

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE PRESENTS

THE FATHER

WRITTEN BY FLORIAN ZELLER

TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

DIRECTED BY RICH FRANCIS

CARRIAGEWORKS
THEATRE





LEEDS ARTS CENTRE was formed in 1945 as an amateur society to encourage and foster interest in the arts. Originally it comprised Drama groups (including Children's Theatre), a Fine Arts group and Musical, Literary and Film sections and was based in the Civic Theatre (now Leeds City Museum). Leeds Arts Centre moved to its new home at the Carriageworks in 2005. We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standard of our productions. We now present four plays every season, usually in February, March/April, May/June and October, at the Carriageworks Theatre under the umbrella of Leeds Community Arts Network.

Green Room events give members the opportunity to perform short plays, extracts and rehearsed readings for a members only audience. They give newer members experience of acting, directing, backstage work and also offer the chance to perform new writing or more experimental work.

The company also hosts regular **play readings** and **social events**.

New members are always welcome, and you don't need any experience to join. As well as acting, you could become involved with directing, production management, stage management, set and costume design or construction, co-ordinating properties or costumes, prompting, sound recording and operation, front of house management and publicity. If you are interested in joining, then please speak to a member of our friendly team. You can also contact us by email at publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk or in writing to The Membership Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre, c/o Carriageworks Theatre, Millennium Square, Leeds. LS2 3AD.

Leeds Arts Centre is run by a committee of members which is elected every year. We are a registered charity and are funded by the money we make from ticket sales, subscriptions and fund-raising activities.

Our members range in age from 18 to 80+ and we have a strong core of both younger and older members, who come from a wide range of backgrounds. To find out more, why not visit www.leedsartcentre.org.uk where you can complete an application form in the 'Join Us' section.

Welcome to Leeds Arts Centre's production of **THE FATHER**

A note from our director.

Good evening everyone. We started rehearsing for this show in March 2020, so it's been a long time coming. The impact of Covid19 has meant that for two years we have not been able to rehearse. In the time since we were first due on stage the same team behind the original stage production have made an Oscar winning film.

Florian Zeller and Christopher Hampton have given us a wonderful script to work with. Zeller has said that he believes "that theatre can usefully - and immediately - hold a mirror up to its audience" and that he was keen that the audience "shouldn't only be spectators, that we too should become lost in this mental labyrinth - so as to experience more completely, from the inside, the tragedy of old age". It will be a familiar story to many of you who have experience of a relative or friend struggling with some form of dementia. At times heart-breaking and yet frustrating, but also with its funny moments - confusion often reigns. If you are affected by any of the issues raised in this evenings performance, support is available and some contact details are noted on the back of this programme.

Having been given an opportunity to write a note in our programme, I would like to use it to mention **Edwin Barraclough**, who sadly died of heart failure in October 2020. Edwin was a good friend and a great actor. Nights out and trips to London, Stratford Upon Avon, Scarborough and elsewhere would ostensibly be to attend a show but would actually be our opportunity to eat, drink and be merry. If I could be so presumptuous and pretentious as to cast myself as Prince Hal, he was my Falstaff. On and off stage, he was incredibly generous. He always encouraged less experienced actors to give their best. He could rescue a scene if a colleague forgot a line (on occasion in perfect blank verse) and he performed with such apparent confidence that an audience always trusted him. I, like many reading this I am sure, will never think of Edwin without smiling. Cheers my friend.

We have also sadly lost **Jean Blundell**, a superb comic actor and choreographer of many LAC shows. She was great fun. Finally, we all also miss **Tony Nelson**. Tony was a kind and gentle man. He had a smile and a friendly word for everyone he met and was a skilled and subtle performer.

I thank you for supporting Leeds Arts Centre and live performance in general by attending our show.

Rich Francis

Cast

André Martin Key

Anne Rachel Vernelle

Pierre Graham Greensit

Laura Lizzie Relins

Man Matt Tolson

Woman Pam Wilson

The action takes place in Paris, France

The running time for this evening's performance is
approximately 95 minutes with no interval

The Father by Florian Zeller is performed

by Leeds Arts Centre

on 12th to 14th May 2022.

