pam Wilson
Set	Rachel Vernelle
Rehearsal prompt	Michael Moorhouse, Maria Kwater
Sound technician	Taz Bennison
Publicity artwork	Emily Dewsnap
Photography	Mark Hillyer, Thom Marshall
Front of House	Anji Clark, Shirley Broadbent, and other LAC members

### **Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank**

Chapel FM for their rehearsal space - [www.chapelfm.co.uk](http://www.chapelfm.co.uk)

Emily Dewsnap for design and publicity -  
[www.emilydewsnap.co.uk/](http://www.emilydewsnap.co.uk/)

Mark Hillyer – True North Studio for photography –  
[www.truenorth.com](http://www.truenorth.com)

Winston Solicitors for the loan of furniture and additional  
rehearsal space – [www.winstonsolicitors.co.uk](http://www.winstonsolicitors.co.uk)



## Meet the cast

### **Vic Bingham - *Paige***



This is Vic's first production with LAC after playing Kyra in Leeds CAN's filmed performance of *Skylight* last year. She has a BA in Theatre and Literature from Kingston University and her previous theatre work has been outside Leeds.

### **Ed Corbet - *Hal***



Since joining LAC in 2002 Ed has been in numerous productions, including *The Crucible*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, *The Birthday Party*, *Macbeth*, *The Taming of the Shrew*, *Rozencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Dumb Waiter* and many others.

In 2016 he was one of the LAC team chosen to work with the Royal Shakespeare Company in their *A Midsummer Night's Dream - a play for the nation*, commemorating 400 years since Shakespeare's death.

### **Fiona Galloway - *Sian***



Fiona has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for ten years and has enjoyed her involvement both on and backstage. She too was one of the LAC team working with the RSC in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Most recently she played Jo in *Little Women* - a very different character from Sian in *Dinner!* It has been a full challenge learning the role.

### **Connor Houlton - *The Waiter***



Connor developed an interest in acting in his teens, studying Performing Arts at Kendal College and completing a HNC in Acting for Camera at the Arden School of Theatre. He joined LAC in 2019 for the production of *The Mill on the Floss*. He also performs in a pantomime and several plays and musicals a year with other local companies.



## Meet the cast

### Enya Lucas - *Wynne*



Enya has been part of LAC for 4 years working back-stage as well as acting. Notable performances have been young Maggie in *The Mill on the Floss* and Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*.

*Dinner* is her first comedy and she can't wait to get back on stage to perform and entertain.

### Simon Twine - *Lars*



Simon was a member of LAC from 2008 until 2015, when he took a break to spend more time with his family and work on projects with Spud Theatre. His previous LAC productions include *The Crucible*, *The Comedy of Errors*, *The Money's in the Bank*, *The Dumb Waiter* and *The Deep Blue Sea*. He is delighted to return to LAC to play Lars in *Dinner*.

### Chris Watson - *Mike*



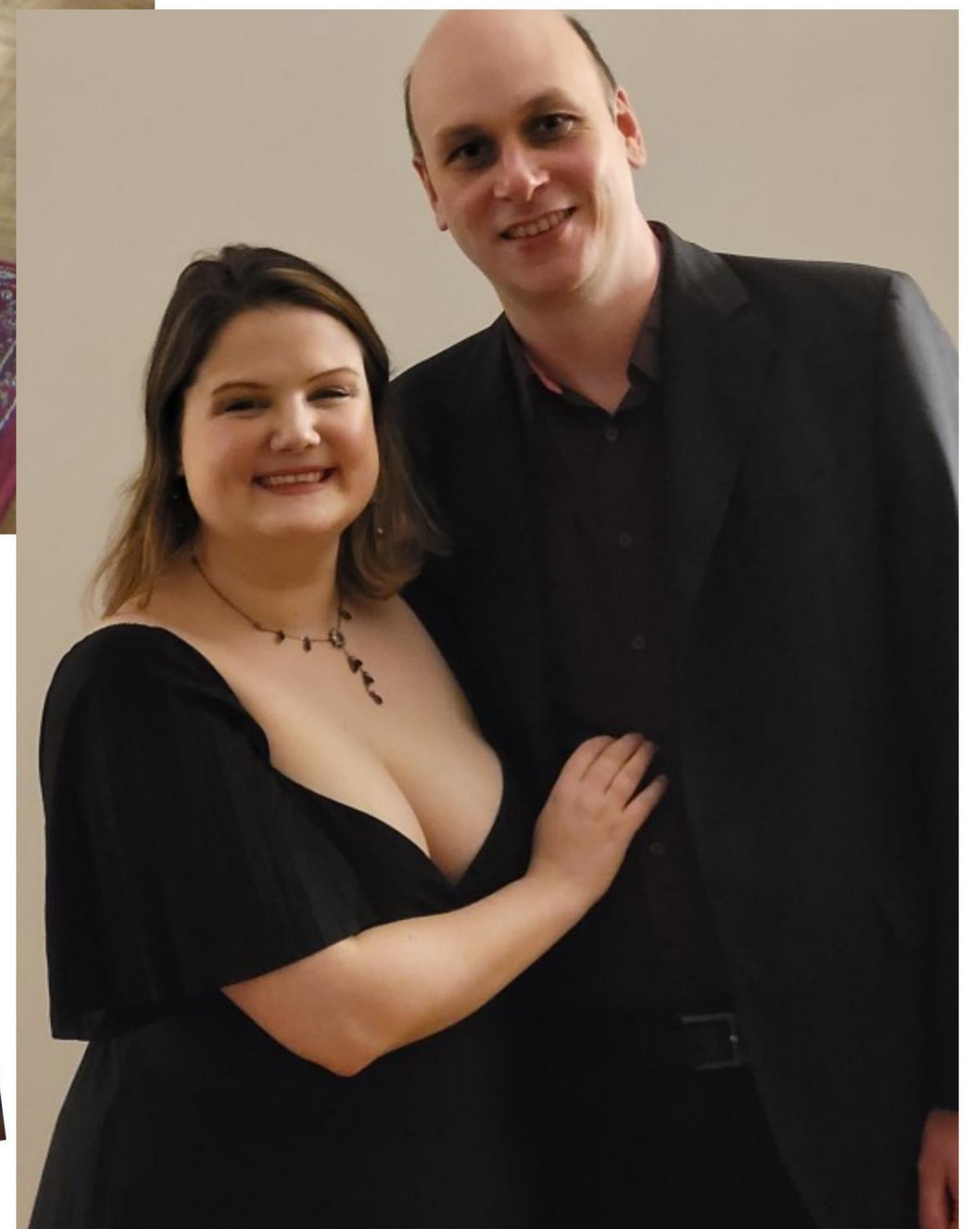
Chris rejoined LAC for *Dinner*. His previous productions for the company include *Macbeth*, *Waiting for Godot*, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* and *The Visit*. Outside of theatre, Chris is an artist.

