

A note from the Director

Scarborough is a play about a forbidden weekend away, where a couple does all the things you might expect a couple to do. But fear is in the air, and they daren't leave their seaside hotel. After all, at just fifteen years old, one of them is just a child... the other their teacher.

When I decided to take *Scarborough* from the page to the stage, I thought about how vital it is to show these abusive relationships in their totality. In cases where there is an inherent power dynamic in a relationship, it's important to acknowledge the moments of coercive control, but also the moments of tenderness. I feel it's important that we view Daz and Lauren, and Beth and Aiden, as though maybe they could just be a real couple, only for reality to come screeching in and remind us of what's really happening. These aren't relationships built on mutual trust and even-footing. There will always be one party in control and one party too young to consent.

As a text, *Scarborough* plays with expectations and audience biases. It asks us how we view power and love through a gendered lens, and I felt it would be in keeping with the spirit of Fiona Evans' work to extend this concept through time. My idea was to explore how our viewpoints have changed as the decades have progressed.

Act I (Daz and Lauren) - set in 2004, as written by Fiona Evans.

The 2003 Sexual Offences Act reconceptualised the idea of consent. It was also the first time the crime of grooming minors and committing abuse when in a position of trust was referred to in law.

Act II (Beth and Aiden) - set in 1989, exactly 15 years before, when Lauren would have been a teenager.

Previous Sexual Offences Acts prioritised abuse against females; abuse against males was only mentioned as an indecent assault.

Consent was not proactively discussed in law, and instead based on the defendant's reasonable belief a victim was over the age of 16.

Law does not always reflect reality. Very often there is no scope in law to acknowledge power dynamics, like the ones explored in *Scarborough*.

Furthermore, if a victim does not come forward, or if it is difficult to prosecute a perpetrator, then the law is ineffective. It can also take a long time for legislation to change in line with social attitudes. For instance, coercive control and emotional abuse in relationships only became an offence in 2015. These are sensitive issues, and I would like to instil conversation in the audience and raise awareness of this complex subject. My vision was to explore how our expectations on abuse and consent might have changed and how gender plays into this.

With such a difficult subject matter, my mature and capable cast have been a pleasure to work with. Their abilities to inhabit their characters has been matched wonderfully by their sensitivity and willingness to draw out the subtlety and nuance from the text. The same must be said of my brilliant production team, who at all points have endeavoured to understand my vision and to collaborate expertly to make it a reality. My team have been a true joy to work with, especially in how they've supported me through the challenges this text has brought to me as a director.

All that's left to say now is that I hope you will take something from *Scarborough* and that tonight's performance will leave you talking.

Enya Lucas





www.leedsartscentre.org.uk

The action of the play takes place in a small hotel in Scarborough

Time: Act I - 2004

Act II - 1989

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lauren Fiona Galloway

Daz Connor Houlton

Beth Emily Gilpin

Aiden Tim Cooper

directed by Enya Lucas

There will be one interval of 20 minutes between acts I and II Video and/or audio recording by any means is strictly prohibited.

The Front of House team will be collecting for **SARSVL** (Support After Rape & Sexual Violence Leeds) and I would ask you to give generously to support this vital local charity.

Due to the sensitive topic of child sexual abuse, LAC recommends *Scarborough* for audiences of 16+ years only.

If you have been affected by the issues raised in this production, the following charities can offer anonymous, confidential, emotional support:

Rape Crisis England & Wales 24/7 Support line: 0808 500 2222

SARSVL: 0808 802 3344

Ben's place: <u>survivorswestyorkshire.org.uk</u>

NSPCC: 0808 800 5000

Childline: 0800 1111

Production team

Assistant Director Brian Diamond

Production Manager Addy Durrani

Stage Manager Michael Moorhouse

Set Design Brad Askew

Set Construction Brad Askew, Jacob Hartley, Matt Lorentz,

Kirsty Elliott, Leigh Dawson and Vignesh Warraj

Lighting Design Lydia Edwards

Sound design & technician Steve Fryatt

Wardrobe Manager Anna Middleton

Wardrobe Team Joanna Scott, Zoe Freedman and Maria Kwater

Properties Manager Lizzie Relins

Properties Team Becca Millard, Jacob Hartley and Nicole Smith

Rehearsal Prompts Chelsea Issott and Simon Twine

Publicity Artwork Mitchell Perry

Publicity Team Camilla Asher, Barry Blatt, Josie-Renee Shaw,

Thom Marshall, Shirley Broadbent, Pam Wilson

Publicity Photography Mark Hillyer

Front of House Kirsty Elliott and LAC members

With special thanks to Dr Rosie Fox for her advice on the Sexual Offences Act 2003

Leeds Arts Centre would also like to thank:

Mark Hillyer for headshots and rehearsal photographs

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray for printing the programmes

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

Meet the Scarborough team.....

