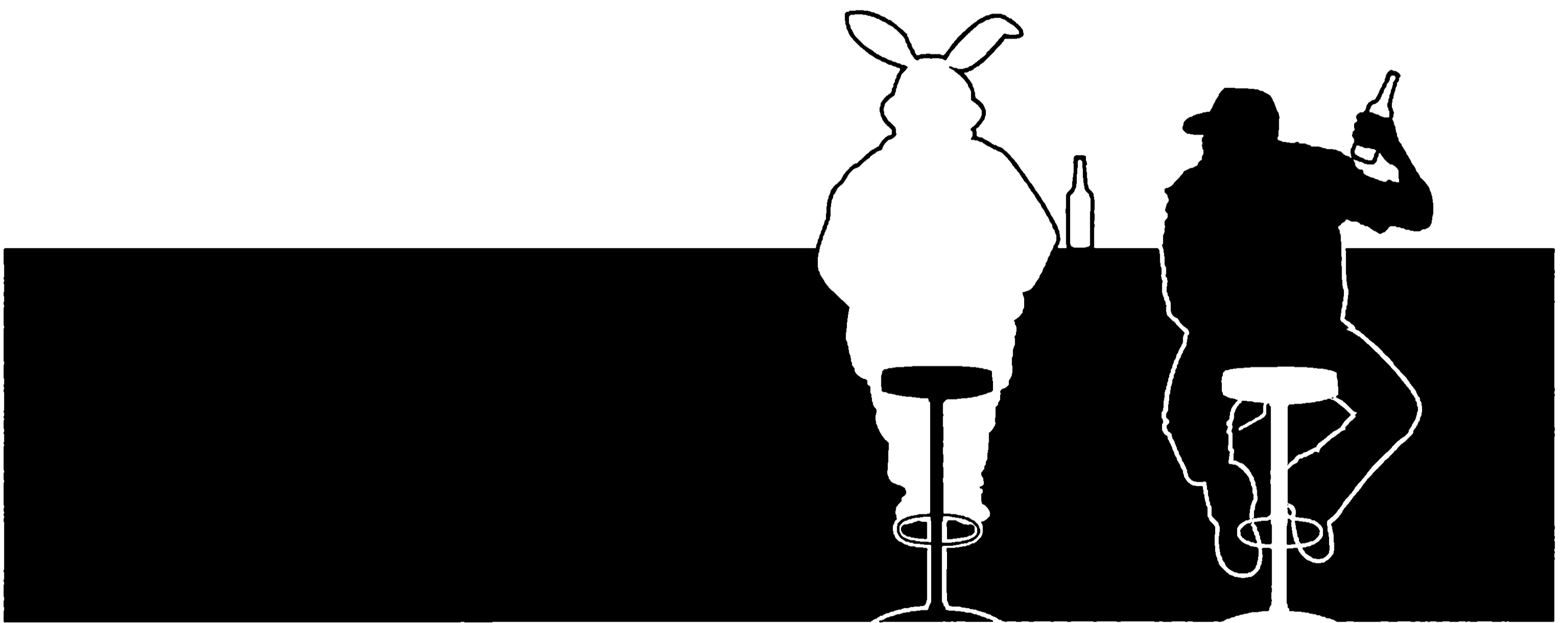




Leeds Arts Centre presents

H A R V E Y

by Mary Chase



4th - 6th February 2016

Directed by Alan Buttery



Leeds Arts Centre is a prestigious amateur theatre group founded in 1945, and member of the Leeds Civic Arts Guild.

We are a friendly society, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. We produce four to five plays each year at the Carriageworks Theatre, as well as organising green room shows and 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 please 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 Carriageworks Theatre
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD
or e-mail us at: publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk

www.leedsartscentre.org.uk



The Leeds Civic Arts Guild is the 'umbrella' association of various amateur dramatic, musical, operatic and other voluntary arts societies & companies that are based in the centre of Leeds at the Carriageworks Theatre. Each group has its own identity, however they all come together as part of the Guild, working with Leeds City Council and the Carriageworks. The member societies are:

Cosmopolitan Players
Leeds Amateur Operatic Society
Leeds Arts Centre
Leeds Children's Theatre
Leeds Gilbert & Sullivan Society
LIDOS
Leeds Writers Circle
Leeds Youth Opera
Morley Amateur Operatic Society
Shatterproof Theatre Company
STARS
St. Mary's Youth Theatre
West Riding Opera

To learn more about the groups and societies, please come along to the Carriageworks Theatre bar on the second Tuesday of each month at 8.00pm where you can meet a member of the Guild Executive for an introductory chat, and a tour of the facilities at the Carriageworks Theatre.

