



Presents



**4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**Directed by Ken Taylor**





Leeds Arts Centre is a prestigious amateur theatre group founded in 1945, and member of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild.

We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. We produce four to five plays each year at the Carriageworks Theatre, as well as organising workshops to help members to develop their acting, directing and production skills.

We offer opportunities to all who are interested in becoming involved with any aspect of drama, including acting, directing, stage management, props, designing, costumes, lighting, sound, publicity and front of house.

**New members are always welcome!**

If you are interested in acting, directing, designing or making scenery or costumes, helping backstage with stage management or props, or lending a hand with publicity, then please speak to one of our members front of house this evening, or in the theatre bar after the show.

You can also write, with contact telephone number, for further information to:

The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre  
c/o The Carriageworks Theatre  
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD  
or e-mail us at: [publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk](mailto:publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk)

**To find out more about the activities and forthcoming productions of the Leeds Arts Centre visit our website at [www.leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk).**



The Leeds Civic Arts Guild is the 'umbrella' association of various amateur dramatic, musical, operatic and other voluntary arts societies & companies that are based in the centre of Leeds at the Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has its own identity, however they all come together as part of the Guild, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. The member societies are:

Cosmopolitan Players  
Leeds Amateur Operatic Society  
Leeds Arts Centre  
Leeds Art Theatre  
Leeds Children's Theatre  
Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society  
LIDOS  
Leeds Writers Circle  
Leeds Youth Opera  
Morley Amateur Operatic Society  
Shatterproof Theatre Company  
STARS  
St. Mary's Youth Theatre  
West Riding Opera

To learn more about the groups and societies, why not come along to the Carriageworks Theatre bar on the second Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm where you can meet a member of the Guild Executive for an introductory chat, and a tour of the facilities at the Carriageworks Theatre.

**For more information please visit <http://www.lcag.btck.co.uk/>  
or <http://lcag.boards.net>**



### A note from our Director

The plays of Harold Pinter, and of Samuel Beckett who influenced him, are great vehicles for directors and actors to demonstrate their skills, (or conversely, their lack of them). The Birthday Party is a prime example of a work that elicits great drama and tension through a mix of the banal and the absurd, but which gives an audience a true and vivid experience of the events being portrayed. I chose a segment of this play for my LAC Green Room (directing skill demonstration), precisely for that reason. One watches a Pinter play in the same way as one would watch an event taking place in real life, not analysing what is said, but appreciating what it does to those hearing it.

This is a play which has demanded, and has received the very best of the assembled talents, both on and off stage, that have come together to present it to you. It has been a very intense and ultimately rewarding process, with some heart in mouth moments, but with that feeling of excitement that comes when the play begins to respond to some very hard work, and it comes to life as a wonderful piece of theatre.

I have been privileged during the production of this play to hear anecdotes personally from people who actually spoke to Harold Pinter about The Birthday Party. One person visiting his studio found that he kept the receipts from the first, failed performance of The Birthday Party framed in his toilet. A director who spent all day with Pinter seeking clarity, was finally told that it was all about cricket, and an actor who asked Pinter why his character acted in a certain way was told to “mind your own business.”

With such help from the author, I have had to make my own decisions, and so now will you. I feel that we have done justice to the play, and hope that by the end of the evening you will share my view.

Ken Taylor.





