

STEEL *Magnolias*

a Play by
Robert Harling

Directed By
Zoe Freedman



Thursday 1st -
Saturday 3rd

Start Time: 7:30
February 2018


TOP GIRLS



LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk
Charity Number: 503872



 Carriageworks
Theatre

www.carriageworkstheatre.org.uk



The Electric Press,
Millenium Square
Leeds, LS15 3AD



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). Leeds Arts Centre moved to its new home at the Carriageworks in 2005. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of its productions. We now present four plays every season, usually in February, March/April, May/June and October, at the Carriageworks Theatre under the umbrella of Leeds Community Arts Network.

'**Green Room**' events give members the opportunity to perform short plays, extracts and rehearsed readings for a members only audience. They give newer members experience of acting, directing, backstage work and also offer the chance to perform new writing or more experimental work.

The society also hosts regular **play readings** and **social events**.

New members are always welcome, and you don't need any experience to join. As well as acting, you could become involved with directing, production management, stage management, set and costume design or construction, co-ordinating properties or costumes, prompting, sound recording and operation, front of house management and publicity. If you are interested in joining, then please speak to a member of our friendly team. You can also contact us by email at publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk or in writing to The Membership Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre, c/o Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD.

Leeds Arts Centre is run by a committee of members which is elected every year. We are a registered charity and are funded by the money we make from ticket sales, subscriptions and fund-raising activities.

Our members range in age from 18 to 80+ and we have a strong core of both younger and older members, who come from a wide range of backgrounds. To find out more, why not visit www.leedsartcentre.org.uk where you can complete an application form in the 'Join Us' section.



Welcome to Leeds Arts Centre's production of Steel Magnolias

Director's Notes

I first watched the film of Steel Magnolias with my Mum, soon after it came out in 1989. We chose it because of the fabulous female cast (Julia Roberts, Daryl Hannah, Dolly Parton, Sally Field, Shirley MacLaine and Olympia Dukakis), but were totally unaware of the plot. As the story unfolded we realised that the film had a personal resonance, as my sister had just been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes, and the story of a family dealing with this on a daily basis meant a lot to us.

Over the years I watched the film many times and whilst the diabetes plot remained relevant, I began to appreciate the wonderful female characters the film portrays. The women in the film are funny, feisty, strong, loyal and individual. The way they support each other through the challenges of their lives is a testament to the power of female friendships.

With this being one of my favourite films, I was delighted to discover that it was originally a play and that the play was just as good, if not better, than the film itself. I am delighted to be directing this play and I would like to thank all the cast, crew and everyone involved for their hard work.

I hope you enjoy the show.

About Type 1 Diabetes

Unlike type 2 diabetes, type 1 is an autoimmune condition, and is not caused by lifestyle factors. It often develops in young people and is caused by the pancreas being unable to produce insulin. People with type 1 diabetes have to inject insulin regularly and eat a healthy diet, ensuring they have enough carbohydrate in each meal. Diabetes UK do amazing work looking at treatment and prevention of both types of diabetes.

The front of house team will be collecting for Diabetes UK as you leave the auditorium and I would ask you to give generously to support this vital work.

Zoë Freedman



Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

Leeds Arts Centre is a registered charity and non-profit making organisation. We have a wide range of high quality men's and women's costumes available to hire at competitive rates.

These include:

- Period costumes
- Character costumes
- Evening dress
- Military uniforms
- Suits
- Accessories

For more information, please see our website at
www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire

Keep in touch!

To keep up with all the latest Leeds Arts Centre news follow us on:



[http://www.facebook.com/groups/
LeedsArtsCentre/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsArtsCentre/)

News and info



<http://twitter.com/#!/leedsartscentre/>

Updates on the go

Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/



Biographies

Zoë Freedman - Director



Zoë has been acting since childhood, playing a variety of roles with Playcraft, in her home town of Canterbury. Since joining LAC in 2004, Zoë has been in a number of productions, including Billy Liar, Road, A Country Wife, Comedy of Errors and Sense and Sensibility. Zoë made her directorial debut with LAC directing 'A Resounding Tinkle' by NF Simpson, as part of a double bill of one act plays. Since then she has directed 'The Price' by Arthur Miller and 'Top Girls' by Caryl Churchill.

Zoë would like to dedicate this production to her Father who encouraged her to be confident, feisty and true to herself.

