



**Leeds Arts Centre
Presents...**

Tales of the UNEXPECTED

2 one-act plays with a touch of the Supernatural

DETAILS

20th-23rd October

7:30pm | £12



**CARRIAGEWORKS THEATRE, MILLENNIUM SQUARE
BOX OFFICE: 0113 376 0318**

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk

www.carriageworkstheatre.co.uk

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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

Tales of the Unexpected

2 one-act plays with a touch of the Supernatural

Is There Anybody There? By Neil Rathmell

James, an influential social historian well known for his strong opposition to all forms of religion, finds himself at a bed and breakfast with no memory of how he got there. Despite the message his hosts are trying to tell him, he is convinced it is a sick game set up by some of his friends, or possibly his critics. Where is he? How did he get there? What's happening after breakfast? What's so special about eggs?

Neil Rathmell is member of Leeds Arts Centre and a successful author and playwright. This is the second showing of this play, the original presented and filmed by LeedsCAN as 'The End' in June 2021.

Now and Then By David Campton

Sisters Bella and Midge go for a birthday trip to visit a house described by its guide as quite old when Elizabeth I slept here." However some of the house's earlier inhabitants are still in residence and Bella's new brooch turns out to be not quite what she thought.

David Campton was a prolific and award-winning British dramatist who wrote plays for the stage, radio and cinema for thirty-five years. He began his professional theatre career at Scarborough, where he played a major part in establishing 'theatre in the round' and gave aspiring playwright Alan Ayckbourn his first job!

Is There Anybody There? - By Neil Rathmell

Director—Camilla Asher

Writer's note:

Plays are organic. They never reach the finality of a novel or, for that matter, a film or a painting. Every performance is a unique experience, of which the words written by the playwright make up only one part.

This play started life a few years ago as a short story. It was called Hotel because that was where James found himself one morning with no memory of how he got there. The story was published online in a magazine called Popshot but, being online, all that remains of it now is my original manuscript.

When the opportunity came for me to turn it into a play, I decided to set it in old-fashioned seaside boarding house, run by a husband and wife, instead of the expensive hotel of the original story, with its Jeeves-like waiter. Or rather, that was how the play appeared in my mind when I began to work on it.

Writing a script sometimes feels like watching a play and writing down what you hear. The play is already halfway out of your hands and on the stage.

Neil Rathmell neilrathmell.com

Director's note:

I first came across this play at the end of 2019 when we asked our members for suggestions for a play to be filmed socially distanced by Leeds Community Arts Network (LCAN) and streamed online in June 20. Neil Rathmell, several of whose plays the Centre has performed, proposed this one, under its original title, The End. I immediately liked the dark, ambiguous storyline with its comic slant and offered to direct it for the LCAN



project, little realising how much time Covid restrictions would lead me to spend with Annie, Seth and James!

Now under its new title of *Is There Anybody There?* this quirky one-act play perfectly complements *Now and Then* to make a wonderful night of entertainment.

For those who saw the online production, I hope you enjoy seeing this new 'live' version and for those who didn't, I would love to hear what you make of it.

Now and Then— by David Campton

Director—Pam Wilson

Director's note:

I have always liked David Campton's writing. He started his professional career in the mid-1950s working with Stephen Joseph at Scarborough (where he is credited with helping a young Alan Ayckbourn to make a name for himself). Over the next ten years he became one of the country's most prolific playwrights, with over 100 one-act plays and 20 full length stage plays produced on stage and adapted for radio and television. A contemporary of Orton, Beckett and Pinter he was an exponent of theatre of the absurd and many of his plays have an element of the paranormal.

In *Now and Then* time frames 500 years apart are briefly merged by a single item. Two sisters go for an afternoon out to visit an old house but one of them finds it still occupied by some of its earlier inhabitants, one of whom, in her turn, is shaken to discover strangers she cannot explain. The encounter brings about changes for all involved.



