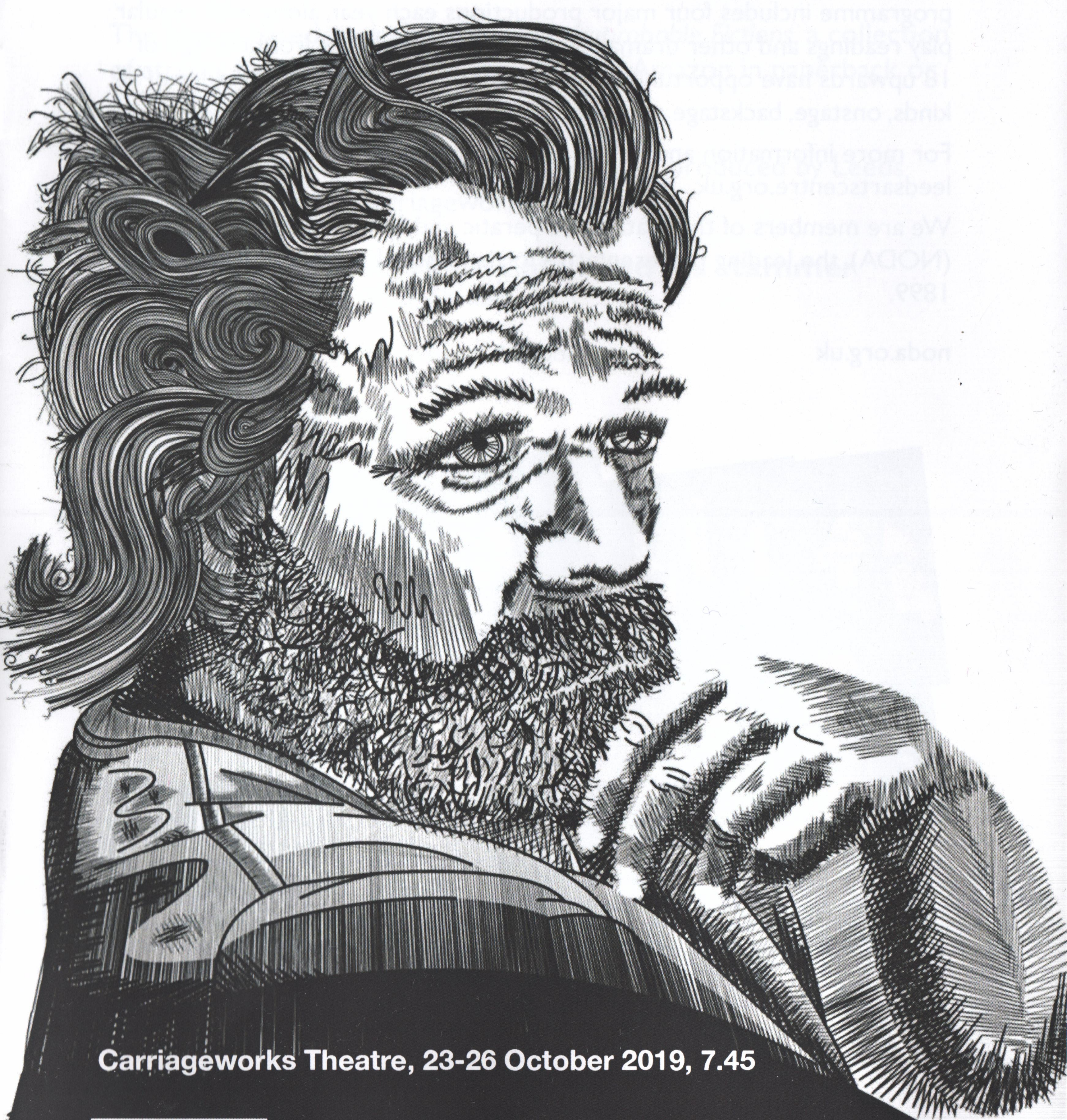


ROUGH SLEEPERS

by Neil Rathmell



Carriageworks Theatre, 23-26 October 2019, 7.45



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**



Leeds Arts Centre was founded in 1945 as an amateur society to encourage and foster interest in the arts. Originally it comprised drama groups, children's theatre, a fine arts group and musical, literary and film sections. It was based at the Leeds Civic Theatre (now Leeds City Museum).

We moved in 2005 to our new home at the Carriageworks, where our programme includes four major productions each year, along with regular play readings and other drama-related events. Members from the age of 18 upwards have opportunities to acquire and develop theatre skills of all kinds, onstage, backstage and front of house.

For more information and details of how to join, visit our website at leedsartscentre.org.uk.

We are members of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), the leading representative for amateur theatre in the UK since 1899.

noda.org.uk



Rough Sleepers, written and directed by Neil Rathmell, is set in an overgrown graveyard outside a disused chapel. Just the place for an elderly gentleman of the road to take shelter for the winter with only the quiet sleepers in their graves for company.

There is one interval of 15 minutes.

The play is based on a short story in *Improbable Fictions*, a collection of stories by Neil Rathmell, available from Amazon in paperback or as an e-book.

