



Leeds Arts Centre
p r e s e n t s

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme



by Molière

a new English version by Nick Dear

Wednesday 26 - Saturday 29 January 2000



Nick Dear's modern English version of *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* received its British première at the National Theatre in 1992. Timothy Spall took the title role as Monsieur Jourdain, with Anita Dobson taking the stage as Madame Jourdain.

The play concerns the mishaps of social-climber Monsieur Jourdain, as he tries to make himself a gentleman, marry daughter, Lucile to a Marquis and seduce the lovely Dorimène. Determined to thwart his plans are Lucile's true-love Cléonte with his quick-thinking manservant; not to mention Jourdain's exasperated wife, feisty maid Nicole and the raffish Count Dorante (who wants Dorimène for himself!)

Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme was written by Molière in 1670. Louis XIV commissioned his court composer, Lully, to write a musical entertainment. At the eleventh hour, Molière received a request to provide some amusing scenes to accompany it.

Originally, the music and dancing would have had the same status as the action of the play. The whole entertainment would have ended with a spectacular scene not unlike the grand song and dance scenes beloved of the early Hollywood musicals.

Dear's version vigorously updates previous English translations. The language is earthy, even coarse. Molière's plot, rather reminiscent of a *Carry On* film, or perhaps *Blackadder*, suits the style of ribald English farce which Dear employs.

**The action of the play takes place within,
and on the street before
Monsieur Jourdain's house.
The year is 1670.**

M. Jourdain	(A bourgeois)	Dave Mallinson
Mme. Jourdain	(His wife)	Trudy Stewart
Lucile	(His daughter)	Anna Gaunt
Nicole	(Their maid)	Marie Lindley
Cléonte	(In love with Lucile)	Abdul Malik
Covielle	(Cléonte’s valet)	Adrian O’Reilly
Dorante	(A Count)	Tony Nelson
Dorimène	(A Countess)	Denise Davies
Music Master		Malcolm Padwell
Music Student		Matthew Newman
Dancing Master		Daniel Plant
Fencing Master		David Rosendale
Professor of Philosophy		Malcolm Brown
Tailor		Peter Cryer
Tailor’s Apprentice		Joy Lindley
Valets		Richard Francis, Jim Brassill
Dancers		Joy Lindley, Heather Watts, Julia Staveley, Gwyneth Hadley
Singers		Alexis Moore, Gareth Millward
Musicians		David Bremner, Lucy Burke, Sue Farmery, Ruth Fergusson, Harrison Fetcher, Naomi Hilton, Daphne Kelly, Ruth Ker, Edita Kopanowicz, Ben Lawrence, Sue Lawrence, Shirley Smith
Production Assistant		Trudy Stewart
Stage Managers		Martyn Drake, Sarah Oldknow
Set design & construction		Margaret Savage, Martyn Drake, George Westmoreland and team
Props		Doreen Parker, Denise Davies, Mary Nelson
Prompt		Audrey Shaw
Costume		Maggie Rhodes & team
Wigs & Hairdressing		Jean Blundell
Lighting		Peter Waddicor
Sound Operation		Shirley Broadbent
Front of House Manager		Monica Brown
Box Office		Christine Wilson

Directed by Pam Wilson

THE MAN HIMSELF!

Monsieur Jourdain, the 'hero' of the play has always been rather a figure of fun in English theatre. As his wife notes, he is a fool, and the world '(has) been laughing at you for a very long time.'

It's true that Monsieur Jourdain is loud, bossy and not very bright – but to his credit, he knows his limitations. He is desperate to learn, to improve himself. For all his faults, Jourdain is essentially a likeable character.

It says a lot of Molière's original story and Dear's skill as a translator that the play remains, after three centuries, a tremendously funny social comedy.

Many thanks to Opera North for the loan of their
harpsichord

The music for the show is derived from Lully's
original score and was arranged by Pam Wilson.

Thanks to Anne and Paul Kent for guidance on the
17th century dance, which was adapted and
choreographed by Jean Blundell.

Display photography by Vic Clarkson
Publicity by Joyce King & team

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Ben Parfitt, Chris Horton*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Syliva 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 obstructions.
- 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 place has been specially allowed by the Licensing 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.

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 **social activities**, including theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

We welcome new members . . .

. . . so if you're interested in:

**acting, directing, producing,
set building & painting (scenery & pictures)
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 Civic Theatre
Cookridge Street
Leeds LS2 8BH

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Hay Fever

by
Noel Coward

directed by
Joyce King

This frothy comedy from the ever-popular Coward takes place in the home of the ultra bohemian Bliss family. Romantic novelist father, ex-starlet mother and their two teenagers each invite a guest for the weekend. Unfortunately, everyone leaves this crucial announcement to the casual last minute.

The guests endure an uncomfortable tea, a ghastly after dinner word game and escalating romantic confusion. Oh so delightful Cowardian mayhem ensues.

15—17 June 2000

Mr Hyde

Dr Jekyll &

a spine-chilling new adaptation of this classic tale by
Malcolm Brown – director of highly acclaimed productions:

The Phantom of the Opera and *Frankenstein*

October 2000

The next Guild production at the Civic Theatre is

Social Security

by Andrew Bergman

Limelight Drama Group

2nd, 3rd and 5th February at 7.30pm

Friends of Leeds Civic Theatre

if you'd like to support this theatre - why not join the Friends?

Application forms available in the foyer