Is There Anybody There? By Neil Rathmell

Cast

(in order of appearance)

| | |
|-------|----------------|
| James | Jim Tanner |
| Annie | Pam Wilson |
| Seth | Howard Russell |

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Director | Camilla Asher |
| Original music | Josie McFarlane |

Now and Then By David Campton

Cast

THEN

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| The Wise Woman of Wickwell | Taz Bennison |
| The Servant | Elizabeth Relins |
| The Customer | Helen McDonald |

NOW

| | |
|-----------|----------------|
| Bella | Maureen Willis |
| Midge | Maria Kwater |
| The Guide | Howard Russell |

| | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Director | Pam Wilson |
| Assistant Director | Fiona Galloway |
| Rehearsal prompt | Silvana de Paula |

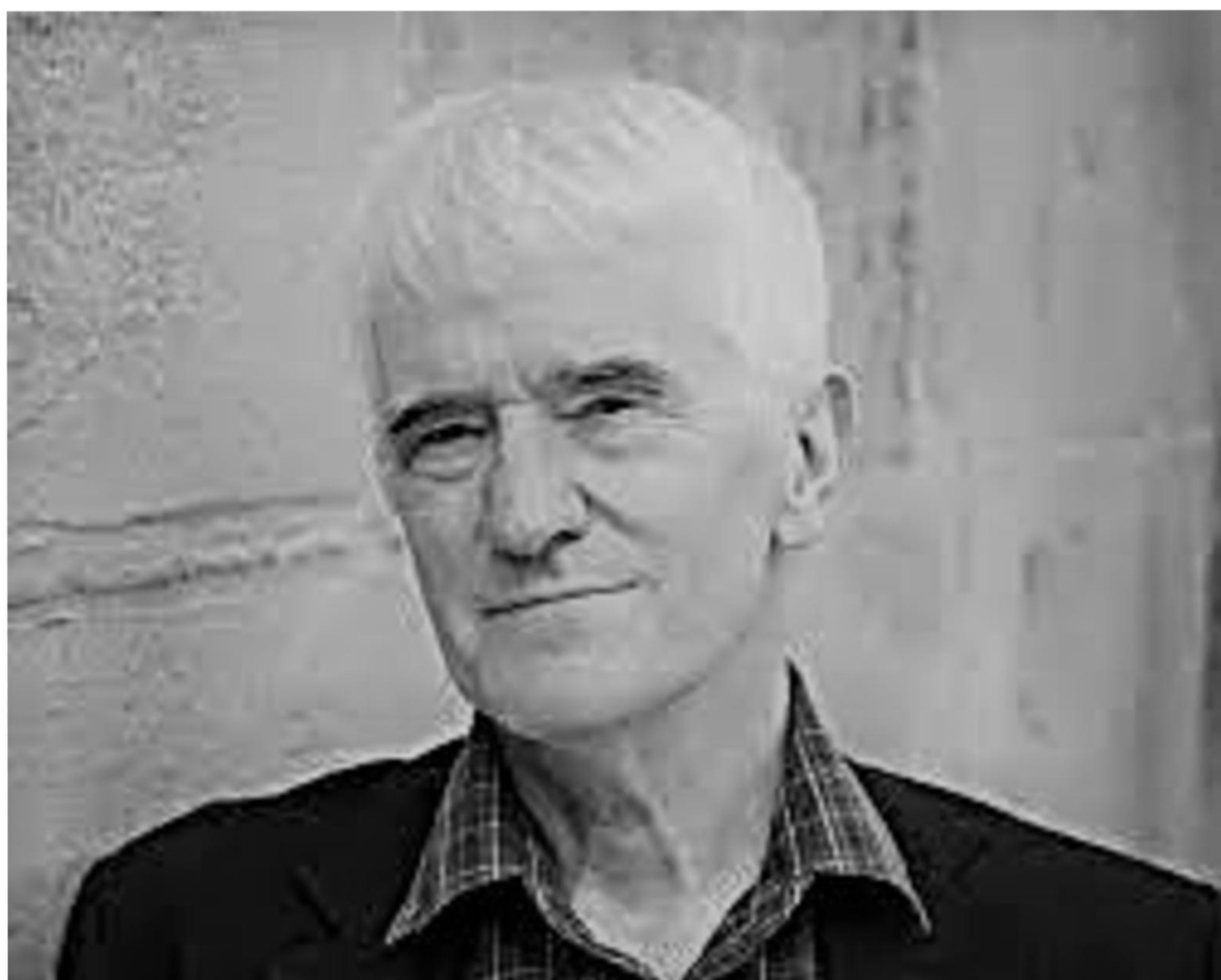
Tales of the Unexpected—Production Team

| | |
|----------------------|--|
| Production Manager | Rachel Vernelle |
| Stage Manager | Fiona Galloway |
| Sound & Lighting | Ben Hopwood |
| Costume | Zoe Freedman/Margaret Savage |
| Properties | Fiona Galloway |
| Backstage support | Michael Moorhouse/Silvana de Paula |
| Publicity artwork | Margaret Savage/Pam Wilson/ Emily Dewsnap— emilydewsnap.co.uk |
| Photography | Mark Hillyer/ Fiona Galloway |
| Publicity | Zoe Freedman, Fiona Galloway |
| Programme production | Rachel Vernelle |
| Front of House | Shirley Broadbent |



David Campton

Neil Rathmell



There is an interval of 15 minutes in this show

Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited

Rehearsal Photos



Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

LAC 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
www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire

Keep in touch!

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Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/



LAC would like to thank.....



Mark Hillyer for the rehearsal photographs

<https://truenorthuk.com>

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray
— solicitors —

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE

0114 272 9721

www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray for printing the programmes



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



Leeds Community Arts Network - (Leeds CAN) comprises thirteen community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies, mainly performing at The Carriageworks, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. Leeds CAN has a growing membership - everyone is welcome, from old hands to complete novices. This might be your opportunity to tread the boards, or you could experience the thrill of being backstage!