Other plays by Neil Rathmell that have been produced by Leeds Arts Centre at the Carriageworks:

Unspoken - the story of a man and his stammer

In collaboration with Dr Trudy Stewart

July 2017

Toured subsequently to Antwerp and London



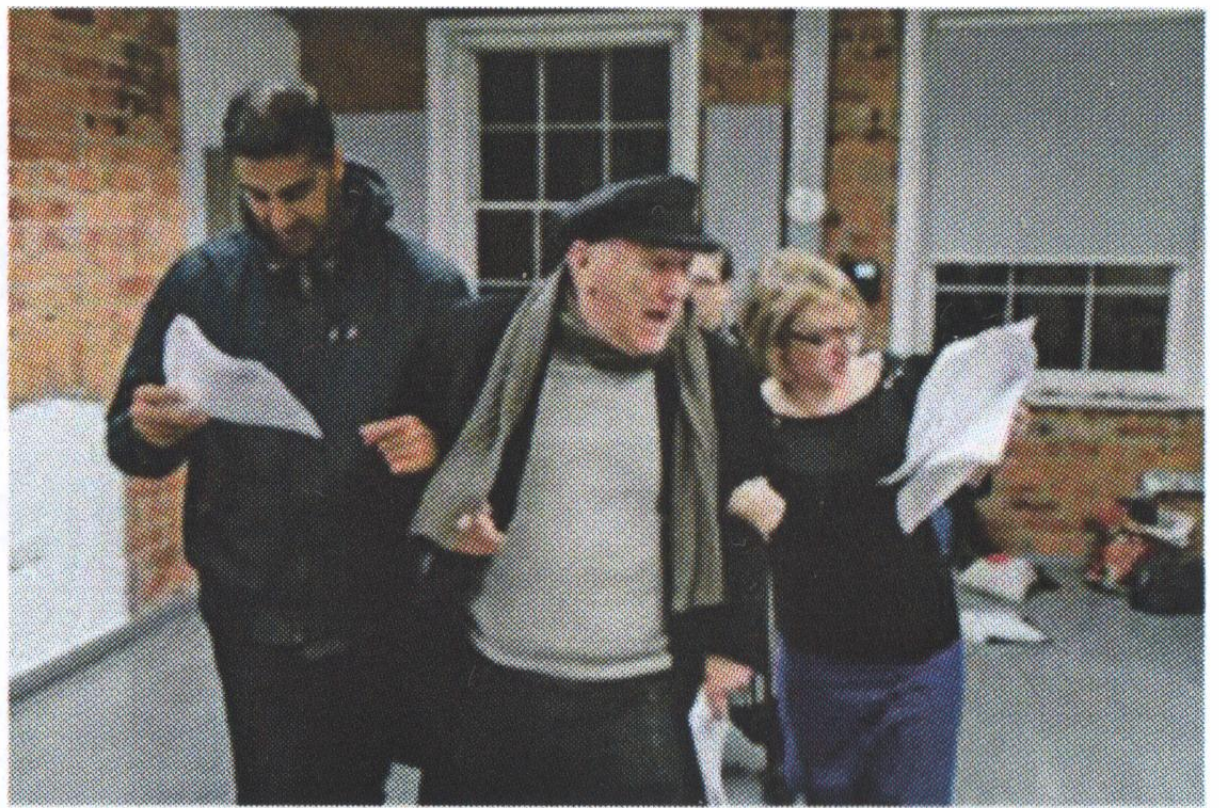
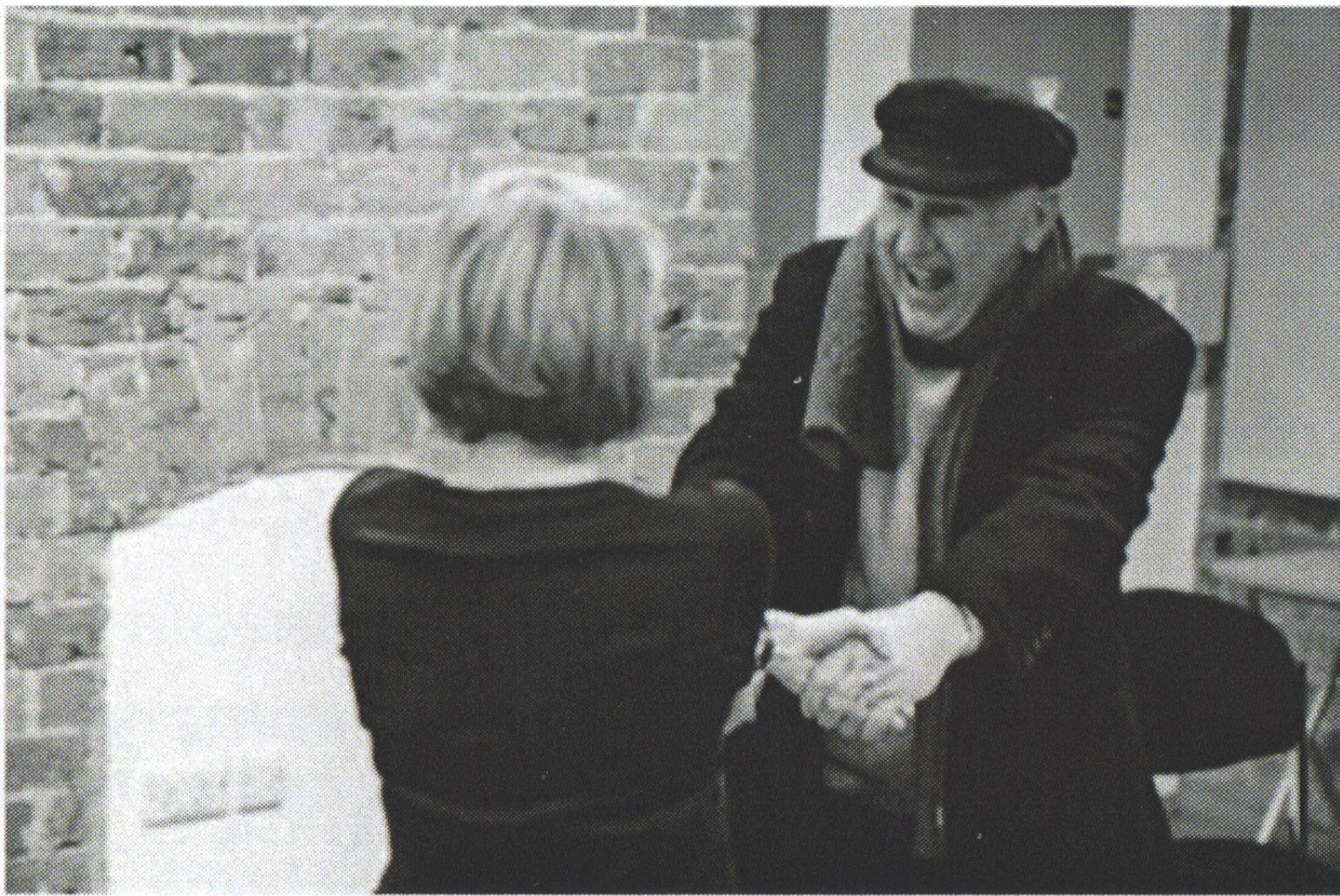
The Colin Atkins Story & It's A Miracle