*"I feel as if I'm losing all my leaves, one
after another."*

Production Team

Director	Rich Francis
Production Manager	Shirley Broadbent
Stage Manager	Martyn Drake
Assistant Stage Manager	Enya Lucas
Costume	Zoe Freedman and LAC team
Properties	Pam Wilson, Denise Bergman, Andrew Bergman and Kathryn Francis
Set	Ken Taylor and LAC Set team
Prompt & Assistant to our Director	Joyce King
Sound technician	Steve Fryatt
Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Publicity artwork	Jake Logan
Photography	Mark Hillyer
Front of House	Shirley Broadbent and other LAC members

Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank

Chapel FM (www.chapelfm.co.uk) and The George on Great George Street, Leeds for their rehearsal space.

A brief history of the play.

The author of this intriguing and compelling black comedy, Florian Zeller, has been hailed as “one of the hottest literary talents in France”.

The Father (Le Père) was first performed in its original French in 2012 and in 2014 it was the recipient of three Molière Awards including Best New Play. The play subsequently achieved widespread critical acclaim, having been translated in to English by Christopher Hampton, when it was performed in the Ustinov Studio at the Royal Theatre Bath on 16th October 2014. This production subsequently transferred to Wyndham's Theatre in the West End of London. Kenneth Cranham won an Olivier Award for playing the part of André. When the play was subsequently performed in New York, Frank Langella won a Tony Award for his performance of André.

Reviews from when the play was first performed

“A savagely honest study of dementia” (The Guardian)

“An unqualified triumph” (The Telegraph)

“Examines the Lion’s mind in winter” (New York Times)

What is dementia?

Dementia is a syndrome (a group of related symptoms) associated with an ongoing decline of brain functioning. There are many different causes of dementia, and many different types.

People often get confused about the difference between Alzheimer's disease and dementia. Alzheimer's disease is a type of dementia and, together with vascular dementia, makes up the majority of cases.

Symptoms of dementia may include problems with memory loss, thinking speed, mental sharpness and quickness, language (such as using words incorrectly, or trouble speaking), understanding, judgement, mood and movement.

People with dementia can lose interest in their usual activities, and may have problems managing their behaviour or emotions. They may also find social situations difficult and lose interest in relationships and socialising. Aspects of their personality may change, and they may lose empathy (understanding and compassion). A person with dementia may see or hear things that other people do not (hallucinations). Because people with dementia may lose the ability to remember events, or not fully understand their environment or situations, it can seem as if they're not telling the truth or are wilfully ignoring problems.

As dementia affects a person's mental abilities, they may find planning and organising difficult. Maintaining their independence may also become a problem. A person with dementia will usually need help from friends or relatives, including help with making decisions.

The symptoms of dementia usually become worse over time. In the late stage of dementia, people will not be able to take care of themselves and may lose their ability to communicate.

Although there is no cure for dementia at the moment, an early diagnosis means its progress can be slowed down in some cases, so the person may be able to maintain their mental function for longer. A diagnosis helps people with dementia get the right treatment and support. It can also help them, and the people close to them, to prepare for the future.

Rehearsal photos



Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

LAC is a registered charity and non-profit making organisation. We have a wide range of high quality men's and women's costumes available to hire at competitive rates.

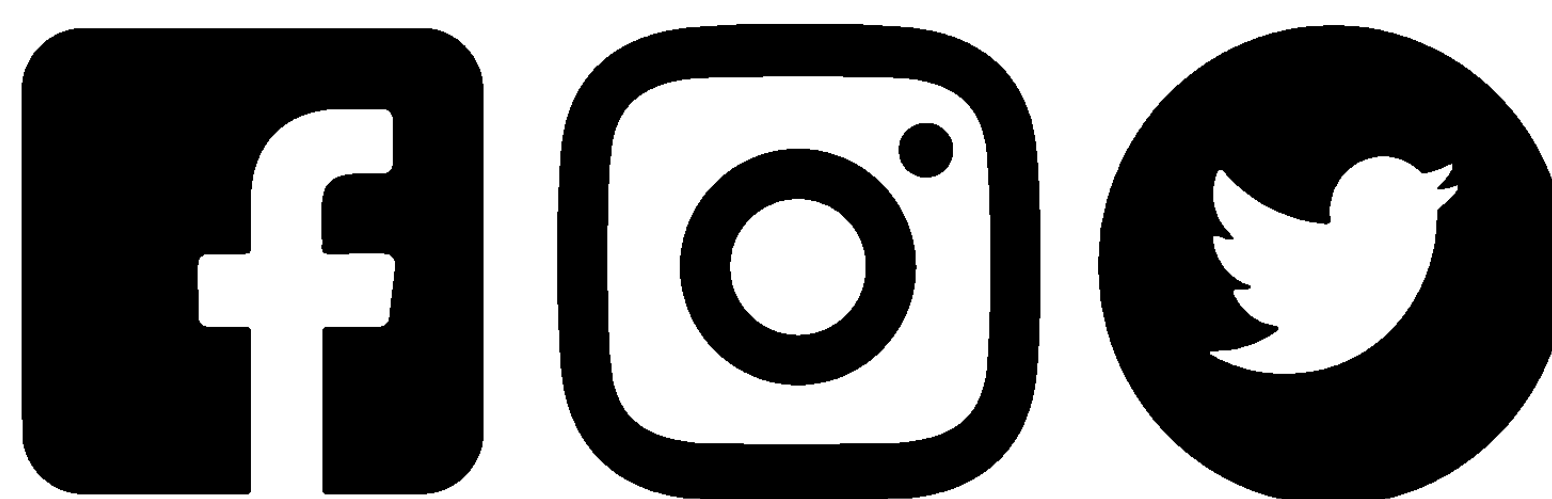
These include:

- Period costumes
- Character costumes
- Evening dress
- Military uniforms
- Suits
- Accessories

For more information, please see
www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costume-hire

Keep in touch!

To keep up with all our latest news search for Leeds Arts Centre on:



Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk

LAC would like to thank.....



<https://truenorthuk.com>

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14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE
0114 272 9721
www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

for printing the programmes



Phil Dodgson & Partners Ltd
Pavilion Business Centre, Leeds, LS28 6NB
0113 255 7406

for the preparation of LAC's annual accounts

This production uses sound effects from freesound:
"Doorbell Ringing - Close" by v23 -- <https://freesound.org/s/440870/> --
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Leeds Community Arts Network (LeedsCAN) comprises a range of community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks, where most of their performances take place. Leeds CAN has a growing membership - everyone is welcome, from old hands to complete novices. This might be your opportunity to tread the boards, or you could experience the thrill of being backstage!

For more information visit <http://www.leedscan.org.uk>

LeedsCAN member societies are: Leeds Arts Centre, Cosmopolitan Players, Leeds Youth Opera, Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society, LIDOS, Leeds Children's Theatre, LAOS, St. Mary's Youth Theatre, Our Community Dances, Leeds Writers Circle.

For the community, run by the community. We love how diverse and rich in talent the Leeds community is; we love working with individuals and groups to make their dreams come to life.

We currently cover musical theatre, drama, opera, dance and creative writing and employ award-winning musical directors, artistic directors and choreographers local and national.

We aren't just a tolerant group - we are a welcoming one. Our strengths lie in our diversity - of age, race, background and talents - united for one cause, which is to develop a home for community arts in the city.

LeedsCAN benefits not just its member groups, nor their 800 members, nor just the 10,000 (and growing) audience members who watch the shows every year, but the city as a whole.

The next LeedsCAN production at the Carriageworks is:

Legally Blonde The Musical presented by LIDOS

Tuesday 7 June to Saturday 11 June 2022. at 7:00pm

with a Matinee on Saturday 11th June at 2:00pm

If you have been affected by any of the issues raised in the performance and would like further information about Dementia, local activities and support, then please contact:

Alzheimers Society Leeds.

Tel: 0113 231 1727

If you are worried about yourself or someone else, speak to your GP.

For additional support

www.alzheimers.org.uk/find-support-near-you

www.leeds.gov.uk/adult-social-/dementia