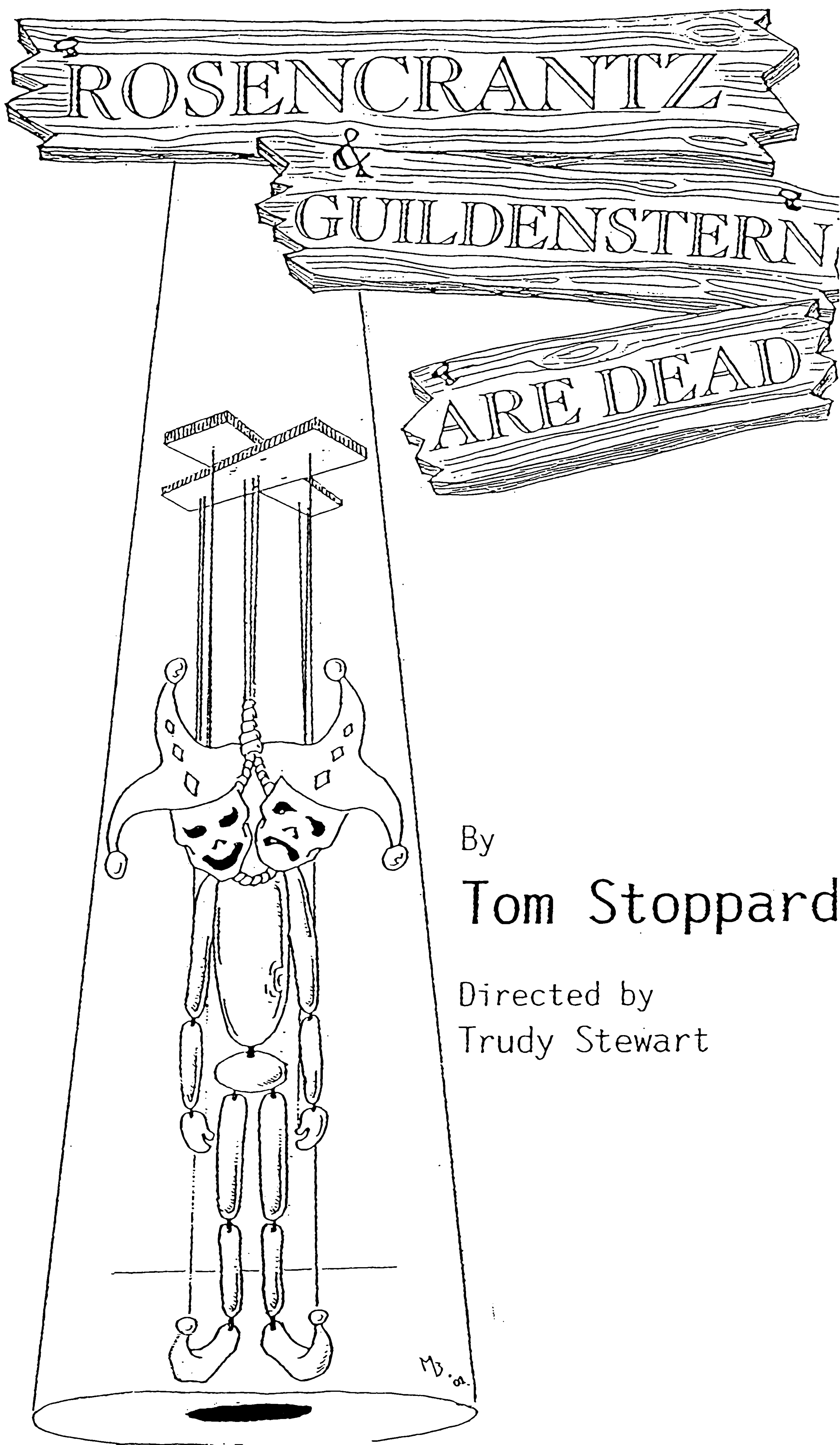


Leeds Arts Centre

presents



By

Tom Stoppard

Directed by

Trudy Stewart

LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

4th to 7th April 2001

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead

Born in 1937 in Czechoslovakia Tom Stoppard moved to England with his parents as a young boy. Eventually he became a reporter and free-lance journalist. His theatrical career began with the writing of radio and television plays, but his first international success came in 1966 with *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*. Stoppard's inventiveness has continued with plays including *The Real Inspector Hound* (1968), *Travesties* (1974), *Night and Day* (1979), *The Real Thing* (1982) and *In the Native State* (1991). In addition he has written a novel and numerous screenplays for movies including most recently *Shakespeare in Love*.

