

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 acount 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
Resident Stage Manager
Assistant Lighting Technician
Fred Mower
Nick Morris
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

William Douglas Home	Author	
Dennis Stevenson	Director	
The Public	Audience	See Note 1
Gangways	Passages	See Note 2
Safety Curtain	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 Middelton 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

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







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.

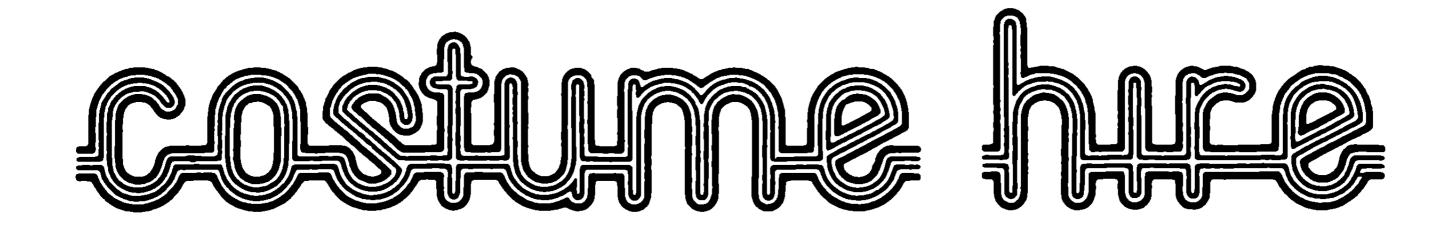
The Green Room Group puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members valuable experience of acting and producing before tackling major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre. Season ticket holders are welcome to attend these performances.

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.



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.