Enya Lucas Director



Scarborough is Enya's directorial debut and she is thrilled to have been able to work with so many people who have dedicated themselves to realising her vision for this production. Enya has been a member of LAC since 2017 and has taken on numerous backstage and acting roles,

notably Shelby in *Steel Magnolias*, Maggie in *The Mill on The Floss* and Wynne in *Dinner*.

Fiona Galloway

Lauren

Fiona has been a member of LAC for over 10 years, enjoying various roles both on and off stage. She performed as Snout in the RSC's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, Jo in *Little Women* and Sian in *Dinner*. Fiona is looking forward to reprising the role of Lauren following the 2022 Green Room performance of Scarborough .



Connor Houlton Daz



Scarborough is Connor's third play with Leeds Arts Centre. He played Tom in The Mill on the Floss and the Waiter in Dinner.

Connor graduated from the Arden School of Theatre and has also performed with the National Theatre.

Emily Gilpin

Beth

Emily is a new member of Leeds Arts Centre. She has performed in musicals and pieces of physical theatre and brings those talents to this production. She is thrilled to be involved in a play that carries an important message through the style of realism.



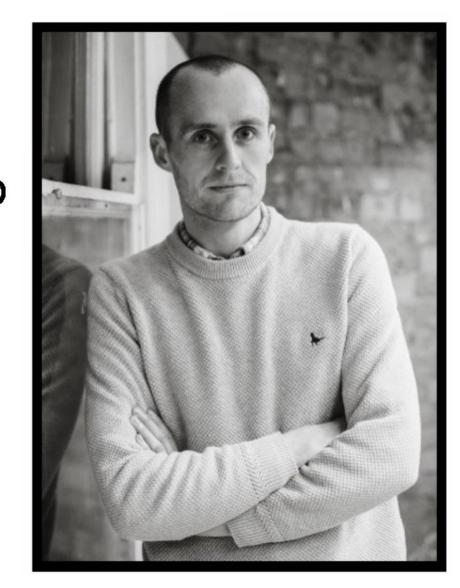
Tim Cooper Aiden



Scarborough is Tim's second play with LAC. He graduated from the Guildford School of Acting and has many professional credits across his career. He hopes this piece will challenge audiences' unconscious bias and preconceptions and most importantly that they enjoy what the team has put together.

Brian Diamond Assistant Director

Brian is a recent member of Leeds Arts Centre. He played Michael in the Green Room production of *God of Carnage* and is now expanding his talents into backstage roles. His role as assistant director for *Scarborough* is refreshing and challenging and he is excited for the audience to see what the team has accomplished.



Addy Durani





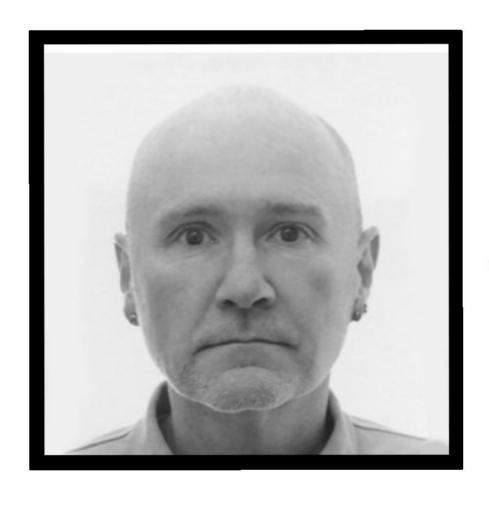
Addy is elated to be part of a meaningful production that highlights the destructive power of coercive controlling behaviour. He has been with Leeds Arts Centre since 2018, enjoying various backstage roles.

Anna Middleton

Wardrobe

Anna has been a member of Leeds Arts Centre for a year. This is her first time working on wardrobe and she has been very excited to explore 80s fashion for this production.