A double bill of two one act plays

July 2018



More information at neilrathmell.com



SINDY ALLEN

Brenda

CAMILLA ASHER

Lucy

CAROL BELL

Mrs Megginson

JAMES BELL

Mr Whitwell

JENNY CARTER

Head of Publicity

ANJI CLARK

Hair stylist and set painter

ADDY DURRANI

Charlie

ZOE FREEDMAN

Costume consultant

STEVE FRYATT

Lighting and Sound

MARIA KWATER

Costume team

ENYA LUCAS

Stage Manager

SOPHIE MACWHANNELL

Photographer and video maker

TRISH McGOUGH

Mrs Byram

NEIL RATHMELL

Playwright and director

BHUPINDER SINGH

Mr Megginson

KEN TAYLOR

Captain

RACHEL VERNELLE

Front-of-House Manager

CARRIEANNE VIVIANETTE

Make-up

ADRIAN WEDGEWOOD

Col Megginson

MAUREEN WILLIS

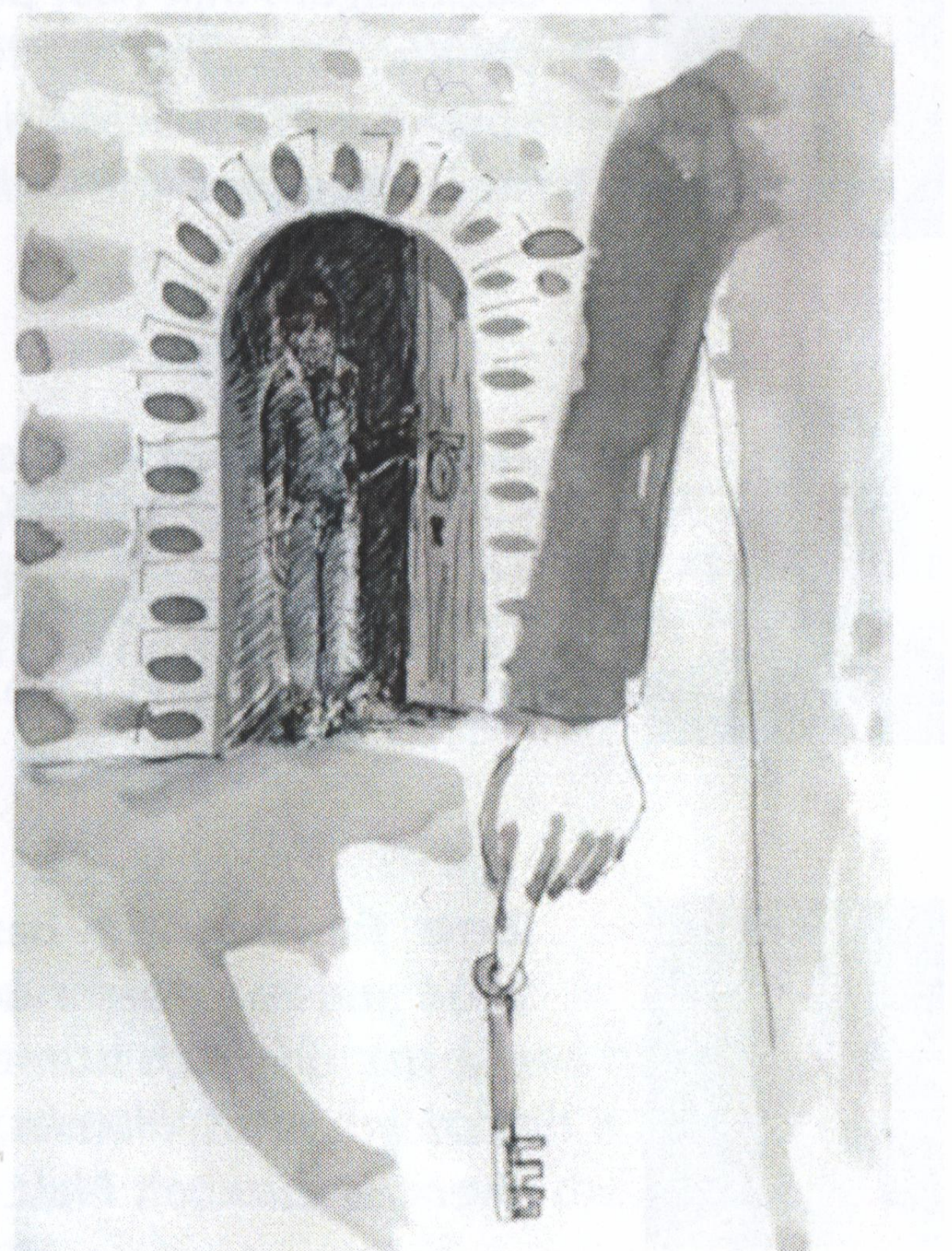
Costume team

PAM WILSON

Rev Sylvia Collingwood

YUYANG WANG

Costume team leader





Sindy Allen is a trained vocalist and has played roles from Shakespeare to G&S, most recently with York Shakespeare Project's *Sonnet Walks*. She is a member of Talent Management Agency UK working as a model, actor and behind the scenes. Her most recent appearance was in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.



Camilla Asher made her first appearance with LAC in 2009 when she played a part in *The Crucible*. Since then she has been an active member both on and off stage. Her passion is directing and she is looking forward to directing her fourth play, *Dinner* by Moira Buffini, in July 2020.



Carol Bell has been a member of LAC for several years and enjoys acting both on the main stage and in the studio. She particularly enjoys studio work because of the intimacy between the audience and the actors. Her most recent performance was as Inès in *No Exit*.



