



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

***The***  
***Girlfriend***  
***Experience***

by Alecky Blyth

Directed by Rob Sherwood

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2011





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)**



## The Girlfriend Experience - Synopsis

Tessa has set up a business: a brothel where mature women specialise in offering the *Girlfriend Experience*, a surprisingly caring and sympathetic service. As the women stoically strive to make a living in a competitive market, their personal lives start to crumble. Will they ever have loving relationships outside work and enjoy being girlfriends themselves? The script is based on recordings taken in a real brothel.

### **Prologue – Technique**

**ALECKY** (*voice-over*). I feel like I should explain – what I’m doing with m-microphones an’ stuff like that - / just so that you know –

**TESSA.** Mmm – We did sort of / - a bit.

**POPPY.** Yeah –

*Beat.*

**ALECKY.** (*voice-over*). Um (*Beat.*) – I , um (*Beat.*)– I kindof make (*Beat.*) – um (*Beat.*) – they’re sortof documentary plays. (*Pause.*) but – I don’t – *film* anything (*Beat.*) – I just *record* – hours and hours of – of – audio. (*Pause.*) Um (*Beat.*) – and I – edit it (*Beat.*) – and then, um (*Beat.*) – those (*Beat.*) – so (*Beat.*) – people’s *real* words your real words – then become the words that the actors speak in the play – and they, - then they *copy* – exactly your intonation, accent – I’ll describe – y’know – one was *sat* here, one was sat here, and whatever.

**POPPY.** Yeah

**ALECKY.** (*voice-over*). And it’s – it’s a really weird, kindof very true – obviously *so so* true to *life*, kindof thing –

**TESSA.** So you ‘ave to be careful what you *say* –

*They laugh.*



## Cast

Tessa	Catherine Land
Suzie	Neri Zaccardelli
Poppy	Tori Morgan
Amber	Joan Potter
Mike	Jack Loy
Groper	Graham James
Glove Man	Tony Nelson
Dickbrain	John Kendell
Viagra Man	Pete Sandles
Terry	Pete Sandles
Martin	John Kendell
Francis	Jack Loy
Dreamboat	John Kendell



# Production Team

Director	Rob Sherwood
Production Manager	David Lancaster
Stage Manager	Emily Holloway
Set Construction	Pete Sandles
Costumes & Properties	Sarah Coothoopermal
Lighting	Steve Fryatt
Sound Recording	Dave Gannon
Sound Operation	Rich Francis
Front of House	Robin Thornton

**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**



## Director's Notes

About two years ago I took part in Leeds Arts Centre's Director's Workshop where people could try their hand at directing under the guidance of some 'old pros'. Participants had to choose a fifteen to twenty minute scene from a play with which to practice their directing. Fancying myself as a writer, I decided that I would like to write and direct my own piece. Unfortunately, due to being a lazy writer, or may be not a writer all, come the first lesson I still hadn't actually got much on paper. The 'old pros' were not impressed. Rule number 4: to direct, one must have something to... direct.

So, I found myself running into Borders to look for the plays section. I eventually found it: first floor, on the back on the left, just in front of 'homecrafts'. Not being a massive fan of the theatre - it can be a bit slow, hard to follow, uncomfortable seating, not to mention pricey - it was difficult to spot a play that I fancied directing amongst all the Shakespeares. None of the titles on the dull black and grey spined books shouted "Direct a fifteen to twenty minute section of me!".

And then I saw a play with a different coloured spine. A pink spine with white writing. I'd discovered The Girlfriend Experience. It whispered to me: "Direct me. You've run out of time anyway, you haven't got any other options, Robert". I had a quick look at the picture on the front and bought it.

So that was two years ago. A lot has happened since. This is now. Enjoy the show.

**Rob Sherwood**



## 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

The next Leeds Civic Arts Guild production at the Carriageworks

Leeds Youth Opera present  
**Engine Onegin**

*By Tchaikovsky*

6th – 19th July 2011 at 7.30pm



**Next Leeds Arts Centre Production**

# **The Accrington Pals**

by Peter Whelan

directed by Maria Kater

2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Forthcoming LAC Productions  
at the Carriageworks**

## ***Immaculate***

by Oliver Lansley

18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012

## ***Waiting For Godot***

by Samuel Beckett

14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012

## ***Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf***

by Edward Albee

16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May 2012

## ***The Price***

by Arthur Miller

27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012