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

Leeds CAN 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); Northern Youth Theatre Company (NYTC); Our Community Dances; Shatterproof; S.T.A.R.S and St Mary's Youth Theatre.

For the community, run by the community. We love how diverse and rich of talent the Leeds community is, and love working with individuals and groups to make their dreams come to life.

We currently cover Musical Theatre, Drama, Opera, Dance and Creative Writing, and employ award-winning musical directors, artistic directors and choreographers local and national.

We aren't a tolerant group – we are a welcoming one. Our strengths lie in our diversity – of age, race, background and talents – united for one cause, which is to develop a home for community arts in the city.

LeedsCAN benefits not just the 14 member groups, nor their 800 members, nor just the 10,000 (and growing) audience members who watch the shows every year, but the city as a whole.



Leeds Arts Centre are members of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899 – the leading representative for amateur theatre in the UK. See www.noda.org.uk



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions:

***Dinner* by Moira Buffini**

A Delicious Satirical Black Comedy

Directed by Camilla Asher

Wednesday 9th to Saturday 12th February 2022

£13

Are you coming to Dinner?

There's plenty on offer: an eclectic guest list, an outrageous menu and lashings of alcohol, for starters! Not to mention a mysterious waiter, an uninvited guest and discourse on art and literature, science and nature, entertainment and politics.

In the main, Buffini's delicious, satirical black comedy serves up a smorgasbord of vengeance, passion and deceit with provocation and venom plated up in generous helpings in hostess Paige's pursuit for the dinner from hell.

Will Paige's dishing out of just desserts prove fruitless, or can she have her cake and eat it...? Join us to see whether revenge is a dish best served cold.

***The Father* by Florian Zeller**

Translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by Rich Francis

Wednesday 11th to Saturday 14th May 2022

Andre is 80 years old and 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 is a beautiful study of a man descending into dementia and we join him on his journey. It is funny and heart-breaking and reveals the dilemma that many of us will have to deal with; how to cope with a loved one when they begin to lose their bearings.

Tickets available from the Town Hall City Centre Box Office, or at www.leedstownhall.co.uk/how-to-book/, or by calling 0113 376 0318