James Bell has been acting since 2001. Previous roles include Mercutio and Prince Escalus in *Romeo and Juliet*, Dr Chumley in *Harvey*, the Policeman in *The Colin Atkins Story* and Osric in *Hamlet*, for which he won an award for Best Actor in a Supporting Role.



Anji Clark joined LAC in 2015. She loves acting and regularly helps backstage. Anji has performed in several Green Room and studio productions. She has had various minor roles but her first main stage role was in *After Midnight, Before Dawn*, followed by prominent roles in *Steel Magnolias* and *Mill on the Floss*.



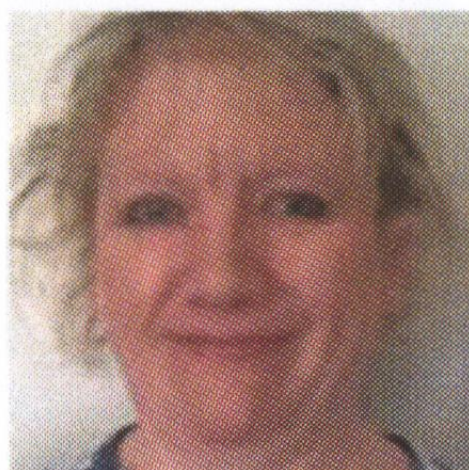
Addy Durrani calls himself 'a newbie to the theatre scene'. After playing the part of Lenny in a rehearsed reading of an extract from *Of Mice and Men*, he appeared on stage for the first time as Bob Jakin in LAC's production of *The Mill on the Floss*.



Zoe Freedman has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre since 2004 and has been running the LAC wardrobe since 2010. In that time she has done costumes for a number of shows including *The Crucible*, *Accrington Pals*, *Hamlet*, *Flint Street Nativity*, *Kindertransport* and *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*.



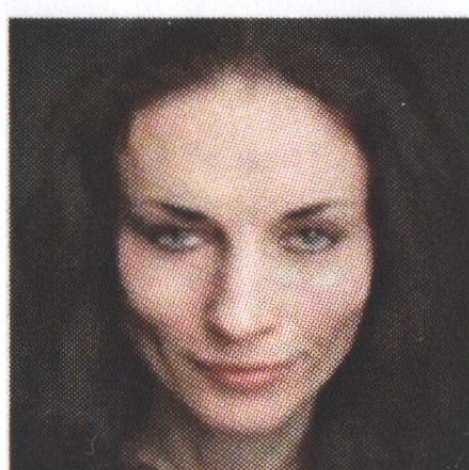
Steve Fryatt had his first experience backstage five months before he was born while his mother lit *Twelfth Night*. Nineteen years later, he entered the shadows himself as a 'techie' in the world of Edinburgh theatre. For the past fifteen years, he's been doing much the same with Leeds Arts Centre.



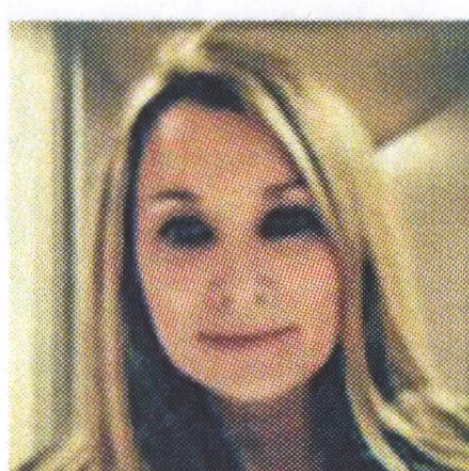
Maria Kwater joined Leeds Arts Centre in 2006. She has appeared most recently in LAC's *The Mill on the Floss*. She directed *The Dumb Waiter*, *The Accrington Pals* and *Sense and Sensibility* and has worked backstage on production management, sound operation, costume, props and publicity.