### Camilla Asher - Director

This is the fifth play Camilla has directed for Leeds Arts Centre, following *The Money's In the Bank* and *Comic Potential* in 2014, *Blood and Ice* in 2017 and *Is There Anybody There?* in October 2021. Camilla's last appearance on stage was as a ghostly child in *Rough Sleepers* by Neil Rathmell, who also wrote *Is There Anybody There?* She is also current chairman of Leeds Arts Centre for 2021-22.



## Rehearsal photos





## **Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire**

LAC 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  
[www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire](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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsArtsCentre/)

[http://twitter.com/#!/  
leedsartscentre/](http://twitter.com/#!/leedsartscentre/)

Visit [www.leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk)



**LAC would like to thank.....**



<https://truenorthuk.com>

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Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray for printing the programmes



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Phil Dodgson & Partners for the preparation of LAC's annual accounts





**Leeds Community Arts Network** - (LeedsCAN) comprises a range of community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks, where most of their performances take place. Leeds CAN has a growing membership - everyone is welcome, from old hands to complete novices. This might be your opportunity to tread the boards, or you could experience the thrill of being backstage!

For more information visit <http://www.leedscan.org.uk/>

LeedsCAN member societies are: Leeds Arts Centre, Cosmopolitan Players, Leeds Youth Opera, Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society, LIDOS, Leeds Children's Theatre, LAOS, St. Mary's Youth Theatre, Our Community Dances, Leeds Writers Circle.

For the community, run by the community. We love how diverse and rich in talent the Leeds community is; we love working with individuals and groups to make their dreams come to life.

We currently cover musical theatre, drama, opera, dance and creative writing and employ award-winning musical directors, artistic directors and choreographers local and national.

We aren't just a tolerant group - we are a welcoming one. Our strengths lie in our diversity - of age, race, background and talents - united for one cause, which is to develop a home for community arts in the city.

LeedsCAN benefits not just its member groups, nor their 800 members, nor just the 10,000 (and growing) audience members who watch the shows every year, but the city as a whole.

The next LeedsCAN production at the Carriageworks is

***Agatha Crusty and the Murder Mystery Dinner*** Cosmopolitan Players in the Studio, **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> February. 7.15pm**



Leeds Arts Centre is a member of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899 – the leading representative for amateur theatre in the UK. See [www.noda.org.uk](http://www.noda.org.uk)



**Leeds Arts Centre's next production:**



## ***THE FATHER***

***by* Florian Zeller**

***translated by* Christopher Hampton**

***directed by* Rich Francis**

***Thursday 12th - Saturday 14th May 2022***

**Carriageworks main space**

André is eighty years old and was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter Anne and her husband Antoine. Or was he an engineer whose daughter Anne lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pyjamas, and he can't find his watch.

This is a beautiful study of a man descending into dementia and we join him on his journey. It is funny and heartbreaking.

Tickets for ***The Father*** are not currently on sale, but will be available to purchase through the Carriageworks Box Office nearer to the production dates. Keep an eye on our website - **[leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://leedsartscentre.org.uk)** - or **[www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk](http://www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk)** for details of availability.