

Leeds Leisure Services

Leeds Arts Centre
presents

The
BEGGAR'S OPERA
by John Gay

29th June ~ 3rd July
1982

THE BEGGAR’S OPERA by John Gay

Produced by MARGARET RHODES

CAST

BEGGAR, who poses in the prologue as the author of the play	George Teale
PLAYER, who is also in the prologue	Les Wormald
PEACHUM, a receiver of stolen goods	Trevor Money
LOCKIT, the jailor at Newgate Prison	Roger Cook
MACHEATH, a gentleman- highwayman	Ian Fairbrass
FILCH, a young pickpocket	Stuart Mitchell
MATT OF THE MINT	George Barker
BEN BUDGE	Robin Clayton
JEMMY TWITCHER	Don Wilson
HARRY PADDINGTON	David Mallinson
WAT DREARY	George Westmoreland
ROBIN OF BAGSHOT	Nicholas Money
NIMMING NED	Danny Robinson
SLIPPERY SAM	Martyn Drake
CROOK FINGERED JACK	Vic Aspey
TOM GAGG	Mervyn McPherson
BLUFF BOB	Tony McManus
BEETLE BROWED JACK	Michael Haigh
JAILOR	Sheldon Bonner
CONSTABLE	Dennis Stevenson
MRS. PEACHUM, Polly’s mother	June Stevenson
POLLY PEACHUM, who is in love with Macheath	Pam Wilson
LUCY LOCKIT, daughter of the jailor, also in love with Macheath	Denise Swift
DIANA TRAPES, clothier to the ladies of the underworld	Mary Nelson
MRS. COAXER	Shirley Hamer
DOLLY TRULL	Shirley Broadbent
MRS. VIXEN	Denise Forton
BETTY DOXY	Jean Armitage
JENNY DIVER	Gwyneth Hadley
MRS. SLAMMEKIN	Christine Wilson
SUKY TAWDRY	Gillian Thresh
MOLLY BRAZEN	Julie Mitchell
SUKY STRADDLE	Anne Robinson
BETTY SLY	Nina Goldthorpe
SERVANT	Betty Triggs
TAVERN WENCHES	Peggy Daker
	Julie Wood
	Miriam Fletcher
	Molly Bushe
PROMPT	Joyce King

MUSICIANS

PIANO

Diana Hunt
Helen Perkins

FLUTE

Jane Hunt
Helen Mitcheson

TRUMPET

Andrew Hunt

MUSICAL DIRECTOR

Diana Hunt

CHOREOGRAPHER

Betty Triggs

CO-PRODUCER

Anne Robinson

The action of the play takes place in eighteenth century London, in Peachum's house, Lockit's rooms, Newgate Prison, and sundry low taverns and gaming houses.

There will be two intervals during which refreshments will be served in the bar.

'The Beggar's Opera' was one of the most popular plays of the eighteenth century and was performed regularly from 1728–1886.

The opera became so successful because it lampooned the heavy Italian operas of the day, and satirised so many aspects of eighteenth century society, notably the government of the time, and, in particular, Sir Robert Walpole, and Robin of Bagshot. All these characters are involved in "theft, bribery, and treachery" and Gay implies that Walpole's government was founded upon the same measures.

'The Beggar's Opera' was also popular, because the London populace was interested in crime and criminals and Gay's characters were all bawds, thieves, cut-throats and highwaymen.

It also brings out the irony of a penal system in which bribery was rife, but which extracted capital punishment for petty theft, allowing rogues like Peachum, to live well from money gained by informing on their colleagues.

Samuel Johnson wrote that the play was "written to divert"; we hope we can divert you with "The Beggar's Opera" once again.

FOR LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

Stage Manager	David Scott
Assistant Stage Managers	Jim Young George Westmoreland Caroline Myers
Lighting	Laurie Ball
Properties	Betty Triggs Julie Wood
Wardrobe	Elsie Bell Peggy Daker George Judd
Publicity	Robin Clayton Anne Robinson
Booking Manager	June Stevenson
Box Office	John Pemberton
Front of House Managers	Malcolm and Monica Brown

FOR LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE:

General Manager & Licensee	Brian Goddard
Assistant Manager & Resident S.M.	Nicholas Morris
Assistant Stage Manager	Anthony McManus
Deputy Stage Manager	Pauline Mower
Theatre Electrician	Peter Waddicor

**In accordance with the requirements of the
Licensing Sub-Committee of Leeds City Council:**

- a) The public may leave at the end of each performance by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time 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 or sit in any of the intersecting gangways or stand in any unseated space in the auditorium unless standing space 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 each performance to check that it is in proper working order.**

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION WILL BE:—

MACBETH

by William Shakespeare

5th — 9th October 1982

WE SHALL ALSO BE PRESENTING:—

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

by Congreve

7th — 11th December 1982

NEXT WEEK

YOUTH DRAMA FESTIVAL

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

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

THE DRAMA GROUP presents five productions at the Civic Theatre each year — usually including a musical or revue type show.

THE GREEN ROOM GROUP puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members valuable experience of acting and producing before tackling major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre.

THE FINE ARTS GROUP meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES are organised for members, such as theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome so if you are interested in joining or would like more information please ask our members at the Box Office this evening or write to:

The Secretary,
Leeds Arts Centre,
Stansfeld Chambers,
Great George Street,
Leeds 1.

BOOKINGS: Advance bookings for any of our shows may be made at the Tourist Information Office in Calverley Street adjoining the Central Lending Library during the month before a production, or at the Bond Street Centre. Alternatively you may ask at the Box Office this evening or telephone Leeds 892346.

COSTUME HIRE: Many different periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates.

If you are interested please telephone Leeds 756796 and discuss your requirements with Mrs. Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress.