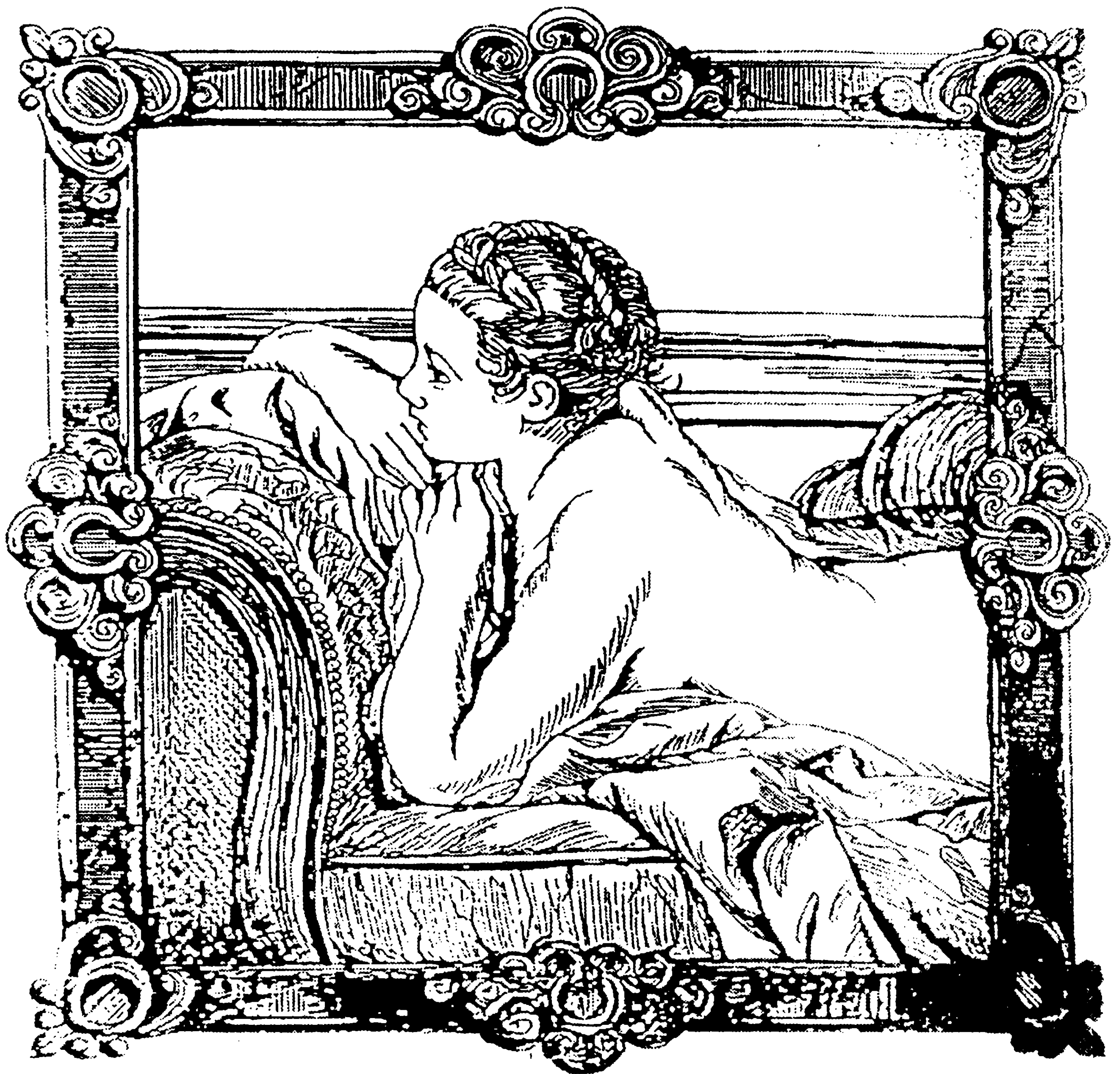


Leeds Arts Centre
presents

Les Liaisons Dangereuses



by **Christopher Hampton**
from the novel by Choderlos de Laclos

Leeds Civic Theatre - 16th to 20th June 1998

Les Liaisons Dangereuses

On its publication in the late 18th century, *Les Liaisons Dangereuses*, the first and only novel of Pierre-Ambroise-Francois Chodorlos de Laclos caused an immediate and lasting sensation. Set among the aristocrats of pre-Revolutionary France, this story of sexual cynicism and devious manipulation still rings true today.

Cecile de Volanges is a fifteen year old graduate from convent school, all too willing to be initiated into the 'ways of the world' by Le Vicomte de Valmont, a serial seducer and cynical pleasure-seeker. He is aided and encouraged by his former mistress La Marquise de Merteuil, who has her own dark motives in the plot. Not content with this 'minor' project, the Vicomte is also intent on the seduction of a woman famous for her religious morals and the happiness of her marriage, Madame de Tourvel.

At the centre of a web of manipulation and deceit, the Vicomte and the Marquise engage in a dangerous power play, which will have far reaching consequences for all involved.

Christopher Hampton translated the novel into a play in 1985, which was subsequently performed by the RSC at Stratford and in London. This stunning production featuring Alan Rickman (Valmont) and Juliet Stevenson (de Tourvel) met with great acclaim. Hampton later adapted the screenplay for the Oscar winning film *Dangerous Liaisons*. Glenn Close starred as de Merteuil, alongside John Malkovich as Valmont and Michelle Pfeiffer as de Tourvel. The film also featured Keanu Reeves and launched Uma Thurman's career in film.