For more information visit lcag.org.uk/

HARVEY by Mary Chase THE AUTHOR

Mary Chase (born Mary Coyle; 1906-1981) was born the daughter of American-Irish parents in Denver, Colorado. She worked as a journalist at the *Rocky Mountain News* and married her colleague Robert Chase in 1928.

The first production of *Harvey* opened on Broadway in 1944 and reviews were very positive, with Lewis Nichols of the New York Times acknowledging Chase's "*warm and gentle humor*" (Nov 12, 1944); and Newsweek declaring *Harvey* "*one of the funniest comedies that has been Broadway's luck in a long time*" (Nov 13, 1944).

Chase was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for *Harvey* in 1945, becoming only the fourth woman to ever win the award. She wrote plays, children's novels, and the screenplay for the *Harvey* (1950) film, which featured James Stewart in the role of Elwood P. Dowd.

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Welcome to the show!

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to direct a play with Leeds Arts Centre and I wanted to find a nice comedy that actually 'says something' about the world. After reading *Harvey*, I knew I couldn't resist the characters in this thought-provoking play, or Mary Chase's brilliant, gentle-yet-brutal comedy writing.

I was intrigued to learn how the play came about - Speaking to Eleanor Harris in 1954, Chase explained how the idea for *Harvey* came to her in 1942 when she saw a neighbour, a widow, who had worked for years to send her only son through college. Chase: "The day I looked at her, her boy had been dead about two months, killed in action in the Pacific. I asked myself...could I ever possibly write anything that might make this woman laugh again?"

A NOTE FROM OUR DIRECTOR (continued)

Harvey has such universal appeal that I knew that a British version would be great fun to direct, and I was delighted when the publishers, Josef Weinberger Ltd, granted us permission to set the play in Britain.

I decided to set the play in 1953 - mercifully, progressive reform in the treatment of mental health from the mid 1950s onwards means that some events, procedures, and treatments in the plot would make the play unworkable if it were set in later decades.

All the same, it is no surprise to me that *Harvey* continues to entertain audiences over 70 years on, as I think it still raises questions and deals with themes that are universal, poignant, and relevant today. That said, the cast and I struggled to agree definitively what the message of the play actually is, so I hope that each of you derives your own unique meaning from it. Either way, I think we could all learn *something* from Elwood!

Human nature probably hasn't changed much since Mary Chase finished writing the play in 1944, and I think that we can rely on human nature to ensure that a character like Elwood will always remain an irresistible curiosity!

Thank you for coming to see the show - I hope you enjoy the magical world of Elwood P. Dowd and *Harvey*. If you are lucky, you may even catch a glimpse of *Harvey*.

Not all of us are so fortunate - after all, he does not reveal himself to everyone...

Alan

Cast (in order of appearance)

Myrtle Mae Simmons	Camilla Asher
Veta Louise Simmons	Maureen Willis
Elwood P. Dowd	Dean Franklin
Mrs Ethel Chauvenet	Carol Bell
Nurse Ruth Kelly	Ruth Berkoff
Mr Wilson	Zack Jackson
Dr Lyman Sanderson	Alex Dawson
Nurse Dunphy	Donna Day
Dr William R. Chumley	James W. Bell
Mrs Betty Chumley	Lena Gazey
Judge Omar Gaffney	Ian Noble
Eddie Lofgren	Oli Brierley

