 Leeds Arts Centre presents

The Mill on the Floss

By Helen Edmundson

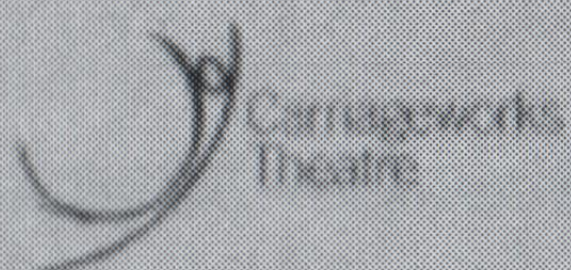
Adapted from the novel by George Eliot

This is an amateur production
by arrangement with Nick Hern Books.

*Carriageworks Theatre,
The Electric Press,*

Millennium Square, Leeds, LS2 3AD

Thursday 27th - Saturday 29th June 2019 at 7.30pm





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 its 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 society 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 *Mill on the Floss*

I had the good fortune to fall in love with a novel I was forced to read for 'A' Level. I studied *The Mill on the Floss* and clearly remember the thrill of recognising a kindred spirit in the novel's central character, Maggie Tulliver. As a seventeen-year-old taking tentative steps into the world, Maggie spoke to me, with her intelligence, passion and strong sense of duty, coupled with a determination to find her place, rather than doing what others expected of her. She was brought vividly to life for me by Eliot's gentle understanding and humour, warmth and wisdom.

Helen Edmundson's adaptation was first performed by Shared Experience Theatre in 1994. With their thrillingly distinctive performance style, celebrating the union of physical and text-based theatre, I was blown away by it. Edmundson's genius was to take a dense and complex novel, present a clear story and most of all preserve and enhance Maggie so that she is a startlingly modern heroine. Edmundson uses the central theatrical device of bringing Maggie to life through three actresses, each representing distinct phases of her life and elements of her character. When they interact, we see them fight, reconcile and comfort each other in her most crucial moments.

As a Step- and God-mother to four teenage and pre-teenage girls, I see the themes of a novel published in 1860 reflected in their lives. As these beautiful, brave young women, their sisters and friends grow and search for themselves, Maggie would recognise the pressures they face. While there are new ways to police their behaviour, quieten their voices and control their desires, Maggie can be as much a heroine for them as she was for me in my formative years.

Rachel Vernelle—Director



Cast Biographies

Enya Lucas — First Maggie

Enya has performed with LAC for 2 years and her highlight was being nominated for the Leeds CAN supporting actress award for her role as Shelby in Steel Magnolias. Enya is excited to add Maggie to her list of strong female characters, who want to find their own way in life.

Robin Thornton — Mr Tulliver

Robin has been a member of LAC for a number of years and appeared in several productions for the society; Bedroom Farce, A Resounding Tinkle, The Deep Blue Sea, Kissing Sid James and The Visit.

Anji Clark — Mrs Tulliver / ensemble

Anji joined LAC in 2015. She is involved in acting, backstage and production. Anji performed in Green Room productions before landing her first major role in 'After Midnight, Before Dawn' and subsequent prominent roles in 'Steel Magnolias' and 'Flint Street Nativity'.

Pam Wilson — Stelling / Wakem / ensemble

Pam is amazed to realize that she has been a member of LAC for more than 40 years, running the whole gamut of roles from naive ingenue to curmudgeonly old woman (with several sub-human characters on the way) and occasionally directing. Recent appearances for the Centre have been in It's A Miracle and The Flint Street Nativity. Off-stage she has contributed to wardrobe, props, music and set-painting - none of which involve learning any lines - and now edits LAC's monthly newsletter

Addy Durrani — Bob Jakin / Uncle Glegg / ensemble

Addy is a newbie to the theatre. Prior to joining LAC the only drama he had in his life was Eastenders. Addy is looking forward to performing an exquisite story to the public.



Cast Biographies

Connor Houlton—Tom

Connor has wanted to be an actor ever since his Mum took him to see 'The King and I'. Since then he has gone on to join youth theatres, attended Kendal College doing a Performing Arts diploma, and the Arden School of Theatre doing a HNC in Acting for Camera. He is really excited to be a part of 'The Mill on the Floss'.

Maureen Willis — Aunt Glegg / Dr Kenn / ensemble

Maureen joined LAC in 2012, her first role was in Duets. Since then she's been involved in many LAC productions both onstage and backstage. She has a keen interest in thought-provoking drama and was delighted to get a part in this amazing adaptation. She also organises LAC Play Readings.

Maria Kwater — Aunt Pullet / ensemble

Maria joined LAC in 2006. She has appeared in several productions including The Birthday Party as Meg Boles; and Top Girls as Joyce. She has also directed The Dumb Waiter, Accrington Pals and Sense and Sensibility. She has worked backstage on production management, sound operation, costume, props and publicity. She loves The Mill on the Floss for its' passion and turbulence and the physicality and flow of this production.

Jessica Leppington — Uncle Pullet / Auctioneer / ensemble

Jessica is a Zoology graduate from the Uni of Nottingham, where she took several roles in the Nottingham New Theatre. Before this she was involved in various youth theatre groups, and is excited to be back on stage with LAC.

Djo Fisher — Stephen / gypsy

Djo is a 25 year old actor born and raised in Leeds. He's been involved in a few theatre productions now including Hamlet with LAC, and Rent and Chicago, with other groups. Djo likes long gentle walks on the beach and stargazing.



Henry Petch - Phillip / ensemble

Henry is 20 years old, and this is his first role with LAC. He is currently studying at Leeds College of Music, where he's training to become a classical pianist. Henry has found it great to be a part of Mill on the Floss and hopes you enjoy the show!

Sophia Spooner - Lucy / ensemble

Sophia is studying English and Sociology at Leeds University. This is her first show with LAC, she has really enjoyed her experience so far. Sophia really looks forward to re-joining the team after her placement year in Finland.

Sophie Macwhannell - Second Maggie

This is Sophie's second production with LAC. Second Maggie has been a challenge but Sophie's 16 years at convent school has come in useful. Previously Sophie has been part of Urban Sprawl Theatre Company , Act4Tv and YAFTA

Olivia Richardson — Third Maggie

This is Olivia's third production with LAC after playing Ophelia in Hamlet earlier this year. She is excited to be back treading the boards having previously acted with the National Youth Theatre, as well as at Leeds Playhouse as part of National Theatre connections

Rachel Vernelle — Director

Rachel joined LAC in 2005 and has acted in numerous productions, including as Martha in Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf; as Bernarda in The House of Bernarda Alba and most recently as Gertrude in Hamlet. She directed the Society's production of Kindertransport in 2015. Rachel considers it an absolute pleasure to work with so many people who have dedicated themselves to realising her vision for this production.



Ruff/Cut Dance Theatre – Artistic Director, Donald Edwards, BA

Ruff/Cut is a project-based dance company, based in Leeds. It focuses on bridging the space between people; healing cultural differences; exploring balance; and finding the extraordinary in the everyday.

Donald Edwards pursued his passion for dance through Theatre Arts at Intake High School, Leeds. He was a founder member of both Phoenix Dance Company and RJC Dance Theatre and worked extensively with both companies for over 22 years, touring nationally and internationally, performing, teaching, choreographing and directing rehearsal. One of the youngest dancers ever to receive a commission from the Arts Council, aged 18, Donald and Phoenix Dance Company went on to win the coveted Bagnolet choreographic platform award in Paris. His work has been performed at Her Majesty's Theatre, Sadlers Wells; The Place; The Northern School of Contemporary Dance and Laban.

Donald choreographed for the opening ceremony of the Paralympics the acclaimed Ballet Hoo for Channel 4 with Birmingham Royal Ballet. He received the Black Achievers award with RJC Dance and was nominated for the Laurence Olivier awards with Phoenix Dance Company

Donald has been very excited to have choreographed for Leeds Arts Centre on this production. "It has been a pleasure collaborating with these hardworking people from a diverse range of backgrounds to bring the story to life."

Donald has been ably assisted on this production by Isla Hirst, Freelance Artist and BA student at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance.

<https://www.facebook.com/ruffcutdancetheatre>



Cast

(in order of appearance)

First Maggie

Mr Tulliver

Mrs Tulliver

Mr Stelling

Bob Jakin

Tom Tulliver

Aunt Glegg

Uncle Glegg

Aunt Pullet

Uncle Pullet

Gypsy

Phillip Wakem

Lucy Deane

Auctioneer

Second Maggie

Mr Wakem

Third Maggie

Stephen Guest

Dr Kenn

Enya Lucas

Robin Thornton

Anji Clark

Pam Wilson

Addy Durrani

Connor Houlton

Maureen Willis

Addy Durrani

Maria Kwater

Jessica Leppington

Djo Fisher

Henry Petch

Sophia Spooner

Jessica Leppington

Sophie Macwhannell

Pam Wilson

Olivia Richardson

Djo Fisher

Maureen Willis

There is an interval of 15 minutes in this show

Video and/or audio recording of this performance by any means is strictly prohibited

Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank Leeds Youth Opera for their assistance with part of the set



Production Team

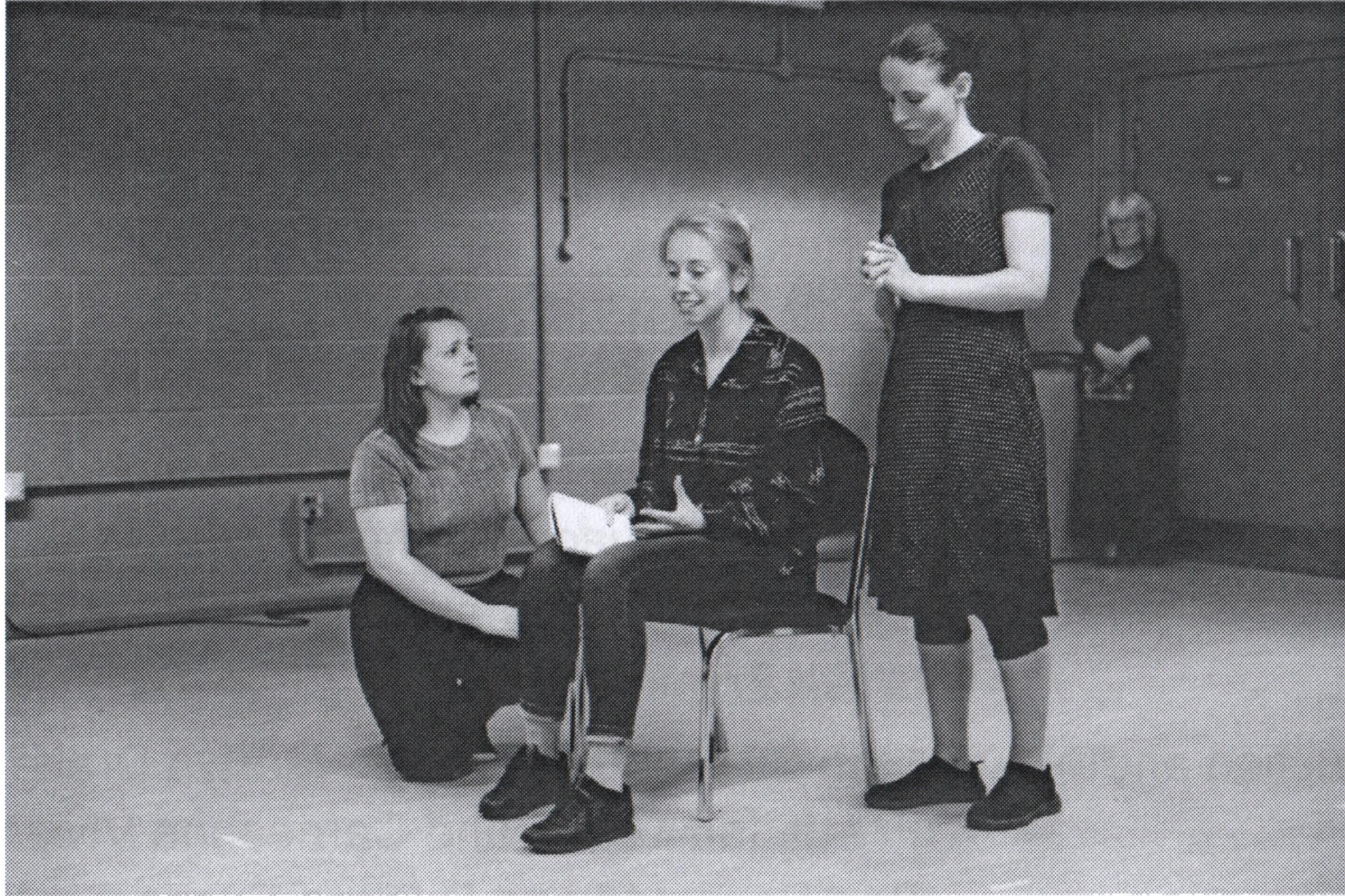
Director	Rachel Vernelle
Assistant Director	Joyce King
Production Manager	Zoe Freedman
Stage Manager	Steve Fryatt
Costume	Margaret Savage, Kathryn Francis
Properties	Camilla Asher, Jenny Carter, Fiona Galloway
Set design	Steve Fryatt
Set construction and painting	Alan Buttery, Ken Taylor, Martyn Drake, Steve Fryatt, Ian Logan and Carrieanne Vivianette
Sound design	Ben Hopwood and Duncan Evans
Sound technician	Ed Corbet
Movement	Donald Edwards — Artistic Director Ruff/Cut Dance Theatre Isla Hirst — Freelance Artist
Rehearsal prompt	Howard Russell
Original photography	David Rippin Photography
Publicity artwork	Chris Watson
Publicity photography	Mark Hillyer
Publicity	Jenny Carter and LAC publicity team
Programme production	Zoe Freedman, Rich Francis
Front of House	LAC members

Original music composition by Pam Wilson

Original music performers — Christopher Gibbs, David Brereton, Anji Muldoon, Ed Kolpanowicz and Peter Walker

'The Way I Tend To Be' and 'There She Is' with kind permission by Frank Turner

Rehearsal Photos





Rehearsal Photos



Photos: Mark Hillyer - <https://truenorthuk.com>



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Leeds Arts Centre Costume Hire

Leeds Arts Centre 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!

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LeedsArtsCentre/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/LeedsArtsCentre/)



[http://twitter.com/#!/
leedsartscentre/](http://twitter.com/#!/leedsartscentre/)

Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/



LAC would like to thank.....



Mark Hillyer for the publicity artwork and rehearsal photographs

<https://truenorthuk.com>

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray
———— solicitors ————

14-16 Paradise Square Sheffield S1 2DE

0114 272 9721

www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk

Lewis Francis Blackburn Bray for printing the programmes



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

Phil Dodgson & Partners for the preparation of LAC's annual accounts

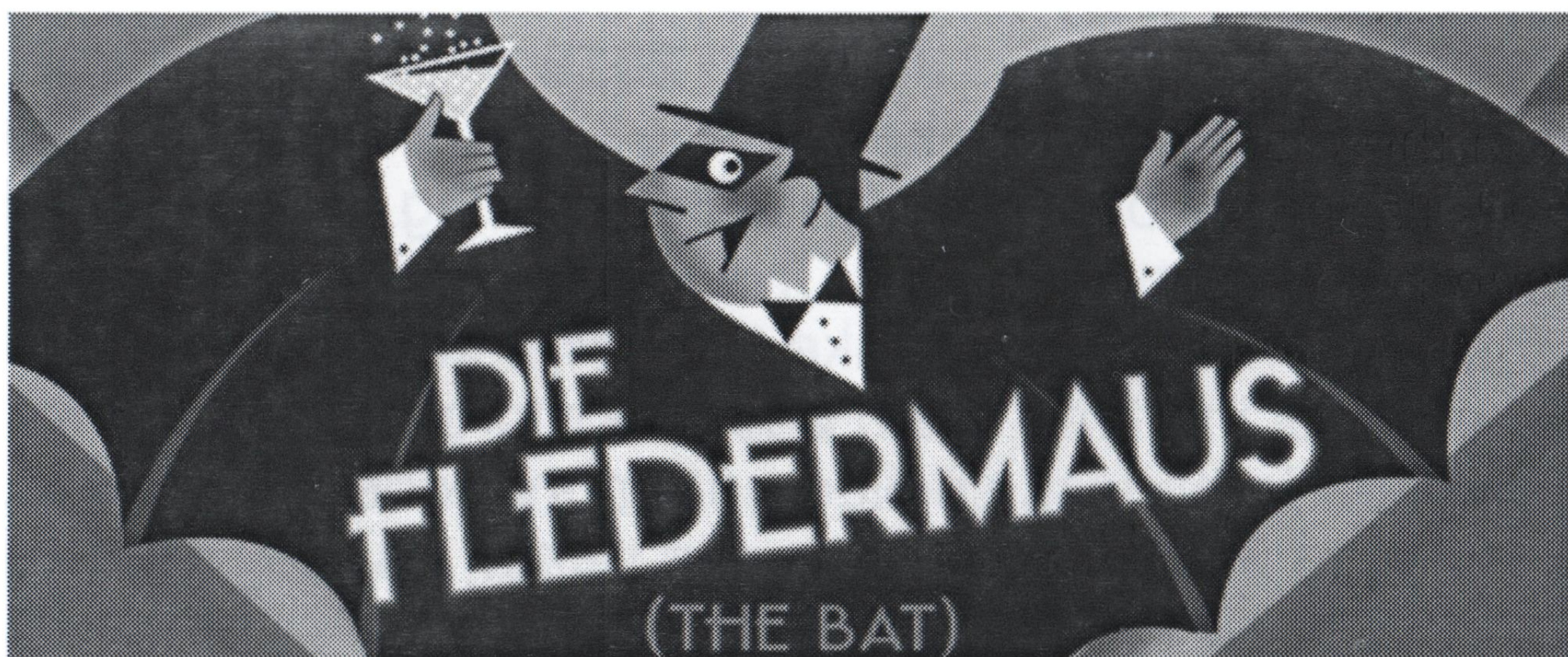


Leeds Community Arts Network - (Leeds CAN) comprises thirteen community drama, music, opera, youth theatre and other arts societies, mainly performing at The Carriageworks, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. Leeds CAN has a growing membership - everyone is welcome, from old hands to complete novices. This might be your opportunity to tread the boards, or you could experience the thrill of being backstage!

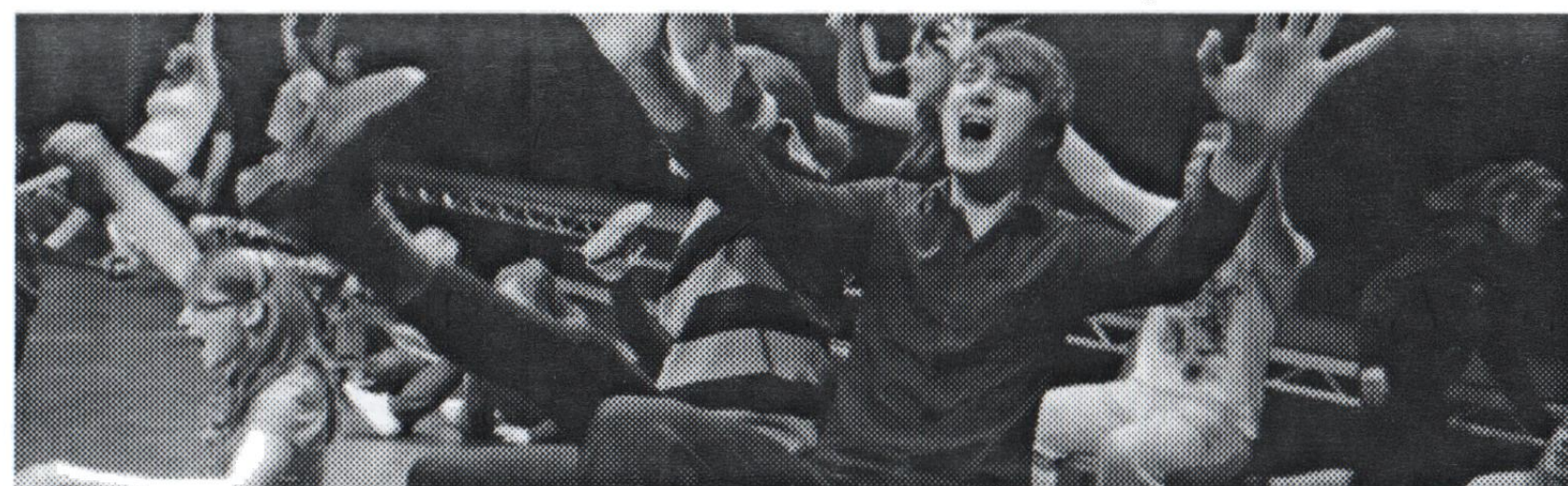
For more information visit <http://www.leedscan.org.uk/>

Leeds CAN member societies are: Cosmopolitan Players (COS); Leeds Amateur Operatic Society (LAOS); Leeds Arts Centre (LAC); Leeds Children's Theatre (LCT); Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society (G&S); Leeds Insurance Dramatic & Operatic Society (LIDOS); Leeds Writers' Circle; Leeds Youth Opera (LYO); Northern Youth Theatre Company (NYTC); Our Community Dances; Shatterproof; S.T.A.R.S and St Mary's Youth Theatre.

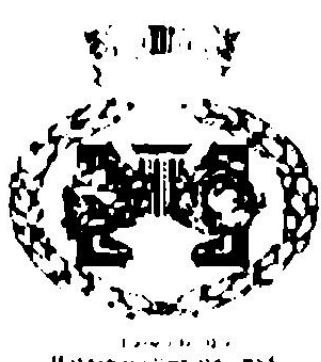
More great upcoming events from Leeds CAN groups:



Die Fledermaus—Leeds Youth Opera
10th –13th July 2019
Carriageworks Main Auditorium



Make Musical Magic Summer School
Monday 12th to Friday 16th August
Carriageworks Main Auditorium



Leeds Arts Centre are members of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA), founded in 1899 – the leading representative for amateur theatre in the UK. See www.noda.org.uk



Leeds Arts Centre's forthcoming productions:

Rough Sleepers

Written and directed by Neil Rathmell

23 to 26 October 2019

Autumn turns to winter and Hallowe'en approaches - a gentleman of the road, looking for shelter from the wind and rain, finds just the place in an overgrown village graveyard. He befriends the residents below ground and the vicar above, none of whom object to his spending the winter there. But to others he's just a rough sleeper who needs to be got rid of.

LAC presents Neil Rathmell's new play, following successes with his other works: *Unspoken* (2017) and *It's A Miracle* and *The Colin Atkins Story* (2018). "Brilliantly written, great energy. Really enjoyed it!" "An excellent evening's entertainment."

Funny, scary and sad by turns, *Rough Sleepers* will provide entertainment that's just right for the Hallowe'en season.

***Little Women* by Peter Clapham**

adapted from the novel by Louisa May Alcott, directed by Zoë Freedman

Jan/Feb 2020

Adapted from the classic novel (based on the writer's own family and experiences), *Little Women* tells the story of the March sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy – four very different young women growing up in Civil War America. With their Father away at war, they and their 'Marmee', must make their own living. We see Meg fall in love, Jo battle social norms of the time, Beth become more confident through her love of music and Amy learn to be less spoiled and more considerate. Each sister has her own character traits, to whom most of us can relate, as they grow to find their way in the world.

***The Father* by Florian Zeller**

Translated by Christopher Hampton, directed by Rich Francis

April 2020

Andre is 80 years old and was once a tap dancer. He lives with his daughter Anne and her husband Antoine. Or was he an engineer whose daughter Anne lives in London with her new lover, Pierre? The thing is, he is still wearing his pyjamas, and he can't find his watch. This is a beautiful study of a man descending into dementia and we join him on his journey. It is funny and heart-breaking.

Tickets available from the Town Hall City Centre Box Office, or at www.leadstownhall.co.uk/how-to-book/, or by calling 0113 376 0318