



[www.leedsartscentre.org.uk](http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk)  
Registered Charity No. HS503872R

# The Deep Blue Sea

by Terence Rattigan

Directed by David Lancaster

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2010



Leeds Arts Centre is a prestigious amateur theatre group founded in 1945. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. We produce four plays each year at the Carriageworks, 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 why not 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  
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)



## DIRECTORS NOTES

### **Terence Rattigan: Master of the Damaged Heart**

When Terence Rattigan walked into the Royal Court Theatre in London on 8 May, 1956, he must have seemed to be the epitome of the successful West End playwright. Here was a handsome former Harrovian, the author of numerous successes such as *French Without Tears* (1936), *The Winslow Boy* (1946) and *The Browning Version* (1948), attending the opening night of a young author's first play like a king surveying the work of one of his lesser subjects. By the final curtain, however, the landscape of British theatre, and Rattigan's pre-eminence within it, had changed. For the play was *Look Back in Anger* and its author, John Osborne, was the first of a new breed of socially conscious playwrights whose critical attitudes towards post-war Britain made Rattigan's generation seem like anachronistic old duffers trapped inside an airless drawing room.

In consequence, up until his death in 1977, the playwright found himself out of critical favour, but all this changed in the 1990s. First, a couple of biographies revealed Rattigan's painful gay love life and how his plays were, in essence, dramatisations of his deepest emotional experiences. Secondly, Karel Reisz, a film-maker of what might be called the socially conscious school, directed a ground-breaking stage production of *The Deep Blue Sea* (1952), starring Penelope Wilton. Since then, Rattigan has been acknowledged as a significant twentieth century playwright. David Mamet filmed *The Winslow Boy* in 1999; BBC Radio has broadcast new productions of some of his work; the National Theatre is currently presenting a lesser-known piece, *After the Dance* (1939).

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# Cast

Philip Welch

Chris Martin

Mrs Elton

Pauline Ashworth

Ann Welch

Carol Plant

Hester Collyer

Catherine Land

Mr Miller

Robin Thornton

Sir William Collyer

Simon Twine

Freddie Page

Paul Fox

Jackie Jackson

David Wheatley

**The Running time of this production is approximately two hours; there will be one interval of fifteen minutes during which the bar will be open.**



# Production Team

Director	David Lancaster
Production Manager	Maria Kwater
Prompt / Assistant to Director	Debs Sandles
Stage Manager	Steven Fryatt
Assistant Stage Manager	Rob Sherwood
Set construction	Peter Sandles
Costumes	Gerry Armytage Zoe Freedman Hannah Boothman
Properties	Margaret Davey Ria Evans
Lighting	Carriageworks technical staff
Sound recording	David Lancaster
Sound operation	Pip Tibbetts
Front of House Manager	Shirley Broadbent

## **Terence Rattigan: Master of the Damaged Heart... continued...**

So why the change of heart? After all, Rattigan was no revolutionary; his work conforms to the conventions of the well-made play and his characters are by and large middle or upper middle class. Yet, as the critic Michael Billington has pointed out, the playwright is a master of the emotional and sexual undercurrents that flow beneath the surface of seemingly conventional lives. Like Hester Collyer in *The Deep Blue Sea*, his protagonists grapple with strong urges in a world that prefers to deny their existence. His plays are therefore portraits of hidden feelings and damaged hearts. They are cries of pain, too – and pleas for understanding.

*The Deep Blue Sea* is no exception. Moreover, it offers one of the great women's roles of modern theatre. Past Hesters include Peggy Ashcroft (who created the role), Vivien Leigh (in an indifferent film) and, more recently, Greta Scacchi and Harriet Walter. So now let's head to 1952 and to the Ladbroke Grove area when it wasn't trendy, when Britain was recovering from a world war and some food still rationed. A dramatic scene awaits us...

## **David Lancaster**

The action takes place in the morning, afternoon and evening of the same day.



## Advertising & Sponsorship

Leeds Arts Centre is a member of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild, and 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 The Carriageworks  
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD  
or e-mail us at: [publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk](mailto:publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk)

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

Some of the sound effects used in this play contain sound files from The Freesound Project at [www.freesound.org](http://www.freesound.org):

"Leaking Gas" by Robinhood76



Next Leeds Arts Centre Production

# ***ROAD***

by Jim Cartwright

directed by Barry Green

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010

## **Forthcoming LAC Productions at the Carriageworks**

January 2011

***Kissing Sid James***

by Robert Farquhar

directed by Pete Sandles

April 2011

***The Country Wife***

by William Wycherley

directed by Malcolm Brown

June 2011

***The Girlfriend Experience***

by Alecky Blyth

directed by Rob Sherwood

The next Leeds Civic Arts Guild production at the Carriageworks  
**Leeds Youth Opera**

***Faust***

***By Charles Gounod***

Wednesday 7 – Saturday 10 July at 7.30pm