



**by WILLIAM DOUGLAS HOME**

# THE CHILTERN HUNDREDS

**William Douglas Home**, one of the most prolific playwrights of the post war period, is the third of five brothers, the eldest being the former Conservative Prime Minister, Sir Alec Douglas Home.

Lord Home (their father) was in the habit of firing a shotgun from inside the house at rabbits in the garden – an eccentricity which William turned to good account in *The Chiltern Hundreds*. The inspiration for this play is said to have come from his father's reaction when Alec lost his seat at the 1945 general election which resulted in a landslide victory for the Socialists.

*The Chiltern Hundreds* was the fourth of William Douglas Home's plays to be produced. Other well known plays by him include *Now Barrabas*, *The Reluctant Debutante*, *The Dame of Sark*, *Lloyd George Knew My Father* and *The Secretary Bird*.



**The Chiltern Hundreds** is a tract of Crown lands which contains the Chiltern Hills.

By law a member of Parliament cannot resign his seat as long as he is duly qualified; his seat automatically becomes vacant, however, if he accepts an office of profit under the Crown. The Stewardship of the Chiltern Hundreds, although a sinecure, is by a legal figment held to be such an office. Accordingly any member of Parliament wishing to resign applies for the Chiltern Hundreds.

**Leeds Arts Centre at the Civic Theatre  
27th – 31st March 1979**

## FOR LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

Stage Manager	Laurie Ball
Assistant Stage Managers	Debbie Haft, Dorothy Dobor
Properties	Fiona Stevenson, Helen Longbottom
Prompt	Christine Wilson
Wardrobe	Margaret Rhodes
Sound	David Scott, Gillian Thresh
Box Office	John Pemberton, Margaret Rhodes
Front of House	Pam Wilson

## FOR THE CIVIC THEATRE

Theatre Manager	Fred Mower
Resident Stage Manager	Nick Morris
Assistant Lighting Technician	Peter Waddicor

We are grateful to:

Associated (Daily Mail) Newspapers Ltd. for a 1945 Daily Mail.

Front Page Enterprises, London, for a 1945 Daily Express.

Friends of Leeds Arts Centre for the loan of other contemporary newspapers and periodicals.

The Post Office and Yorkshire Television for telephone equipment.

Extra properties by Leon Cooper of Batley.

Photographs for this production were taken by Reg Earp

<b>William Douglas Home</b>	Author	X
<b>Dennis Stevenson</b>	Director	X
<b>The Public</b>	Audience	See Note 1
<b>Gangways</b>	Passages	See Note 2
<b>Safety Curtain</b>	Must work	!

Note 1. The public may leave the Civic Theatre at the end of the performance by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open.

Note 2. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any obstruction.

Next week: Youth Players in "TAKE 2".

Coming shortly

# **Ladies in Retirement**

a thriller by Edward Percy  
and Reginald Denham.

Directed by Roger Cook.

**26th to 30th June 1979.**

## **NEXT SEASON**

Our programme will probably include

**The Changeling** by Thomas Middleton and William Rowley.

## **BOOKINGS**

If you would like tickets for these shows please ask at the box office during the interval or telephone Leeds 892346.

Tickets can also be obtained from the Tourist Information Bureau at the Leeds Central Lending Library during the month before each show.

### **SEASON TICKETS . . . . .**

Available from Mrs. June Stevenson, Stacks House, St. Johns Avenue, Thorner, Nr. Leeds.

A season ticket guarantees you the seat of your choice anywhere in the theatre for all these shows at a substantial discount.

**. . . . . a real bargain.**

## CAST

<b>The Earl of Lister</b> ( <i>Lord Lieutenant</i> )	George Teale
<b>The Countess of Lister</b> ( <i>his wife</i> )	Ann Benson
<b>June Farrell</b> ( <i>of the American Embassy</i> )	Margaret Artle
<b>Bessie</b>	Victoria Atkinson
<b>Beecham</b>	Robin Polley
<b>Lord Pym</b> ( <i>Lord Lister's son</i> )	Chris Richmond
<b>Lady Caroline Smith</b> ( <i>Lord Lister's sister</i> )	Joyce King
<b>Mr. Cleghorn</b>	Jim Young
<b>Radio Announcer</b>	David Scott



**The action of the play takes place in the sitting room of Lister Castle in the summer of 1945.**

### ACT I

**Scene 1** Lunchtime on General Election result day.

**Scene 2** Breakfast time the next morning.

### ACT II

**Scene 1** After dinner the following Saturday evening.

**Scene 2** Breakfast time on by-election nomination day.

### ACT III

**Scene 1** Lunchtime on by-election result day a fortnight later.

**Scene 2** After dinner the same evening.

**There will be two intervals, during which the theatre bar will be open. Ice cream will be on sale in the auditorium and coffee will be available in the bar.**

**Directed by**

# **Dennis Stevenson**

# 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** mounts five productions – usually including a musical or revue type show – at the Civic Theatre.

**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. Season ticket holders are welcome to attend these performances.

**The Fine Arts Group** meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work.

In addition there is a variety of social activities for members, such as theatre visits, outings, parties, etc.

**New Members** are always welcome so if you are interested in acting, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please write to:

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

**costume hire**

You may not realise that the costumes you have seen tonight and countless others from 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.