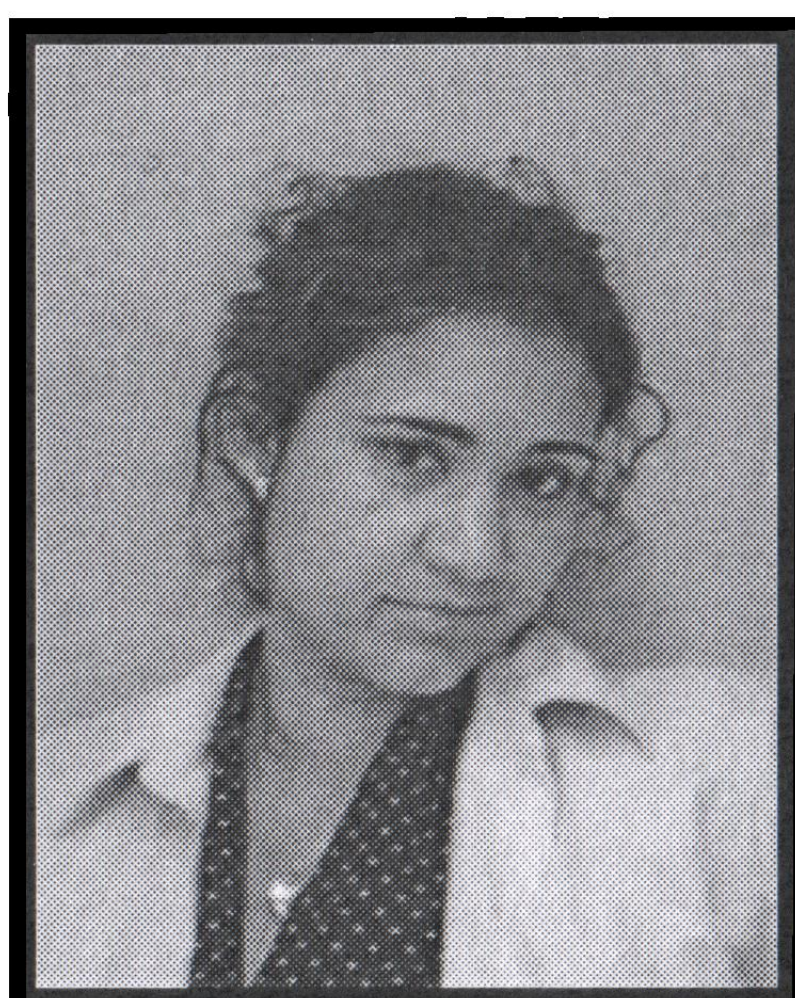
**Zack Jackson.** *Petey Boles.* Joined LAC in 2009, and has acted in a number of productions, including Immaculate, Comic Potential, and Sense and Sensibility. Took the part of Petey Boles in a Green Room production of Act 1 this year.



**Maria Kwater.** *Meg Boles.* Joined LAC in 2005, an actor and director with a wide experience of roles in local theatre. Has directed The Dumb Waiter, Accrington Pals, and Sense and Sensibility for LAC



**Dean Franklin.** *Stanley Webber.* Joined in 2015, this is his first role for LAC. Dean developed his interest in drama in Australia in 2012, having started acting at high school.



**Ayshea Megyery.** *Lulu.* Joined LAC in 2014, and played Marianne in Sense and Sensibility. A Barrister by profession, and Lecturer, Ayshea is also a mother, and an accomplished singer and guitarist.





**Cast; (in order of appearance)**

**Petey Boles**

**Meg Boles**

**Stanley Webber**

**Lulu**

**Goldberg**

**McCann**

**Zack Jackson**

**Maria Kwater**

**Dean Franklin**

**Ayshea Megyery**

**Edward Corbet**

**James Bell**

**Production Crew**

**Director**

**Ken Taylor**

**Production Manager/ Stage Manager**

**Camilla Asher**

**Properties**

**Jenny Carter, Denise  
Davies, Fiona Galloway**

**Wardrobe**

**Zoe Freedman**

**Caroline Webster**

**Set Construction**

**Alan Buttery, Steve Fryatt,  
Emma Hodgson**

**Lighting and Sound**

**Ben Hopwood**

**Front of House**

**Maureen Willis (and LAC  
members)**

**Flyer and Poster Design**

**James Abbott**



## The Birthday Party

Meg and Petey Boles live in a seaside town in the late 1950's. They have a lodger, Stanley Webber, who is an unemployed piano player.

Meg is very happy to have Stanley living with them. It puts a touch of 'show business' into her life, and plays up to her belief that she is a bona fide Seaside Landlady. Petey takes the view that if Meg is happy, he is happy.