Condolences

Leeds Arts Centre would like to pass on our condolences to the family and friends of Steven Cartwright who has sadly passed away. Steven was unfailingly supportive and helpful and a real fan of Leeds Arts Centre over a great many years. We very much appreciated his affection for and support of both the Civic and Carriageworks Theatres. He was a lovely man.



Cast Biographies



Annelle - Ellice Price

Ellice has recently graduated in Theatre and Performance at the University of Leeds and has been performing since the age of 8. She became a member of LAC in September 2017 and has loved the rehearsal process of Steel Magnolias. She is very excited (and nervous) for the performances!



Truvy - Anji Clark

Anji acted at school and at university and then continued her interest in drama and acting by attending training courses such as 'Acting for Film and TV' with Act Up North. Anji joined LAC about 3 years ago, helping with make-up and costume for their production of 'Macbeth'. Since then, she has been an active member of LAC playing her first role as a witch condemned to die in 'After Midnight, Before Dawn'. Anji has since been in a number of green room productions .



Clairee - Lena Gazey

Lena's stage debut was as Fraulein Blumenblatt in a Portsmouth Grammar School staff production of Tom Stoppard's On The Razzle. Since returning to her home town of Leeds she has appeared in Humble Boy (as Mercy Lott) and Last Tango in Little Grimley (as Joyce) with Otley Little Theatre. She was last seen as Betty Chumley, the Psychiatrist's wife, in LAC's February 2016 production of Harvey.



Cast Biographies



Shelby - Enya Lucas

Enya has been with LAC since May 2017 and has performed in the comedy 'After Show' and helped backstage on 'Blood & Ice'. Enya has loved being on stage since she was born and used as a prop in her Dad's production! Since then she has performed in choirs, poetry reading and youth theatre. She is very excited to have found the drama bug again!



M'Lynn - Carol Bell

This is Carol's third play with LAC, her second time of working under the direction of Zoë Freedman and third time working on stage alongside Maureen. Carol returned to acting after a break of 32 years three years ago and has enjoyed every moment of being in LAC.



Ouiser - Maureen Willis

Mo joined LAC in 2012 when she was involved in her first production Duets. Since then she has had a variety of roles both on and off stage and last year was proud to be LAC Chair. She has recently acted in Unspoken and All That Fall.



The Plot

Following the lives of six small town Louisiana women – beauty salon owner Truvy, shy newcomer Annelle, best friends Ouiser and Clairee and mother and daughter M'Lynn and Shelby – who gather regularly at Truvy's salon to gossip about the latest goings on. When one of their lives takes a tragic turn, they summon all their strength and sass to support each other.

The action of the play takes place in Truvy's beauty shop in Chinquapin, Louisiana

ACT 1 Scene 1	April
Scene 2	December
ACT 2 Scene 1	June, eighteen months later
Scene 2	November