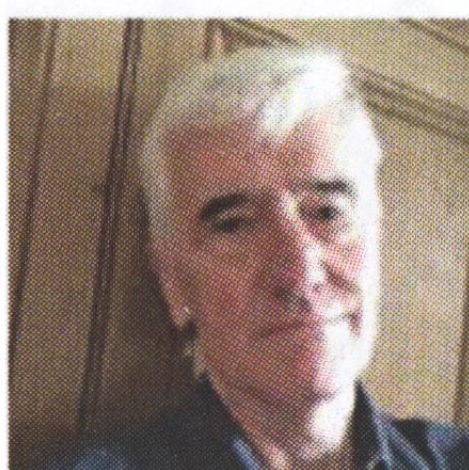
Enya Lucas is excited to be turning her hand to stage management. She was nominated for the LeedsCAN Supporting Actress award for her role as Shelby in *Steel Magnolias* and has most recently played the lead role of Young Maggie in *Mill on the Floss*.



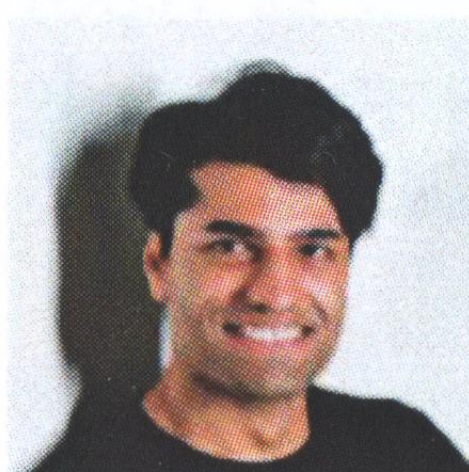
Sophie Macwhannell has been a member of LAC for a year. Her last onstage role was as 2nd Maggie in *The Mill On The Floss*. She also has experience as a gig and performance photographer, which formed part of her Fine Art degree at Leeds Beckett University.



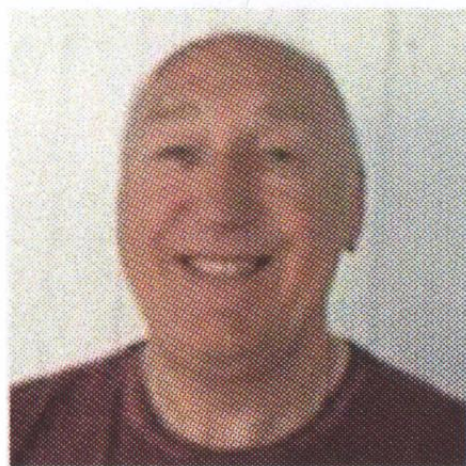
Trish McGough takes every opportunity which comes her way to indulge her passion for theatre. Joining Leeds Arts Centre was her first step from being a member of the audience to performing on stage. She works in IT Change Management at Leeds General Infirmary.



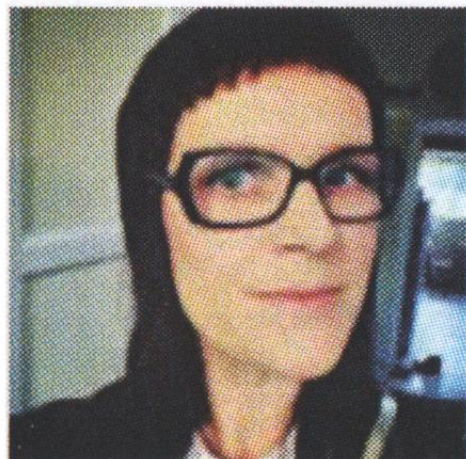
Neil Rathmell has been writing and directing plays for most of his working life, initially as a drama teacher, more recently as a freelance writer. His latest project took him to India to work with MA students at Punjabi University, Patiala, on a play about gender inequality.



Bhupinder Singh started training as an actor in 2016 by taking evening classes. *Act Up North* and *Act4TV* introduced him to acting on screen, leading to parts in student films and a role in a feature film, *Ask The Cheat*. His stage work to date includes *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Crazy For You* and *Made in Dagenham*.



Ken Taylor joined LAC in 2012. With over thirty years' experience, he has worked on stage, film and television. In 2016 he directed actors from LAC as 'the mechanicals' in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* with the Royal Shakespeare Company, which led to LAC's involvement in the RSC Open Stages initiative.



Carrienne Vivianette joined LAC in July 2017 after academic studies in theatre and performance, with experience as a contemporary performance practitioner. She had her first acting role with LAC as Mrs Atkins in *A Colin Atkins Story*, and made her directorial debut with Jean-Paul Sartre's *No Exit*.



Adrian Wedgewood is acting for the third time with LAC, having previously played Mr Atkins in *The Colin Atkins Story* and Luciano in *Hamlet*. Having taken time away from the stage to act in several locally produced films he is eagerly anticipating appearing in front of a live audience again.



Maureen Willis joined LAC in 2012. Her last role acting role was Mrs Glegg in *The Mill On The Floss*. She enjoys working backstage too. "My needlework skills leave much to be desired but we have an amazing collection of costumes and I enjoy finding costumes suitable for our productions."



Pam Wilson is amazed to realise that she has been a member of LAC for more than forty years, acting and occasionally directing. Recent appearances have been in *It's A Miracle*, *The Flint Street Nativity* and *The Mill on the Floss*. Off-stage she has worked on costume, props, music and set-painting.