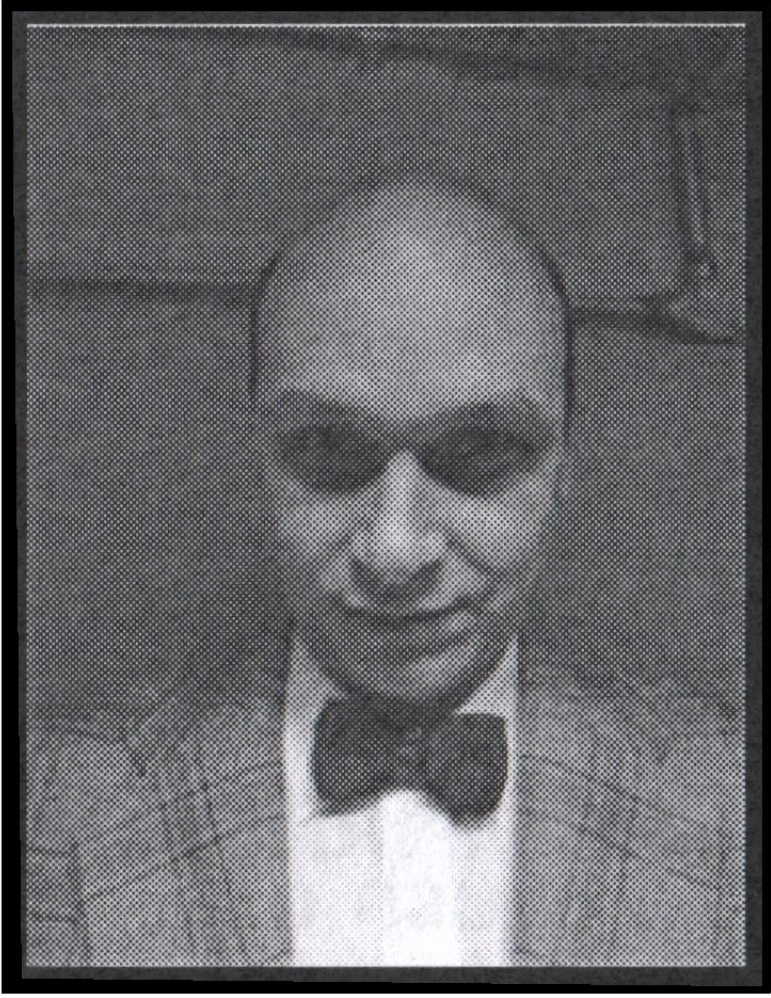
All is going along smoothly until Petey discloses that while attending to his deck chairs he was approached by two men, who asked if they could come and stay.

Meg is delighted. Petey takes it in his stride. Stanley is horrified; with very, very, good reason.

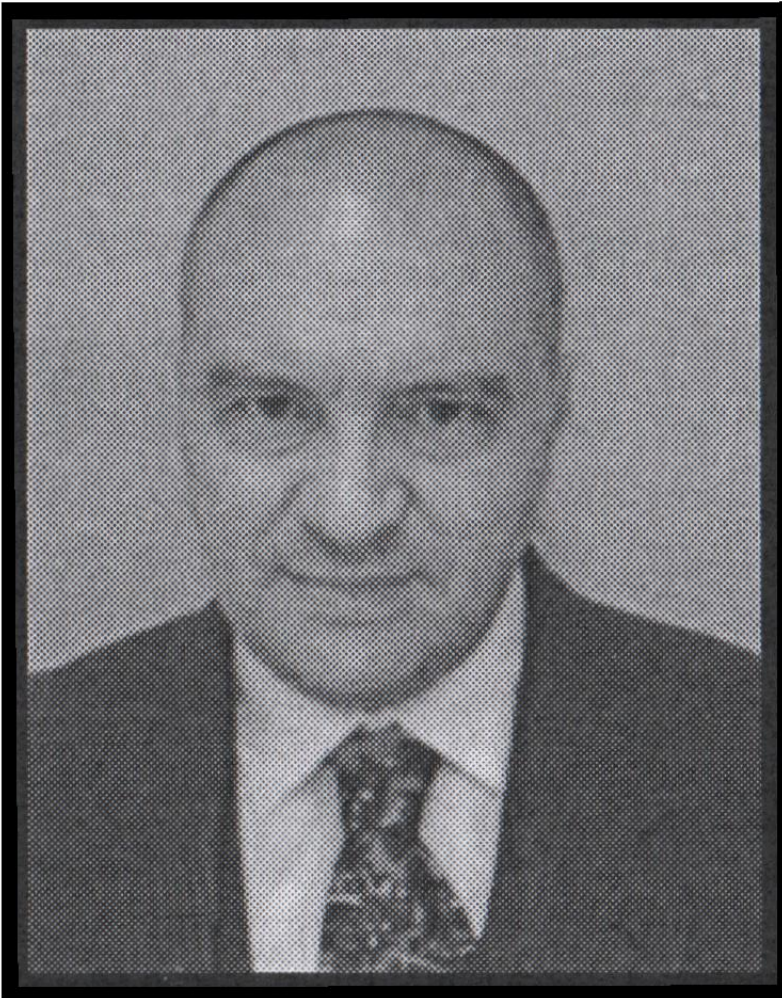
There will be a 20 minute interval between Act 2 and Act 3.