The play is in 2 acts with an interval of 20 minutes

The video and / or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited



Cast

In order of appearance

Annelle

Truvy

Clairee

Shelby

M'Lynn

Ouiser

Radio DJ

Ellice Price

Anji Clark

Lena Gazey

Enya Lucas

Carol Bell

Maureen Willis

Ken Taylor

Production Team

Director

Production Manager

Stage Manager

Properties

Wardrobe

Hairdressing Advisor

Rehearsal Prompt

Front of House

Sound

Lighting

Set

Poster Design

Zoë Freedman

Alan Buttery

Steve Fryatt

Dean Franklin, Fiona

Galloway and Elizabeth

Hayes

Kathryn Francis, Margaret

Savage and Helen

Pearson

Michelle Petrow

Joyce King

Maria Kwater and LAC

members

Ben Hopwood

Carriageworks Theatre

Steve Fryatt and LAC

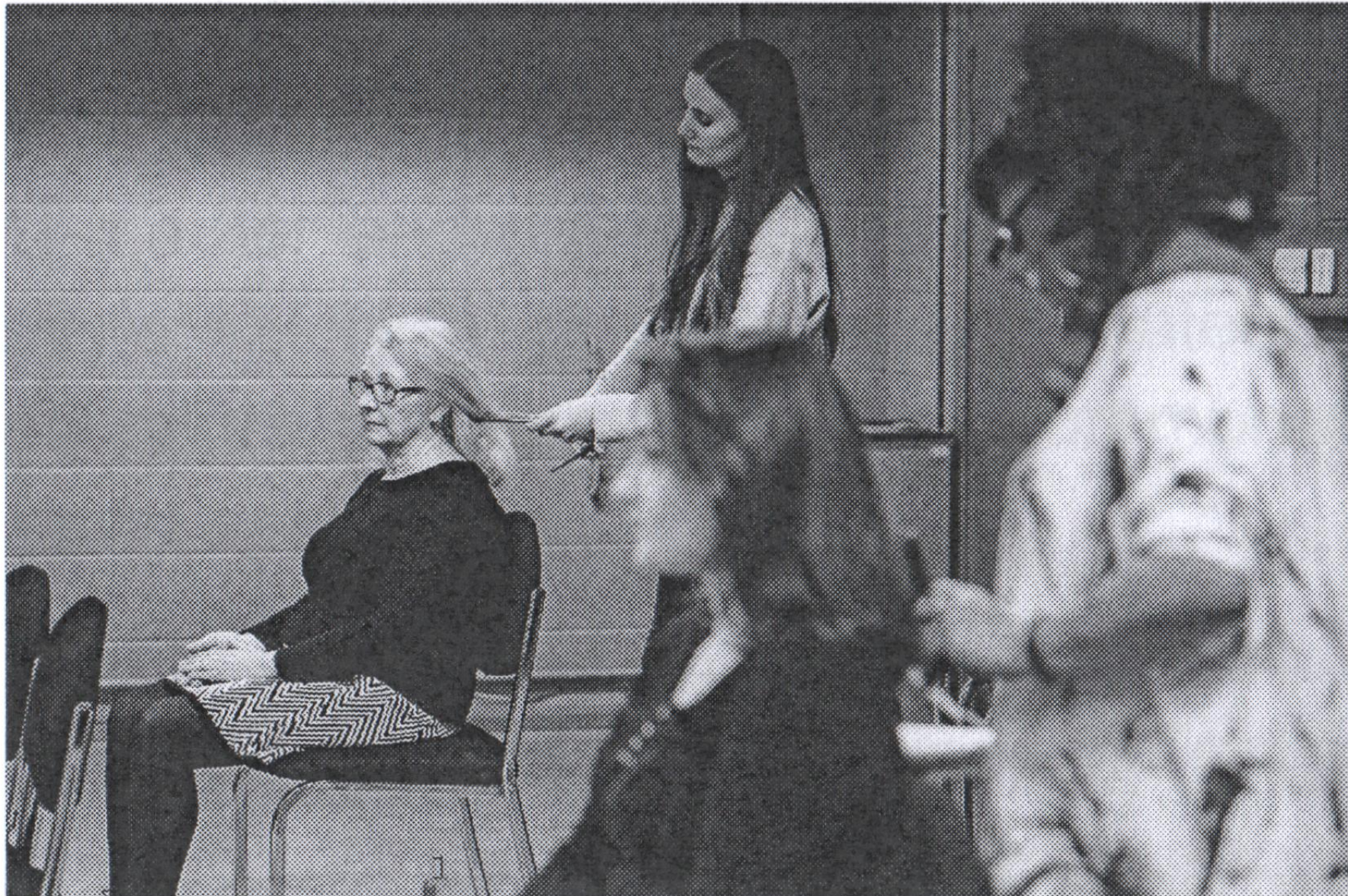
members

Jake Logan



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