Yuyang Wang joined LAC in 2017, acting in two Green Room productions and helping with costumes for the recent production of *No Exit*. She hopes soon to have an opportunity to add directing to the varied experience she has had so far.

THE STORY BEHIND ROUGH SLEEPERS

The black and white photograph that I took more than fifty years ago on a day out in York is one part of the story behind *Rough Sleepers*. I was attracted by the sound of the solo violin as I walked up the steps onto the city walls, but I was taken aback when I reached the top and saw the violinist.

The enigma of the 'gentleman of the road' and the ambiguity that he embodies are at the heart of the story. Most of the people in the play think they know all about the man in the graveyard before they have even seen him. We are all prone to make that mistake, not just about so-called rough sleepers but about anyone who is not quite like us or the people we know - or think we know.



When you direct your own work, the actors you work with naturally expect you to know everything about the characters in the play. I have my views about them of course, but that's all they are and the actors' views are no less valid. The characters would not be real if there was only one right way of playing them. To be lifelike is to be ambiguous.

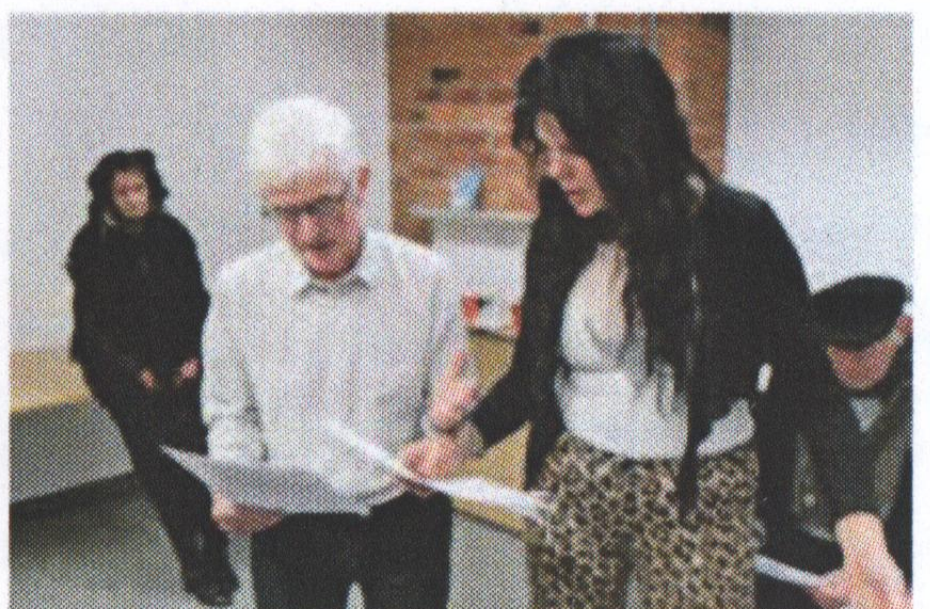
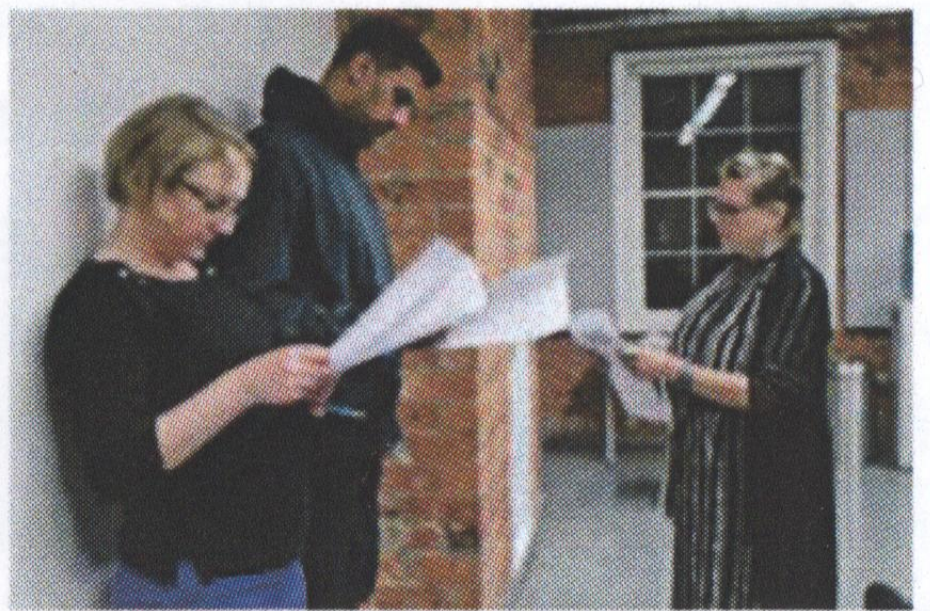
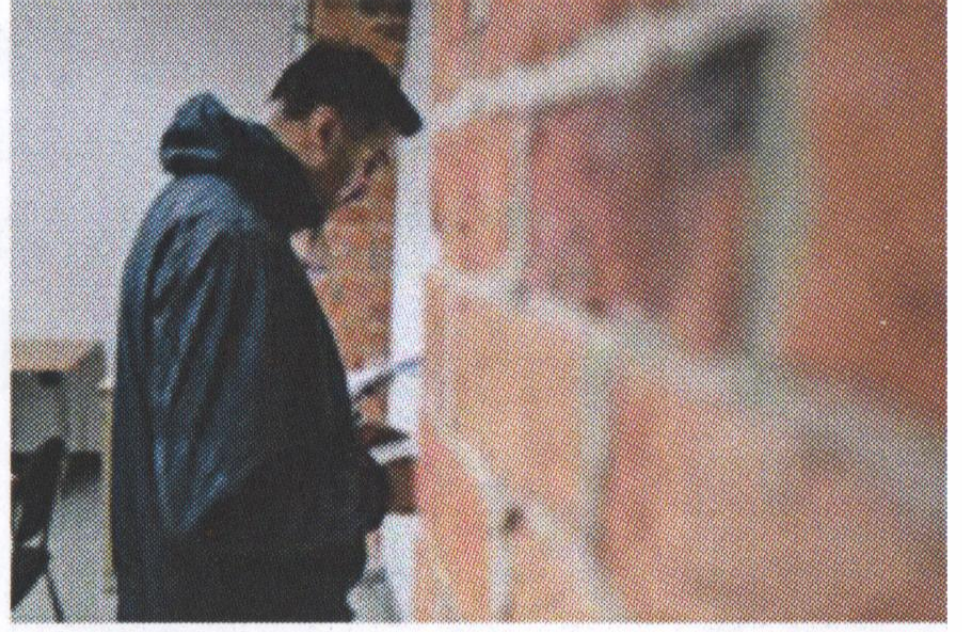
My tramp objects to being called a rough sleeper. "I sleep very well mostly," he says. He takes exception to the word 'homeless' too, not having a home being for him a matter of choice, not accident. Whatever the other characters make of him, the audience, I hope, will not be so quick to jump to conclusions.

