

Leeds Arts Centre Present:

Oleana



Wednesday 9 July - Saturday 12 June 2014, 7.45pm

Leeds Civic Arts Guild



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 their 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.org.uk/> or
<http://lcag.boards.net>



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 LAC 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 who are 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, forthcoming productions and history including a list of the past productions of LAC, please visit our website at www.leedsartscentre.org.uk.

Congratulations Bernard Atha CBE

Bernard Atha, President of Leeds Arts Centre, retired in May 2014 after 57 years as a councillor for Leeds. As well as a councillor, Bernard has been an actor, and trained as a ballet dancer and barrister. We hope he enjoys his retirement, as well as continuing to support LAC!

Cast

John
Ken Taylor

Carol
Sarah Chalk

Production Team

<i>Director</i>	David Wheatley
<i>Production & Stage Manager</i>	Peter Sandles
<i>Sound & Lighting</i>	Steve Fryatt
<i>Props</i>	Margaret Davey
<i>Costumes</i>	Caroline Webster
<i>Set</i>	Pete Sandles & Steve Fryatt
<i>Prompt</i>	Debs Sandles
<i>Front of House</i>	Joyce King & Members of LAC
<i>Publicity</i>	Alan Buttery
<i>Photography</i>	Rich Francis

Synopsis

John and Carol, a professor at an American University, and his student Carol meet to discuss Carol's grades but in a terrifyingly short time, the pair are transformed in to the participants in a battle for justice, where words and actions become open to interpretation, blurring the lines between right and wrong.

ACT 1: John's office, early evening
ACT 2: John's office, a week after Act 1

INTERVAL

ACT 3: John's office, several days after Act 2

Director's Notes

'Oleanna. Why?' Someone asked me that quite recently and it's a good question, with several answers.

Firstly, why choose this play? This is my third time in the director's chair in as many seasons for Leeds Arts Centre, and I wanted to do something different from what had gone before. 'Immaculate' and 'Duets', my previous plays, were comedies. 'Oleanna', as you'll see, is not. It's challenging, in terms of subject matter, and has been viewed as controversial. It asks questions, which was part of the appeal. As well as entertaining the audience, I'd like to have made people think, and to get them talking about it on the way out.

Secondly, why is the play called 'Oleanna'? There's no character with that name and it's not even mentioned throughout the play, so I had to do a little bit of research to find out*. Without giving too much away, the title is an allusion to a nineteenth-century Utopian community in Pennsylvania, called Oleana, after its founder, Ole Bull, a famed Norwegian virtuoso violinist and his mother Anna. They had a grand vision, but the land was unsuitable for farming, much money was lost by the settlers and most, including Ole Bull, had to flee back to Norway. Today the site is commemorated by Ole Bull National Park so how does this fit with the play? An *oleana* is the naïve pursuit of something that is ultimately hopeless. It's also a folk song by Pete Seeger, based on the Norwegian song of the same name by Ditmar Meidell, using the story of Ole Bull for inspiration.

Finally, a play in the last two LAC seasons is a lot, so why would someone go three for three? I felt I had unfinished business, so I was fortunate that the committee approved my proposal. I'm also fortunate that I've a great cast. Ken has been in a number of LAC productions ('The Price', 'Duets', 'Dry Rot', 'The Money's in the Bank') and Sarah is no stranger to the stage though this is her first production for LAC. The two of them work together so well and I'm pleased and proud of them both. We're also backed by fantastic crew and my thanks go to all involved, so fingers crossed it doesn't turn out to be another *oleana*!

Enjoy the play.

David Wheatley

- ♦ <http://garydexter.blogspot.co.uk/2009/04/62-oleanna-by-david-mamet.html>
- ♦ <http://www.theglobalconsultant.net/oleanna/>



Acknowledgments

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

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray

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14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE

0114 272 9721

www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

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

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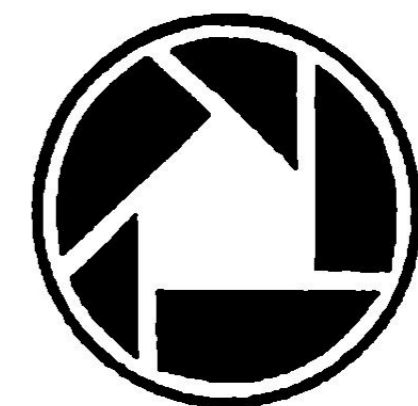
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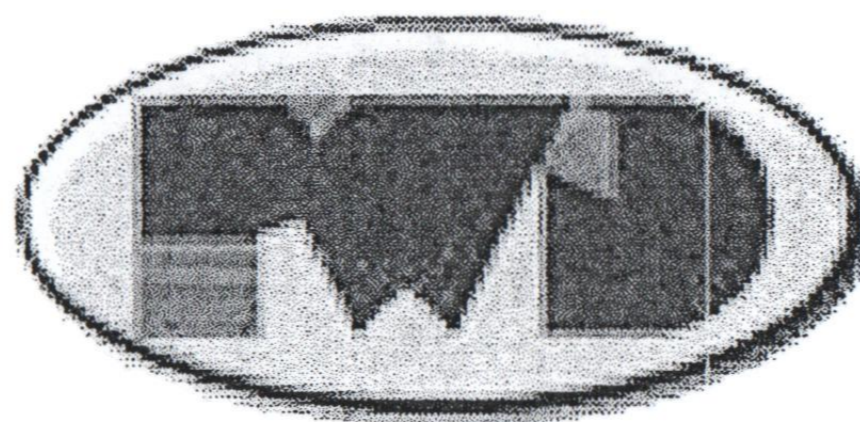
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by Alan Ayckbourn

Thursday 23 October to Saturday 25th October 2014

7.30pm, Carriageworks Main Auditorium

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Contact the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office on 0113 224 3801

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Keep an eye on our website for details of our April 2015 production

<http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk>

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<http://www.lcaq.org.uk> <http://lcaq.boards.net>