Rehearsal Photos

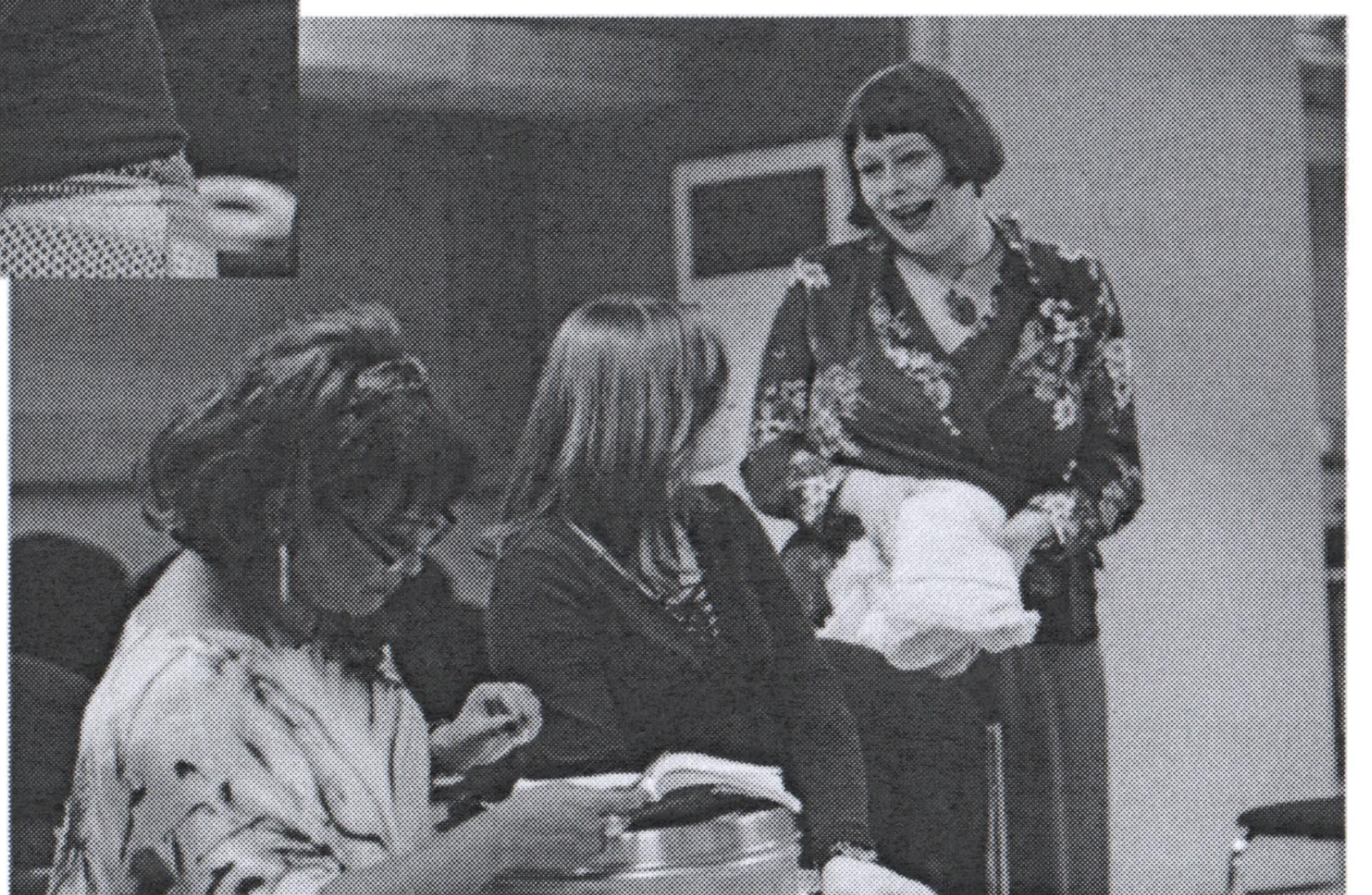


Thank you to Mark Hillyer for the photos
<http://www.mjhstudio.co.uk/>



LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

Rehearsal Photos



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Acknowledgements

We are currently looking for companies and organisations that would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.



We would like to thank The Victoria Hotel for the use of their rooms. The Victoria Hotel is a favourite of the cast and crew, find us in there after the show.



Thank you Mark Hillyer for taking photographs during the rehearsal

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray
————— solicitors —————

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE

0114 272 9721

www.lfbsolicitors.co.uk

Thank you to Lewis Francis Blackburn and Bray for printing the programmes.