I have written fiction as well as plays. The first things of mine to be published were a poem, two short stories and a novel. But the first things I wrote as a boy were plays. What attracts me to drama and keeps bringing me back to it is the absence of a narrator. In a play, the story must tell itself. The skill of the playwright, like that of the puppeteer, is in being invisible.

Rough Sleepers started life as a short story, based on an even shorter story in a book about the early Christian saints and martyrs called *The Golden Legend*. It was very popular in medieval Europe and was one of the first books to be printed in England by William Caxton.

The story begins, "There was a man who, as he walked through the cemetery, always recited the De profundis for the dead." It would be called 'flash fiction' today as the whole story consists of just three sentences. The other two would give too much away, so I won't quote them. The plot of the play is contained in those three sentences. I stole the plot, but the rest is all my own work.

Neil Rathmell



SONG

Once a mariner hauled his boat
Onto the golden sand
Turned his back on the reckless sea
With a wave of his hand.

Found a woman to be his wife
Pretty as she could be
Bought some land and built her a house
With its back to the sea.

Looked after her as good men should
As good as he could be
Lay with no one but her at night
With his back to the sea.

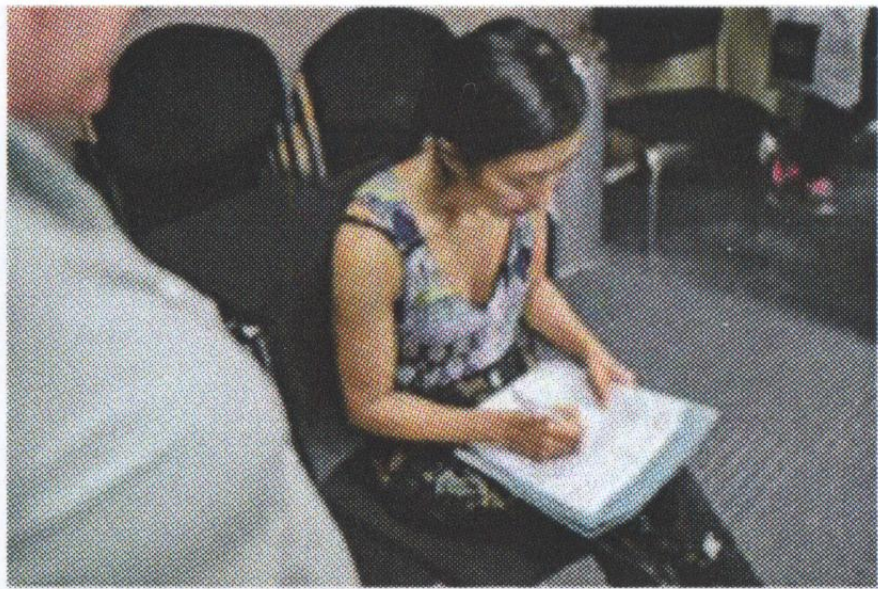
But every day he heard the wail
Of wind-beleaguered waves
And every night he heard the sigh
Of sailors in their graves.

And every night the moon-dark waves
Lapped at his land-locked bed
And every day the seagulls came
Screaming to wake the dead.

Once a mariner hauled his boat
Back to the faithless sea
Leaving his wife at home in bed
Lonely as she could be.

Words by Neil Rathmell, music by Gwyneth Herbert





LEEDS COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK




Leeds CAN comprises thirteen community arts groups, based and performing mainly at The Carriageworks, working with the support of The Carriageworks and Leeds City Council.

Leeds CAN member societies are:


Cosmopolitan Players, Leeds Amateur Operatic Society, Leeds Arts Centre, Leeds Children's Theatre, Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society, Leeds Insurance Dramatic & Operatic Society, Leeds Writers Circle, Leeds Youth Opera, Northern Youth Theatre Company, Our Community Dances, Shatterproof, S.T.A.R.S. and St Mary's Youth Theatre.