Joining our experienced actors for this production are some new, younger members for Leeds Arts Centre, who are hoping to pursue careers in the arts. This is a play which makes considerable demands of its cast – and indeed its director in choosing and developing the right team. Our back stage team's hard work should also be recognised in bringing this play to the Theatre. Under the direction of Joyce King our dedicated cast and crew have developed this fascinating play into a powerful and dramatic production.

The action of the play takes place in various salons and bedrooms of hotels and chateaux in and around Paris and the Bois de Vincennes, one autumn and winter in the 1780's.

We hope that you enjoy our last show at the Civic for this season and will come back for more of "Leeds Arts Centre" when the new season starts in the autumn.

Cast

La Marquise De Merteuil	<i>Margaret Savage</i>
Mme. De Volanges	<i>Gwyneth Hadley</i>
Cecile Volanges	<i>Kate Charlton-Lynch</i>
Le Vicomte De Valmont	<i>Stephen Anderson</i>
Azolan	<i>Ian Goodison</i>
Mme. De Rosemonde	<i>Mary Nelson</i>
La Presidente De Tourvel	<i>Trudy Stewart</i>
Emilie	<i>Annalie Wilson</i>
Le Chevalier Danceny	<i>Sean Gleeson</i>
Majordomo	<i>Malcolm Brown</i>
Footman/Manservant	<i>Edwin Barraclough</i>
Maid	<i>Joy Lindley</i>

Crew

Production Manager	<i>Denise Davies</i>
Designer	<i>Malcolm Brown</i>
Set Construction	<i>Richard Francis, Malcolm Brown and LAC Team</i>
Stage Manager	<i>Martyn Drake</i>
A.S.M.s	<i>David Mallinson, Joy Lindley, Rachel Gilbey</i>
Props	<i>Doreen Parker, Sarah Oldknow</i>
Fight Arranger	<i>Martin Key</i>
Prompt	<i>Christine Wilson</i>
Wardrobe	<i>Georgina Judd and LAC Team</i>
Wigs	<i>Jean Blundell</i>
Lighting	<i>Peter Waddicor</i>
Sound Recording	<i>Jim Marshall</i>
Sound Operation	<i>Shirley Broadbent</i>
Publicity	<i>Marie Lindley and LAC Team</i>
Front of House Manager	<i>Betty Triggs</i>
Box Office	<i>LAC Team</i>
Production Photography	<i>John Gosling</i>

Director *Joyce King*

Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank all at
Temple Newsam - which features in our
production photographs

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes

'Hampton's achievement is to have preserved the satanic magnetism of the twin conspirators while going all out for social comedy. But this is comedy of the highest theatrical kind: edged with danger, replete with pain and forever reminding us that lives are being ruined with the flick of a well-turned phrase.' **Guardian**

Next Week:

Leeds Youth Opera
present the British premiere of
Satyagraha
by Philip Glass

26, 27th and 30th June; 1st, 3rd and 4th July

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Shaun Woodhouse*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Sylvia 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 that time 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 a space 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 some who have worked in the theatre and others who hope to make a career on the stage. We are a friendly company who work together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are well known and enjoy ourselves very much in the process.

Each year we produce four plays here at the Civic Theatre and in recent years have entered the 'Walk the Plank' play festival in Wakefield where we have won at least one prize each year.

Our **Green Room** Group is very active with plays, readings and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms, giving members who are not in the current theatre production the opportunity to develop their acting or directing abilities and entertain the rest of us.

Our **Fine Arts** Group meets regularly throughout the year for life drawing, sketching and painting.

Last, but not least, we enjoy a variety of **social activities** including theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

We are looking for new members...

...so if you are interested in any of the following:

**acting, directing, producing, set building
painting (scenery or pictures)
making and repairing costumes
helping back stage or front of house
or even with publicity**

...why not have a chat with one of our members front of house this evening or in the bar after the show. Or write with contact telephone number for further information to:

**The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre
c/o Civic Theatre, Cookridge Street, Leeds LS2 8BH**

Leeds Arts Centre Presents

The Phantom of the Opera

The earliest adaptation of Gaston Leroux's novel was the famous black and white film starring Lon Chaney. Since then, the story of the opera ghost has entered into popular culture. Musical, theatrical and film versions abound – sketches, parodies and rewrites have moved the story further and further away from the original vision.

Adapted and directed by Malcolm Brown, Leeds Arts Centre's production remains faithful to the melodramatic splendour of Leroux's novel of the Opera

Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 October 1998 at 7.30 nightly.

A Doll's House

by Henrik Ibsen

Ibsen's famous play illustrates the difference between "two kinds of conscience, one for men and one, quite different, for women." Nora commits forgery, which is her pride, because she has done it out of love, to save the life of her husband – but he takes the conventional 'honourable' standpoint, to the letter of the law.

First performed in the late nineteenth century, *A Doll's House* still speaks to us today in a quiet, yet moving voice. Often performed and its 'message' much discussed, Ibsen's play never preaches, but leaves us to enjoy the story - and decide for ourselves.

Wednesday 27 to Saturday 30 January 1999 at 7.30 nightly.

Friends of Leeds Civic Theatre
Please join the friends and
support this theatre
Application forms available from the foyer