

CAT AMONG



THE PIGEONS

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE presents

Georges Feydeau, born in Paris in 1862, was perhaps the most brilliantly adroit of all devisers of bedroom farce. His father, Ernest, a friend of Gustave Flaubert, was himself a novelist of some slight note but his son achieved success with his first play "Tailleur pour Dames", produced in 1874. He went on to write well over seventy plays until he died in 1921. For the twenty years after his death, Feydeau was regarded merely as an efficient, undemanding light entertainer but his best plays have subsequently been recognised as masterpieces of theatrical contrivance and elegantly economical style and have been taken into the repertoire of the Comédie-Francaise. His best known plays are "Occupe-toi d'Amélie", later adapted by Noel Coward as "Look After Lulu", "La Dame de chez Maxim", "Un Fil à la Patte" ("Cat among the Pigeons"), "La Puce à l'Oreille" ("A Flea in her Ear"), and "L'Hotel du Libre-Echange" ("Hotel Paradiso"), last performed by the Leeds Arts Centre in February last year.

"The farces of Feydeau are as implacable and forthright in intention as a child with a peashooter. They concern the comic horrors that beset ordinary men and women in their determined pursuit of their follies and foibles. The author's attitude towards his characters is scientific, dispassionate and unsentimental. In his plays practically every petty ignobility of daily life is spotlighted, not analysed; hoist with its own petard, not punished. He deals, in typical Gallic fashion, with manners — not with souls. His method is logical, exact and as ingeniously contrived as an algebraic equation. He is a Strindberg working in the realm of the ridiculous and the infernal machine that provokes the inevitable series of comic disasters is never imposed upon the characters from without: the characters create it for themselves."

Peter Glenville

“CAT AMONG THE PIGEONS”

(“Un Fil à la Patte”)

C A S T

(in the order of their appearance)

Marceline , Lucette Gautier’s sister	<i>Anne Robinson</i>
Firmine , Lucette’s maid	<i>Betty Triggs</i>
Lucette Gautier , an actress	<i>Thelma Stoker</i>
Gontran de Chenneviette , a former lover	<i>Chris Richmond</i>
Nini Galant , an actress	<i>Pam Wilson</i>
Fernand Bois d’Enghien , Lucette’s lover	<i>Chris Tolley</i>
Baroness Duverger	<i>June Stevenson</i>
Camille Bouzin , a lawyer’s clerk and self-styled songwriter	<i>Geoff Mountain</i>
General Irrigua , a wealthy Mexican	<i>Gordon Wilson</i>
Antonio , his interpreter	<i>Tom Stoker</i>
Vivianne , Bois d’Enghien’s fiancée	<i>Pam Swift</i>
Fraulein Fitzenspiegel	<i>Nina Goldthorpe</i>
Emile , servant to the Baroness	<i>George Westmoreland</i>
Lantery , a solicitor	<i>Tom Stoker</i>
Jean , a valet	<i>John Coates</i>
Flower Girl	<i>Margaret Hughes</i>
Bride	<i>Christine Wilson</i>
Man , wedding guest	<i>Peter Hutchinson</i>
Woman , wedding guest	<i>Gillian Thresh</i>
Concierge	<i>Jean Price</i>
Policeman and Guests	<i>Peggy Dacre, Christine Hampshire, Joyce King, Valerie King, Gillian Thresh, Christine Wilson, Tom Stoker, Peter Hutchinson</i>

Directed by Margaret Rhodes

BY GEORGES FEYDEAU

2nd – 6th October

ACT 1 : Lucette Gautier’s Drawing Room

Interval of fifteen minutes

ACT 2 : Baroness Duverger’s Bedroom

Interval of fifteen minutes

ACT 3 : Bois d’Enghien’s apartment

The theatre bar will be open during the interval. Coffee is also available in the bar and ice cream will be sold in the auditorium.

Stage Manager	Trevor Money
Assistant Stage Manager	Adrian McKay
Wardrobe	Nina Goldthorpe, Anne Robinson, Jo Thackwray
Lighting	Howard Gibson
Properties	Anita Mountain, Gillian Thresh, Margaret Hughes
Gunsmith	John Armitage
Flower Arrangement	Doreen Parker, Pam Elsey
Prompt	Mary Nelson
Box Office	Hazel Irving, John Pemberton
Publicity	Gordon & Pam Wilson
Front of House Managers	Hazel Spray, Barbara Gilmour
Resident Stage Manager	Fred Mower
Theatre Manager	Derek Rose

Publicity photographs by members of the Leeds Camera Club.

Cover design by Elaine Cooper of the Leeds Arts Centre Fine Arts Group.

We hope that your enjoyment of "Cat Among the Pigeons" will encourage you to come and see our programme for the rest of the season:-

4th — 8th December, 1973.

"THE NATIONAL HEALTH OR NURSE NORTON'S AFFAIR" by Peter Nichols, produced by Sydney Irving. Our production will be the Leeds premiere of this brilliantly observed tragi-comedy of life in a hospital ward by the author of "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg". Irving Wardle wrote of him in 'The Times' "We are not short of good playwrights in Britain but I know of none with Peter Nichols's power to put modern Britain on the stage and send the spectators away feeling more like members of the human race".

29th January — 2nd February, 1974.

"LOCAL COLOUR", edited and produced by Sidney Irving. This dramatized adaptation of the popular B.B.C. Radio Leeds programme of Yorkshire tales, dialect writing and local folk history is to be presented by Leeds Arts Centre in association with B.B.C. Radio Leeds — a new venture for both of us and a completely different type of entertainment in the theatre.

30th April — 4th May, 1974.

"VIVAT! VIVAT REGINA!" by Robert Bolt, produced by Malcolm Brown. This brilliant play about the conflict between Elizabeth I and Mary, Queen of Scots, won unanimous acclaim in the West End both for author Robert Bolt and actress Eileen Atkins, who played the lead.

25th — 29th June, 1974. To be announced.

NEXT WEEK:-

The Cosmopolitan Players present

“MACBETH”

produced by Gerald Armytage.

The Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur Society to encourage and foster interest in the arts.

The Drama Group mounts five plays each season at the Civic Theatre.

The Green Room Group puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members valuable experience of acting and producing before tackling major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre.

The Fine Arts Group meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work.

In addition there is a variety of social activities, such as theatre visits, outings, parties, etc.

New members are always welcome and if you are interested in joining or would like more information about any of the groups, please write to:-

**THE SECRETARY, Leeds Arts Centre,
43 Cookridge Street, Leeds 2.**

“The public may leave the Civic Theatre at the end of the performance by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any obstruction. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before each performance to confirm that it is in proper working order.”

Leeds City Council Watch Committee