Act 1 Scene 1 The Dowd Family Library - 3pm

Act 1 Scene 2 Chumley's Rest Sanatorium - 5pm

Act 2 Scene 1 The Dowd Family Library - 6pm

Interval

Act 2 Scene 2 Chumley's Rest Sanatorium - 10pm

Act 3 Chumley's Rest Sanatorium - After 10pm

Production Crew

Director	Alan Buttery
Production Manager	Maria Kwater
Stage Manager	Steve Fryatt
Prompt	Charlotte Calvert
Lighting Plot	Martin Key
Properties	Jenny Carter, Mary Nelson and Denise Davies
Wardrobe	Maggie McCulley, Zoë Freedman, Kathryn Francis and Pam Wilson
Set Team	Steve Fryatt, Tom Shute, Martyn Drake, Emma Hodgson, Maria Kwater, Rekha Saty
Fly Floor	Rich Francis
Portrait Artists	Emma Hodgson and Margaret Savage
Sound	Christopher J. Watson
Front of House	Joyce King (and LAC members)
Flyer and Poster design:	Jack 'loud ribs' Hurley (Visit Jack's spreadable headcheese world at www.loudribs.wordpress.com)

Extra thanks go to the hard-working cast, the Carriageworks Theatre staff, Josef Weinberger Ltd, Shirley Broadbent, Edwin Barraclough and Milko - and to all of our members who have helped out along the way.

The video and / or audio recording of this performance by any means whatsoever is strictly prohibited.

A tale of LAC and the RSC...

A Midsummer Night's Dream - A Play for the Nation

During 2016, as part of the commemoration of the 400th anniversary of the death of William Shakespeare, the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) is to perform *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at twelve theatres across the UK.

Last year, to highlight the memory of Shakespeare as 'The People's Playwright', the RSC gave the opportunity for fourteen amateur theatre groups to provide a Director and cast to play 'The Mechanicals'.

This is probably the most famous amateur theatre group in literature, comprising Bottom, Quince, Flute, Snug, Snout, and Starveling. The rest of the cast will be made up by professional actors cast by the RSC.

Under the direction of the indefatigable Ken Taylor, our LAC group defeated the competition and will be performing with the RSC in April and June 2016!!

A **MASSIVE** congratulations to Ken and his team - break a leg! Here is the cast...

Bottom - Barry Green

Quince - Tazmin Bennison

Flute - Ben Hopwood

Snug - Edward Corbet

Snout - Fiona Galloway

Starveling - Rachel Brewin

A tale of LAC and the RSC...

Also, **Margaret Savage** will be mucking in royally with the donkey work as the group's rehearsal Titania.

Leeds Arts Centre's local theatre is The Alhambra in Bradford - that means that these LAC members will perform not only at The Alhambra, but will be invited to perform at Stratford Upon Avon at the end of the tour!

Ken and the cast are working away at rehearsals, workshops, and live streaming events and it promises to be a brilliant show and an unforgettable experience for those involved.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 12th to Saturday 16th April 2016 - A Midsummer Night's Dream performance Week at the Alhambra Theatre, Bradford. Performances are Tuesday to Saturday evenings with Thursday and Saturday matinees.

If you're interested in tickets, please visit <http://www.bradford-theatres.co.uk/whats-on/a-midsummer-nights-dream-a-play-for-the-nation>

Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th June 2016 - Performances for the LAC at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford Upon Avon. There will be an evening performance on 29th June and matinee and evening performances on 30th June.

If you're interested in tickets, please visit <http://www.rsc.org.uk/a-midsummer-nights-dream/tickets/>

“I have had a most rare vision. I have had a dream, past the wit of man to say what dream it was.”



Leeds Arts Centre 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 Carriageworks Theatre
Millennium Square, Leeds LS2 3AD
or e-mail us at: publicity@leedsartscentre.org.uk



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

News and info



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

Updates on the go

Visit www.leedsartscentre.org.uk
to see an archive of previous productions.

