

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

Written by
Edward Albee

Directed by
Amy Dutton

Wednesday 16th to Saturday 19^h May 2012



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

To find out more about the activities and forthcoming productions of the Leeds Arts Centre visit our website at:

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk



Director's Notes

I first saw *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* whilst a student at Lancaster and it made a strong impression on me. I am certainly not the first to say this, but it's a play that starts where most others finish and goes up from there. That, coupled with the complexity of the relationships and its slightly surreal nature, has meant it has stayed with me ever since.

Albee captures that surreal late night feeling, when alcohol takes over and everything becomes magnified and you are no longer sure what's real and what's not and somewhere along the line, it ceases to matter. We get the impression that George and Martha have been here many times before, and it's perhaps where they spend most of their time. But for Nick and Honey, and for the audience, it's confusing, uncomfortable and at times, hugely entertaining.

Unusually perhaps, the three acts of the play are named. Act I, 'Fun and Games', is perhaps the most 'normal': we are still rooted in the real world and share in Nick and Honey's induction into the bickering, love/hate world of George and Martha's marriage. Act II, 'Walpurgisnacht', is, as the name suggests, where things start to turn upside down. Walpurgisnacht, still celebrated in Eastern Europe as well as in Germany, takes place exactly 6 months before Halloween and is a similar festival where the boundaries between our world and others are thin and bonfires are burned to keep away the evil spirits. Act III, 'Exorcism' is where George finally decides to try to 'exorcise' the demons of their marriage and reach some sort of peace.

Amy Dutton



Cast

Martha
George
Nick
Honey

Rachel Vernelle
Graham Greensit
Oli Brierley
Tori Morgan

Act I

Fun and Games

Act II

Walpurgisnacht

Act III

Exorcism

**There will be a 15 minute interval between Acts I and II
and a 10 minute interval between Acts II and III**



Production Team

Director	Amy Dutton
Production Manager	Steve Fryatt
Stage Manager	Emily Holloway
Assistant Stage Manager	Maggie Stewart
Prompt	Jo Johnston
Properties	Pip Tibbetts
	Sarah Coothoopermal
	Helen Locke
Costumes	Corinne McAlary
	Ann Schutte
Set Construction	Steve Fryatt & LAC Members
Sound Operation	Dena Marsh
Lighting Design	Peter Waddicor
Front of House	Robin Thornton
Painting	Malcolm Brown



Edward Albee's writing career

In 1958, Edward Albee wrote his first major play, entitled *The Zoo Story*. First produced in Berlin, American theatre producer Alan Schneider agreed to produce it off-Broadway in a double bill with Samuel Beckett's *Krapp's Last Tape*. This early association with Beckett served to cement Albee's connection to the Theatre of the Absurd.

Albee strengthened his reputation with a series of one-act plays, including *The Death of Bessie Smith*, *The Sandbox* and *The American Dream* (1961). That same year, Albee adapted an unsuccessful production of Melville's short story *Bartleby*.

Despite the success of his original work, Albee's adaptations - Carson McCuller's *The Ballad of the Sad Café* (1963) and James Purdy's *Malcolm* (1965) - were not critically or popularly successful.

Albee's successes have always come from his original and absurdist dramas. His first three-act drama and the play for which he is best known, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* (1962) immediately became popular and controversial. Its nomination for a Pulitzer was not accepted unanimously by the prize committee and two members of the Prize committee resigned.

Albee continued to write plays throughout the 60s and 70s. *A Delicate Balance* (1966) received the Pulitzer Prize. *Everything in the Garden* (1967) was followed by the original plays *Box* and *Quotations from Chairman Mao Tse-Tung* (1968), *All Over* (1971), and *Seascape* (1975). For *Seascape*, Albee was awarded a second Pulitzer Prize. *Counting the Ways and Listening* (1977) which initially debuted as a radio play in England and was staged in New York.

Throughout the 1980s, Albee's playwriting career failed to produce a substantial commercial hit. Plays from this period include *The Lady from Dubuque* (1980), an adaptation of *Lolita* (1981), *The Man Who Had Three Arms* (1983), *Finding the Sun* (1985), and *Marriage Play* (1987). During this time, Albee also taught courses at various universities and maintained his residence in New York.

In 1994, Albee experienced a much-awaited success with the play *Three Tall Women*. This earned Albee his third Pulitzer Prize and his first commercial hit in over a decade. More recently Albee's plays include *Me, Myself and I* (2007) and *At Home at the Zoo* (2009).



Advertising & Sponsorship

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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

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- especially team leaders Lucile & Bharisa

Rug courtesy of Billingham Players.

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And Then There Were None
By Agatha Christie
Presented by Cosmopolitan Players
Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th May 2012



Next Leeds Arts Centre Production

The Price

by Arthur Miller

27th to 30th June 2012

**Forthcoming LAC Productions
at the Carriageworks**

Duets

By Peter Quilter

24th to 27th October 2012

The Visit

By Friedrich Dürrenmatt

27th Feb to 2nd March 2013

The Vagina Monologues

By Eve Ensler

24th to 27th April 2013

Dry Rot

By John Chapman

19th to 22nd June 2013