



Leeds Arts Centre
p r e s e n t s

Shirley Valentine



by Willy Russell

Wednesday 22 - Saturday 25 March 2000



"I like a glass of wine when I cook, don't I, wall?" says Shirley Valentine.

It's one of the most famous opening lines in recent theatre history, as Willy Russell's wistful, downtrodden, but finally triumphant housewife-heroine confides her tale to the audience.

This delightful play is a warm-hearted look at a 42 year old woman's escape to her always-young inner self. Shirley Valentine longs to escape the dull routine of her lacklustre home, and her domineering (yet morose) husband whose sharp edges and coarse habits keep her locked in boredom.

Moving about her kitchen, chopping potatoes and folding towels as she prepares eggs and chips which have to "be on the table when (hubby) Joe walks through that door," Shirley gradually evokes her son and two daughters who are grown up, leaving her in the clutches of an empty marriage.

"Marriage is like the Middle East," she says thoughtfully. "There's no solution." In this demanding one-woman show she describes her friend Jane, who "became a feminist" when her husband ran off with the milkman.

As she sips a glass of wine she dreams of drinking in the country where the grape is grown. When Jane offers a holiday in Greece, Shirley seizes the opportunity and rediscovers her younger self.

The play is a combination of poignant realizations, broadly written comic recollections, and thoroughly recognizable details of the humdrum side of life.

Shirley, breaking out of the mould cast for her by society, is brilliantly shown with humour, warm sympathy and human insight.

Shirley Valentine

Pam Wilson

Production Assistant

Shirley Broadbent

Stage Manager

Martyn Drake

Set design &
construction

Tony Nelson, Richard France,
George Westmoreland

Props

Doreen Parker, Denise Davies

Prompt

Margaret Davey, Joyce King

Costume

LAC Wardrobe

Lighting

Peter Waddicor

Sound Operation

Shirley Broadbent

Front of House Manager

Gwyneth Hadley

Box Office

Maggie Rhodes

Directed by Tony Nelson & Mary Nelson

Act 1—Shirley's kitchen
Act 2—A beach in Greece
There will be one interval of 15 minutes

our next show at the Civic Theatre will be:

Hay fever

by Noel Coward -
directed by Joyce King

This frothy comedy from the ever-popular Coward takes place in the home of the ultra bohemian Bliss family. Romantic novelist father, ex-starlet mother and their two teenagers each invite a guest for the weekend. Unfortunately, everyone leaves this crucial announcement to the casual last minute.

The guests endure an uncomfortable tea, a ghastly after dinner word game and escalating romantic confusion. Oh so delightful Cowardian mayhem ensues.

Thurs 15 - Sat 17 June 2000

WILLY RUSSELL

Willy Russell was born in Whiston, near Liverpool, in 1947. At 15 he left school to work as a hairdresser until 20. He then decided to return to school and finish his education starting work on his first play — the *Blind Scouse* trilogy which went to the Edinburgh Festival. A representative of the Everyman Theatre was impressed and subsequently produced world premieres of many of Russell's plays.

Russell has enjoyed West End success with *When The Reds*, *Sam O'Shanker*, *John Paul George Ringo... and Bert*, *Breezblock Park*, *Stags And Hens*, *One For The Road*, and *Blood Brothers*.

Commissioned by the RSC, Russell's famous *Educating Rita* proved so successful that it too was produced in the West End. It won the 1980 Society of West End Theatres Award for Best Comedy, and was later made into an Oscar nominated film, for which Russell wrote the screenplay, starring Michael Caine and Julie Walters.

Shirley Valentine had a lengthy run both in the West End and on Broadway, where Pauline Collins won critical acclaim (and both the SWET & TONY Awards as Best Actress). It too made a successful transfer to film in 1989, again starring Pauline Collins along with Tom Conti as Costas.

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Ben Parfitt, Chris Horton*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Syliva 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 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 place 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 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 **social activities**, including theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

We welcome new members . . .

. . . so if you're interested in:

**acting, directing, producing,
set building & painting (scenery & pictures)
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 Civic Theatre
Cookridge Street
Leeds LS2 8BH

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Mr *Dr Jekyll &* Hyde

a spine-chilling new adaptation of this classic tale by
Malcolm Brown – director of highly acclaimed productions:
The Phantom of the Opera and *Frankenstein*

Wednesday 11—Saturday 14 October 2000

Rosencrantz and
Guildenstern
Are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

*directed by
Trudy Stewart*

Coming to the Civic Theatre in March 2001

The next Guild production at the Civic Theatre is
The Pearl Fishers
by Bizet
West Riding Opera
1st - 6th May 2000

Friends of Leeds Civic Theatre
if you'd like to support this theatre - why not join the Friends?
Application forms available in the foyer