Phil Dodgson & Partners Limited

Phil Dodgson & Partners are Pudsey based accountants offering services throughout West Yorkshire and surrounding areas. They are pleased to work with Leeds Arts Centre in the preparation of Leeds Arts Centres annual accounts.
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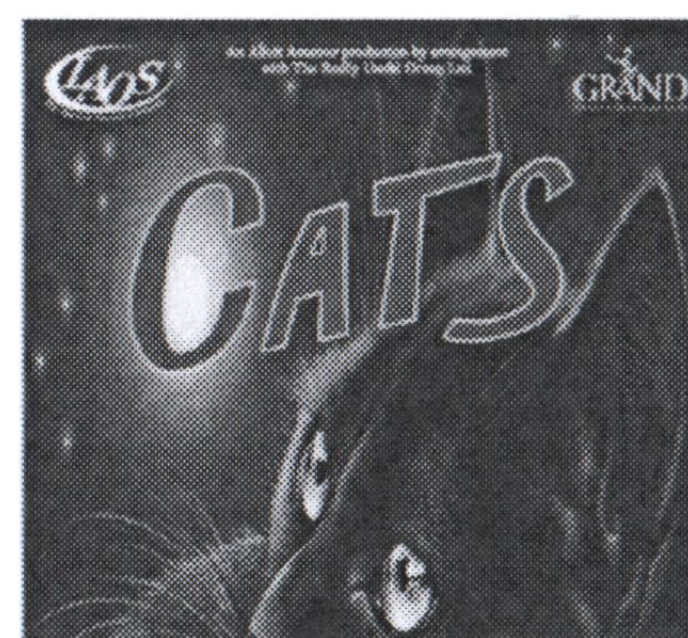
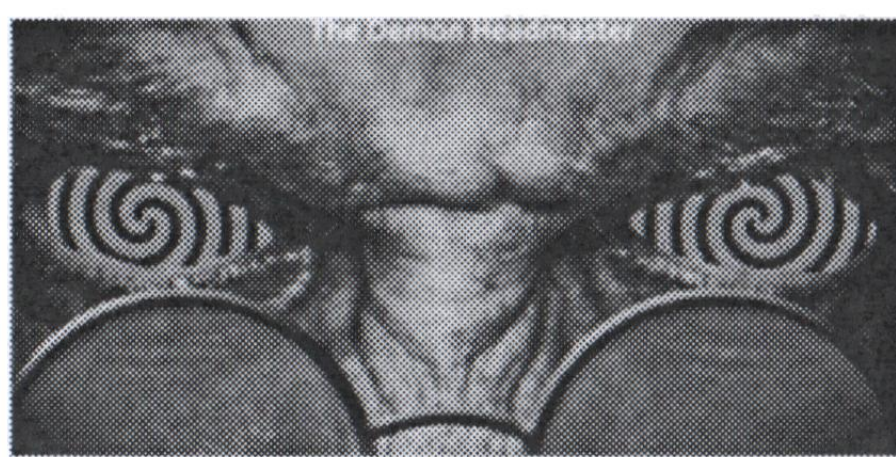
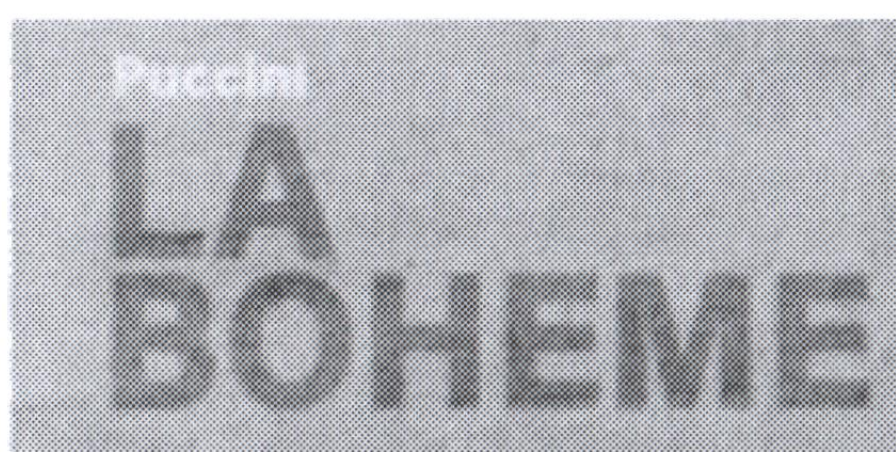
Leeds Community Arts Network (Leeds CAN), previously known as Leeds Civic Arts Guild, is a group of 14 community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies who mainly perform at The Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has its own identity, however they all come together as part of the Network, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. Leeds CAN has an ever growing membership and you can take part too. Everyone is welcome, from old hands to complete novices. This might be the opportunity you've always wanted to tread the boards and become the star of the show! Or you could experience the thrill of being backstage by getting involved in lighting, sound or set construction.