Brad Askew Set Design



As the set designer this will be Brad's first production for Leeds Arts Centre but he brings a wealth of talent and experience from sets and costumes he has designed for previous productions. These include Jesus Christ Superstar, Grease, Richard III, Waiting for Godot and The Marriage of Figaro.



About SARSVL Support After Rape and Sexual Violence Leeds



SARSVL was started in 2010, when a group of local women saw a gap for women survivors in Leeds and decided to take action. Now, in 2023, we have a helpline, counselling service and a team of advocates, all providing support to women and girls who have experienced sexual violence of any kind. We are an independent feminist organisation working to empower survivors, by providing a range of trauma-informed, non-judgemental support services completely free of charge in a woman-only safe space. No matter what happened, or when it happened, we are here.

We also believe that sexual violence and abuse are not inevitable, and that attitudes towards victim-survivors need to change, so we are also campaigning and working with the *Women's Lives Leeds Alliance* to make Leeds a women-friendly city.

Thank you for reading and supporting our work. We hope you enjoy the performance and are so grateful to Leeds Arts Centre for highlighting the work we do!

Scarborough in rehearsal......













More about LEEDS ARTS CENTRE......

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE was formed in 1945 as an amateur society to encourage and foster interest in the arts.

Originally it comprised Drama groups (including Children's Theatre), a Fine Arts group and Musical, Literary and Film sections and was based in the Civic Theatre (now Leeds City Museum).

In 2005 Leeds Arts Centre moved to the Carriageworks, where we now present four plays every season, usually in February, March/April, May/June and October/November. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of our productions and new members are always welcome - with or without any previous experience. We hold regular playreadings and social events and aim to give all members the opportunity to try their hand at all aspects of theatre-making.

We are a registered charity and non profit-making organisation. Our members range in age from 18 to 80+ and come from a wide range of backgrounds. If you are interested in joining, then please speak to a member of our friendly team, or you can find out more, by visiting our website at www.leedsartcentre.org.uk where you can complete an application form in the 'Join Us' section.

You can also email us at <u>publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk</u> or write to The Membership Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre, c/o Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, Leeds. LS2 3AD.

Keep up with our news on Facebook and Twitter at





Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

We have a wide range of high quality men's and women's costumes available to hire at competitive rates.

These include:

Period costumes, evening dress, accessories, Character costumes, military uniforms, suits For more information, please see our website:

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire



www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE



https://truenorthuk.com



Leeds Arts Centre is part of LEEDS COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK



LCAN comprises a range of community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks, where most of their performances take place.

Its current member groups are Leeds Arts Centre, Leeds Children's Theatre, Leeds Youth Opera, Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society, LIDOS, Cosmopolitan Players, LAOS, St. Mary's Youth Theatre, Our Community Dances, and Leeds Writers' Circle.

For more information visit http://www.leedscan.org.uk

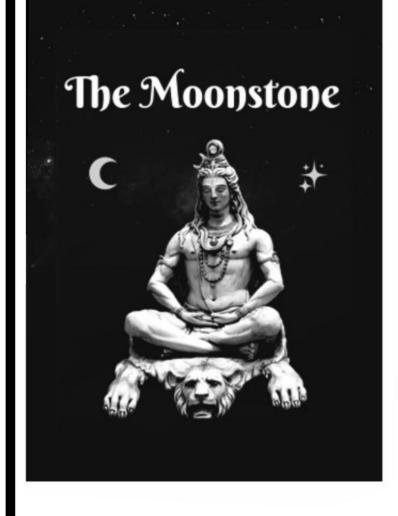
Upcoming LEEDS ARTS CENTRE productions......

Our next production will be CHICKEN SOUP

by Ray Castleton & Kieran Knowles directed by Zoe Freedman

Wednesday 10th - Saturday 13th May 2023

It follows the lives of four women in a mining community over a 30 year period, spanning the miners' strike, the Queen's Golden jubilee and the Brexit vote.



This will be followed by *THE MOONSTONE* directed by Laurie Toczek

Wednesday 5th - Saturday 8th July 2023

An adaptation of the Wilkie Collins classic mystery with its cast of memorable characters.

We will begin our **2023-2024 season** with a production of **ROPE**

by Patrick Hamilton, directed by Thom Marshall - every bit as thrilling as the famous Hitchcock film which the stage play inspired!

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk

