



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

presents

Joe Orton's comedy

WHAT THE BUTLER SAW



LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

**Thursday, 6th to Saturday, 8th February, 2003
at 7.30 p.m.**

At first glance, *What The Butler Saw* may appear to be a conventional sex farce. From the beginning it has all the right ingredients - a doctor trying to seduce a secretary, his wife returning unexpectedly and the doctor frantically trying to explain away the presence in his consulting room of a naked woman. But although the play borrows the clothes of the popular farce, it is anything but conventional.

Joe Orton, a gay man who lived most of his life during a time when homosexuality was illegal and treated as a psychiatric disorder, would have felt the pressure of the conventional sexual morality which is one of his targets in *What The Butler Saw*. He was often frustrated by the lack of sexual freedom he could enjoy in England, where he resorted to using toilets to pick up sexual partners, and had to travel to Morocco to find what he was looking for.

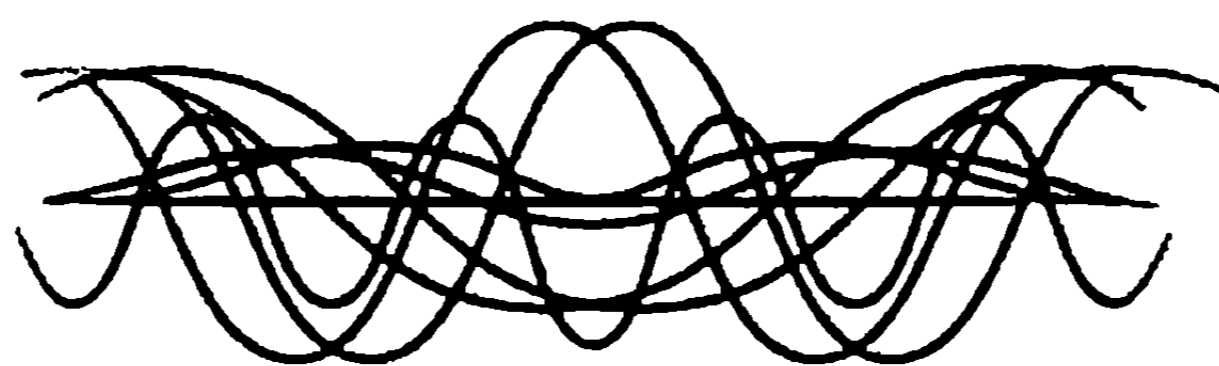
It was perhaps the fact that, as he once wrote, 'Every sacred cow pastures in England', which was behind much of the questioning of conventional sexual morality in *What The Butler Saw*. Whereas most other plays in the genre took as their starting point the idea that anything other than heterosexuality is abnormal and to be made fun of, Orton's masterpiece casually shows bisexuality as the norm, showing that definitions of sexuality are often strait-jackets into which real people struggle to fit.

This challenge to society's traditional attitudes was probably the reason *What The Butler Saw* received such a savage response from the audience on its opening night in 1969. The audience members who shouted 'filth' were the same kind of people whose homophobia hastened Oscar Wilde's death in the previous century. It may have been seventy years later, but the sexual intolerance was the same.

Jumping forward to the present day, *What The Butler Saw* had been recognised as a classic and is regularly performed. Attitudes towards sexuality have also become somewhat more enlightened. Still, as it was only a few years ago that the *Sun* newspaper whipped up homophobia by asking if Britain was being run by a 'gay mafia', we still have a long way to go until a person's sexual practices cease to be a matter of judgement by others.

Chris Hudson

The promotional material for this play was designed and produced by



brahm

DESIGN

0113 230 4000

It was printed by

ocean di

0113 230 4316

The publicity photographs were taken by
Mark Howe Photography - 07811 587 949

Cast

DR PRENTICE	Mark Haigh
GERALDINE	Amy Walker
MRS PRENTICE	Shirley Broadbent
NICK	Stephen Graham
DR RANCE	David Wheatley
SERGEANT MATCH	Ed Corbet

DIRECTED by Chris Hudson

The scene is set in a room in a private clinic.

The time is the late 1960s.

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager	Steven Cartwright
Assistant Manager	Vivien Simpson
Chief Technician and Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Technicians	Sandy Clark, David Simpson
Catering for Crown Point Foods	Shirley Tarran
Box office	Margaret Rook, Sylvia Gooding

In accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Sub-Committee of Leeds City Council:

- a. The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrance doors and such doors must at all times be open.
- b. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions.
- c. Persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the intersecting gangways, or stand in any other unseated space in the auditorium, unless standing in such space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Sub-Committee. A notice is exhibited in that part of the auditorium in which standing has been sanctioned.
- d. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance to show that it is in proper working order.

PRODUCTION MANAGER	Joyce King
STAGE MANAGER	Pam Wilson
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGERS	Elaine Blair and Dave Mallinson
SET DESIGN	Malcolm Brown
SET CONSTRUCTION	Joyce King, Malcolm Brown and the Arts Centre team
PROPERTIES	Denise Davies, Doreen Parker and Chris Wilson
LIGHTING	Peter Waddicor
SOUND RECORDING	Jim Marshall
SOUND OPERATION	Sean Murrricane
PROMPT	Mary Nelson
WARDROBE SUPERVISOR	George Judd
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	Gwyneth Hadley
BOX OFFICE MANAGER	Maggie Rhodes

Thanks for their assistance with this production to
 Joe Coleman, Anna Housden, Mark Howe,
 Sam Howells, Penny Lee and Rachel Morgan-Trimmer

**There will be one interval of twenty minutes
 during which the theatre bar will be open**



LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

Advertising and 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 who would benefit from advertising in our programmes or sponsoring our productions.

To find out more, contact our Publicity Officer at:

**Publicity Officer,
Leeds Arts Centre,
c/o The Civic Theatre,
Millennium Square,
Leeds, LS2 8BH.**

or e-mail us at:
info@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



LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

Leeds Arts Centre is an amateur dramatic society which was formed in 1945. We have members from all walks of life, including people who have worked in the theatre, others who hope to make a career on the stage, and many who are very happy to remain amateurs. We are a very friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known, and we always aim to enjoy ourselves.

We produce four plays each year at the Civic Theatre, as well as **Green Room** productions to help members develop their acting, directing and production skills.

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 don't you 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 Civic Theatre,
Millennium Square,
Leeds, LS2 8BH.**

or e-mail us at:

info@leedsartscentre.org.uk



**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Week commencing 24th March, 2003

ROMEO AND JULIET

by William Shakespeare

directed by Rachel Morgan-Trimmer

Week commencing 16th June, 2003

HARVEY

by Mary Chase

directed by Eddie Butler and Laurie Ball

Next Guild production at the Civic Theatre

12th to 15th February, 2003

Leeds Youth Opera

MERRILY WE ROLL ALONG

by Stephen Sondheim