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

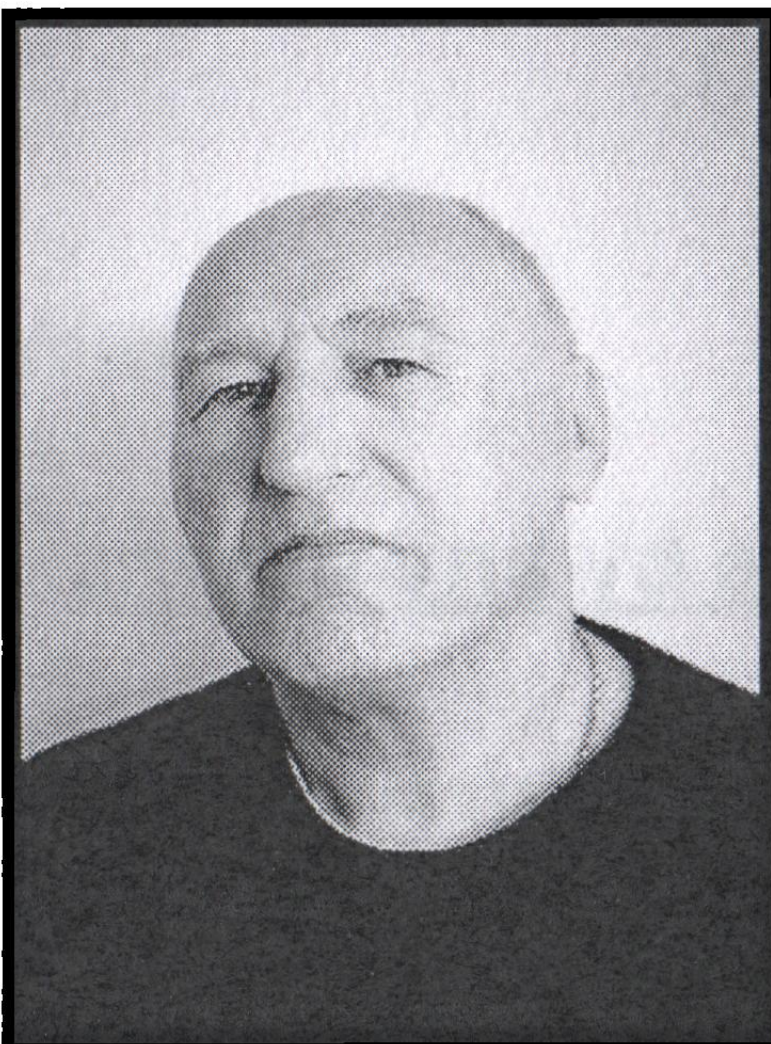




**Edward Corbet. Goldberg.** Joined LAC in 2001, and has acted in many productions, for LAC and for other companies throughout Leeds during a long acting career. Currently working with the Royal Shakespeare Company on the Dream 16 Project.



**James Bell. McCann.** Has acted in a number of productions for LAC, and is also a member of Shatterproof Theatre. James was nominated for a Guild Award for Best Supporting Male Actor for *The Money's in The Bank*



**Ken Taylor. Director.** Ken joined LAC in 2012, having acted and directed for many years in Bradford, mainly at Bradford Playhouse with ACT, and with his own company Graft Productions. Directing currently with The Royal Shakespeare Company on Dream 16.





### Harold Pinter. CH, CBE.

One of the most influential modern British dramatists, his writing career spanned more than 50 years. Born 10<sup>th</sup> October 1930 in Hackney, London, as well as being a playwright, he was an actor, poet and theatre director. In 2005, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature.

His best known plays are *The Birthday Party* (1958), *The Dumb Waiter* (1959), *The Caretaker* (1960), and *Betrayal* (1978). His first play was written as a student production for Bristol University, *The Room* (1957), which was followed by *The Birthday Party*, at the Lyric Hammersmith, which closed after only eight performances, but was enthusiastically reviewed by the critic Harold Hobson, too late to save the production from being a commercial disaster.

*The Birthday Party* was revived in 1964, after the success of *The Caretaker*, and this time was well received and critically acclaimed. There was an understanding by this time of a 'comedy of menace', and a readiness to accept a play that begins innocently and becomes threatening and absurdist.

From such humble beginnings, Pinter became a giant of literature throughout the world, and was often involved in human rights issues. After divorce from his first wife, Vivian Merchant, he married Lady Antonia Fraser, and they stayed together until his death on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2008.





Leeds Arts Centre is a registered charity and non-profit making organisation. We are currently looking for companies and organisations that would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.

To find out more, contact:

The Publicity Officer, Leeds Arts Centre

c/o Carriageworks Theatre  
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD  
or e-mail us at: [publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk](mailto:publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk)



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Updates on the go

Visit [www.leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk)  
to see an archive of previous productions.