For more information and enquiries about joining, visit <http://www.leedscan.org.uk/>

The member societies are:-

Cosmopolitan Players (COS) Leeds Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS) – Leeds Arts Centre (LAC)– Leeds Children's Theatre (LCT) – Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society (G&S) – Leeds Insurance Dramatic & Operatic Society (LIDOS) – Leeds Writers' Circle – Leeds Youth Opera (LYO) – Morley Amateur Operatic Society (MAOS) – Northern Youth Theatre Company (NYTC) – Our Community Dances – Shatterproof – S.T.A.R.S and St Mary's Youth Theatre.

More great upcoming shows from Leeds Community Arts Network (Leeds CAN) Groups:



La Boheme (LYO) - 7th - 10th February 2018, The Carriageworks

The Mikado (G&S) - 21st - 25th March 2018, The Carriageworks

The Demon Headmaster (LCT) - 21st - 24th March 2018, The Carriageworks

CATS (LAOS) 17 - 21 April 2018, Leeds Grand Theatre



We need your help!

Thank you for your support for Leeds Arts Centre in coming to see our production. We could not exist without you.

Unfortunately, at the moment our tenure at the Carriageworks Theatre is under threat, along with all the other Arts groups within the Leeds Community Arts Network (LCAN).

Leeds City Council are currently faced with the need to raise more funds and this is recognised and understood. The prices we pay for our presence at the venue have to rise and LCAN are prepared to meet reasonable demands in that area, and to work in partnership with the theatre management to find ways to help. However, the theatre management are currently insisting on what we believe to be unreasonable rises which will culminate in an increase of 600% by the year 2020/2021. Perhaps more damaging is the proposed removal of our set building capability and storage of flats by ejecting us from the Theatre Workshop, and early closure of the building on an evening at 8.30pm meaning that we can't rehearse, taking effect from 1st April 2018. LCAN are currently running a campaign to enlist the help of our city councillors, M.P.s, the media, and alumni who had their first experience of theatre in the city, to hopefully reverse this withdrawal of facilities and to negotiate realistic prices.

If you want to help by sending a letter to your councillor or M.P. please send an e mail to leedsartscentre@hotmail.com for the text of an appeal that you can send to them. Otherwise, please keep abreast of what is happening in this situation and lend your support among your community.

In these challenging times, it is realised that change has to occur and sacrifices must be made, but at the same time to destroy an arts community of over 800 citizens, without negotiation or appeal is unreasonable.

Please help.

<https://www.change.org/p/leeds-city-council-save-the-home-of-community-arts-in-leeds>



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions are:-

Charley's Aunt by Brandon Thomas

Directed by Dean Franklin

Thursday 3rd – Saturday 5th May 2018

This classic farce opens with Oxford students Jack and Charley planning to declare their love, before their sweethearts' mean guardian whisks them off to the country and out of reach. After their intended chaperone, Charley's long lost aunt Donna Lucia d'Alvadorez, cancels her visit from Brazil, their only recourse is to persuade their chum Lord Fancourt to impersonate her. But when the girls' guardian and Jack's father catch the scent of Donna Lucia's millions, the web of lies gets stickier.

It's a Miracle and The Colin Atkins Story

Directed and Written by Neil Rathmell

Wednesday 4th—Saturday 7th July 2018

Two comedies, two mysteries.

When an old lady breaks a pact with her childhood friend and tells Father Bentley the secret they have kept for seventy years, he doesn't believe her. How can she convince him? Her friend has the answer. It's a miracle!

For over fifty years, the origin of the British teenager has remained a mystery. Now that mystery has been solved. It all started one day in 1957 in the home of Mr and Mrs Atkins...

The Flint Street Nativity by Tim Firth

Directed by Ben Hopwood

Thursday 8th - Saturday 10th November 2018

Mizzis Horrocks' class of seven year olds is about to perform their nativity play at Flint Street Junior School for the proud mums and dads - and the occasional social worker. Squabbles arise when Gabriel wants to play Mary, the Star grumbles he's not a proper star like they have at NASA, Herod won't stop waving to his mum and dad and the subversive Innkeeper is determined to liven up the traditional script. And then the class pet escapes...

Tickets will be available from the City Centre Box Office at the Town Hall or by telephoning 0113 376 0318.