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

www.lfbbsolicitors.co.uk



Leeds Arts Centre has 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

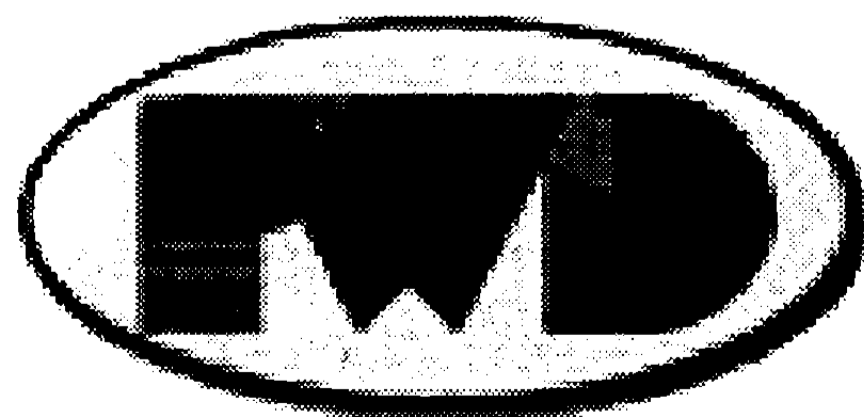
For more information, please see our website at
<http://www.leedsartscentre.org.uk/costumeHire.htm>

ADVERTISING AND SPONSORSHIP

Phil Dodgson & Partners Limited

Phil Dodgson & Partners are Pudsey based accountants offering services throughout West Yorkshire and surrounding areas and are pleased to work with Leeds Arts Centre in the preparation of their annual accounts.

49 Chapeltown, Pudsey, West Yorkshire, LS28 7RZ Tel: 0113 255 7406

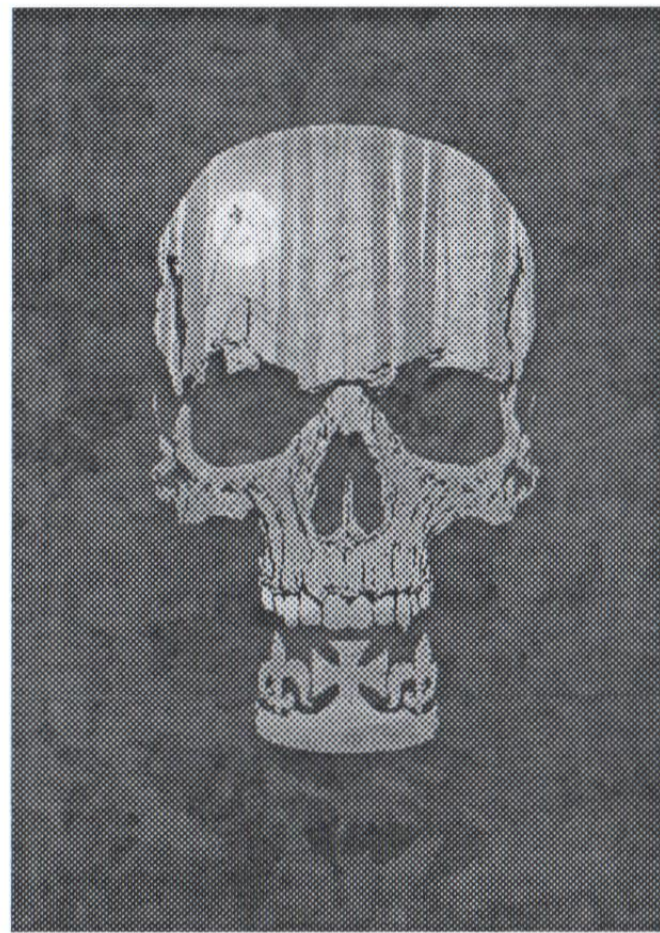




**LEEDS ARTS
CENTRE**

presents...

Macbeth



by William Shakespeare

Wednesday 27th - Saturday 30th April 2016
Carriageworks Theatre - Main Auditorium

Directed by Rich Francis

Tickets on sale now £12, £9 concessions
Contact the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office
on 0113 376 0318

Upcoming LCAG productions at Carriageworks Theatre

Aladdin - Morley Amateur Operatic Society - 4th - 7th Feb 2016
The Marriage of Figaro - Leeds Youth Opera - 10th - 13th Feb 2016
Neville's Island - Cosmopolitan Players - 10th - 13th Feb 2016
Orpheus in the Underworld - Leeds G&S Society - 15th - 19th Feb