Look out for these forthcoming productions ...

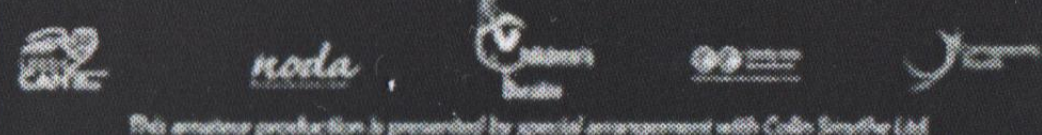
6 - 9 November 2019
Leeds Children's Theatre presents
The fantastically funny
TERRY PRATCHETT
JOHNNY and the DEAD
Adapted by Stephen Briggs



Carriageworks Theatre (Main Auditorium)
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD
7pm (Wednesday to Friday)
1pm and 5:30pm (Saturday)
Adults £14.50 Concessions £12.50
Under 16s £10.50 Family Ticket £46.00
For more information go to www.leeds-childrens-theatre.co.uk
Online Bookings www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk
Contact the box office for group booking enquiries
Box Office: (0113) 9760918
City Centre Box Office in Leeds Town Hall, The Quadrant, Leeds LS1 6AD

SCAN ME 

10% 



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Lerner and Loewe's
My Fair Lady
31st March to 4th April 2020



Book and Lyrics by
ALAN JAY LERNER
Music by
FREDERICK LOEWE
Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's Play and
Gabriel Pascal's Motion Picture "PYGMALION"
Original Production Directed and Staged by Moss Hart


This amateur production is presented by arrangement with Music Theatre International (Europe). All authorised performance materials are also supplied by MT. Europe www.mti-europe.co.uk



OUR THANKS TO...

Freesound, a collaborative database of creative-commons licensed sound, for recordings of birdsong and other sound effects - freesound.org

Gwyneth Herbert for permission to use her recording of *Once A Mariner* - gwynethherbert.com

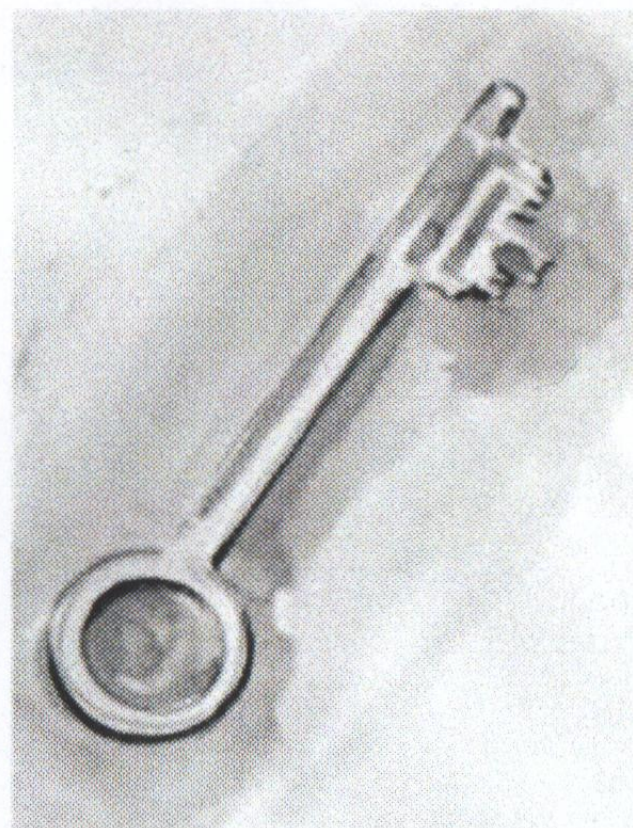
LAC Members and others not mentioned here by name who helped in many ways, backstage and front of house

Maria Hayes for permission to use her illustrations for the short story on which the play is based - mariahayes.info

Mark Hillyer for rehearsal photographs - truenorthuk.com

Mitchell Perry for poster and flyer design

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



COSTUME HIRE

Leeds Arts Centre has a wide range of high quality men's and women's costumes available to hire at competitive rates.

Period costumes

Character costumes

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Military uniforms

Suits

Accessories

For more information visit
leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire



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LAC AT THE CARRIAGEWORKS

Coming soon...

LITTLE WOMEN

by Louisa May Alcott

Adapted for the stage by Peter Clapham

Directed by Zoe Freedman

13-15 Feb 2020

This classic of children's literature tells the story of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy, four very different young women growing up in Civil War America. With their father away at war, the girls and their mother ('Marmee') must learn to fend for themselves. How the experience changes them means as much to us today as it did when the novel was written 150 years ago.

THE FATHER

by Florian Zeller

Translated by Christopher Hampton

Directed by Rich Francis

30 Apr-2 May 2020

André is eighty. He 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 beautiful study of a man descending into dementia is both funny and heart-breaking.

DINNER

by Moira Buffini

Directed by Camilla Asher

1-4 July 2020

The black forest gâteau of black comedies, *Dinner* has it all! Entertainment, love, laughter, revenge, an eclectic guest list, an exceptional menu, excessive alcohol, discussions on art and literature, sport and leisure, science and nature, history and politics and even life and death. Think Abigail's Party meets Harold Pinter!

Tickets from Leeds Town Hall box office:

- leedstownhall.co.uk/how-to-book/
- 0113 376 0318