The programme for this production was produced with the kind assistance  
of

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

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE  
0114 272 9721  
[www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk](http://www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk)





Leeds Arts Centre has 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 <http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costumeHire.htm>

**Advertising and Sponsorship**

**Phil Dodgson & Partners Limited**

Phil Dodgson & Partners are Pudsey based accountants offering services throughout West Yorkshire and surrounding areas and are pleased to work with Leeds Arts Centre in the preparation of their annual accounts.

49 Chapeltown, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, LS28 7RZ Tel: 0113 255 7406







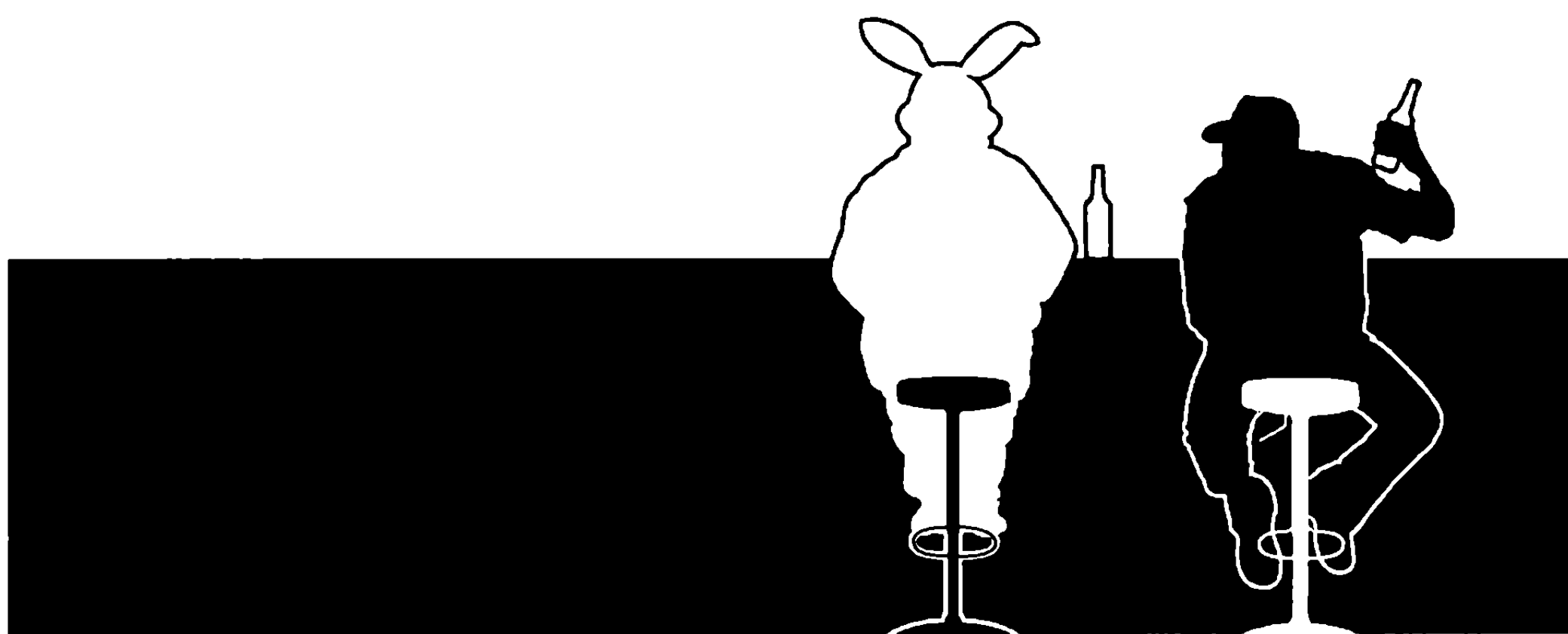
**LEEDS ARTS  
CENTRE**

THE NEXT LEEDS ARTS CENTRE PRODUCTION IS

**Harvey by Mary Chase**

4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> February 2016

Directed by Alan Buttery



Tickets on sale **now** £12, £9 concessions  
Contact the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office  
on 0113 376 0318

## Upcoming Leeds Civic Arts Guild productions at Carriageworks Theatre

Carriageworks 10 Year Celebration – 11/11/2015 – 14/11/2015

The Magic Scarf – Leeds Children Theatre - 18/11/2015 – 21/11/2015

Whistle Down the Wind – St Mary's Youth Theatre – 26/11/2015-28/11/2015



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