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead is a retelling of Hamlet through the eyes of two of its minor characters. They are Hamlet's boyhood best friends and are brought to court by King Claudius (Hamlet's stepfather) to try to discover what is afflicting Hamlet.

"Your father was king. You were his only son. Your father dies. You are of age. Your uncle becomes king... Hardly was the corpse cold before his young brother popped onto his throne and into his sheets... Now why exactly are you behaving in this extraordinary manner?"

The two heroes are left hanging around, contemplating their task and their own lives; their every move seeming to them to be controlled by someone else. They are increasingly baffled by the fact that they have been caught up in the action and cannot escape.

"Wheels have been set in motion and they have their own pace to which we are... condemned. Each move is dictated by the previous one – that is the meaning of order. If we start being arbitrary it'll just be a shambles: at least let us hope so."

Cast

Rosencrantz	Michael Kas
Guildenstern	Wilson Annalie
Player	David Mallinson
Tragedians	Pam Wilson, Margaret Savage, Adrian O' Reilley, Chris Hudson
Alfred	Kevin Cooper
Claudius	Paul Banks
Gertrude	Gwyneth Hadley
Polonius	Edwin Barraclough
Hamlet	Richard Francis
Ophelia	Louise Best
Ambassador	Chris Hudson
Horatio	Edwin Barraclough
Soldier	Adrian O'Reilley

Directed by Trudy Stewart

Production Co-ordinator	Christine Wilson
Set Design	Malcolm Brown
Set Construction	LAC team
Circus Skills Advisor	Bob Adams
Stage Manager	Tony & Mary Nelson
ASM	Rachael Morgan-Trimmer
Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Sound	Marie Lindley
Prompt	Betty Triggs
Wardrobe	LAC team
Properties	Denise Davies
Box Office	LAC team
Front of House Manager	Angela Sparkes

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager	Steven Cartwright
Assistant Manager	Vivien Simpson
Chief Technician & Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Technicians	Sandy Clark & David Simpson
Catering (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 all times be open
- (b) All gangways passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstruction.
- (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 space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Sub-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's production departs from the script slightly in that we have been flexible with casting. We feel that this is appropriate within the context of the play as nothing is ever quite what it seems.

“A man... sees a unicorn cross his path and disappear. “My God” says a second man “I must be dreaming, I thought I saw a unicorn” At which point a dimension is added that makes the experience as alarming as it will ever be. A third witness, you understand, adds no further dimension but only spreads it thinner, and a fourth thinner still... until it is as thin as reality, the name we give to the common experience. “Look, look” recites the crowd “A horse with an arrow in its forehead. It must have been mistaken for a deer.”

The set and the costumes boldly reflect themes in the play. The main characters are pawns or puppets. Left to their own fate the main characters realise they are part of a much bigger picture of which they have little or no understanding. The stage is bare apart from hints of the bonds that tie the characters to their fate.

Colour is also an important and significant part of the play. This is not only reflected in the costumes, but also in the use of lighting and the choice of music”.

“The colours red blue and green are real. The colour yellow is a mystical experience shared by everybody”.

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes between Act II and Act III during which the theatre bar will be open.

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

We welcome new members...

... so if you're interested in:

acting, directing, producing, set building & painting, 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 The Civic Theatre
Cookridge Street
Leeds LS2 8BH

Forthcoming Productions

Thurs 21st – Sat 23rd June 2001

Arsenic and Old Lace

By Joseph Kesselring
Directed by Tony Nelson

W/C 15th October 2001

The Picture of Dorian Gray

By Oscar Wilde
Adapted and Directed by
Malcolm Brown

The next Guild production at The Civic Theatre

LA Traviata

Presented by

West Riding Opera
23rd – 28th April 2001 7.15pm

Friends of the Civic Theatre

If you would like to support this theatre – why not join the Friends
Application forms available in the foyer