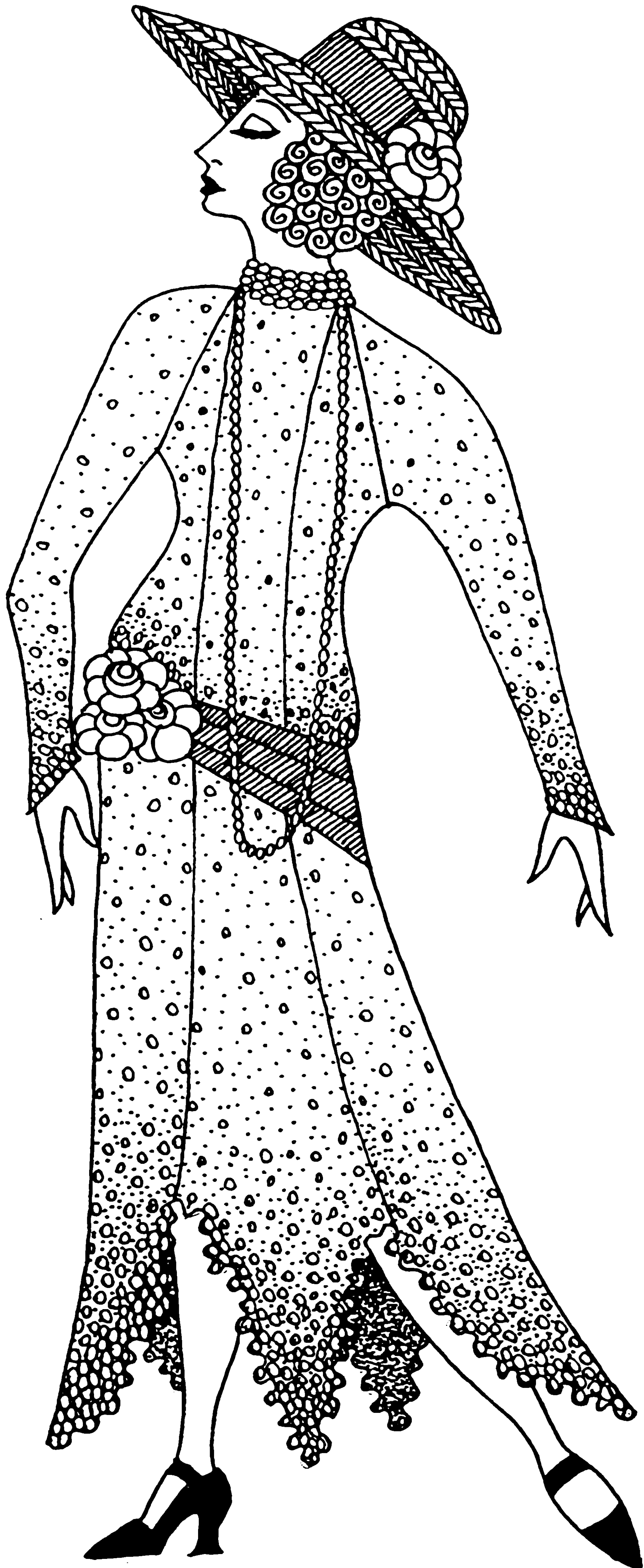




Leeds Arts Centre
p r e s e n t s

Hay Fever

by
Noël
Coward





Considered by many to be one of Noël Coward's best plays – this frothy comedy has much to delight. The action takes place in the home of the Bliss family. Father, David is a romantic novelist, whilst for his ex-starlet wife Judith, all the world is quite literally *her* stage. The family is completed by two spoilt teenagers with artistic pretensions – Simon and Sorel.

On a hot June Saturday afternoon – each announces that they have invited a guest for the weekend. The family is furious with each other and determined to cold shoulder all but their own guest. An uncomfortable tea is followed by a ghastly word-game and escalating romantic confusion – it all seems likely to end in tears!

Coward's legendary wit is put to excellent use in this highly entertaining comedy. It is also one of his most demanding plays, the playwright observed:

...it has no plot at all and remarkably little action. Its general effectiveness depends upon expert technique from each and every member of the cast.

First performed by Leeds Arts Centre 1974, *Hay Fever* has remained a great favourite and was produced successfully again in 1988. Joyce King who played Simon's guest Myra in the first production and prompted the second, little imagined that she would one day direct the play!

Whether this is your first "Coward" play , or you've experienced one before, we hope you'll enjoy the show.

The Noël Coward Society

if you're a fan of Noël Coward and would like to join this society, write for further details to:

**Gareth Pike, Secretary, The Noël Coward Society,
PO Box 2700, Castle Cary BA7 7YT**

**or visit the website at
www.noelcoward.net**

Cast

Judith Bliss	Gwyneth Hadley
David Bliss	Edwin Barraclough
Sorel Bliss	Anna Gaunt
Simon Bliss	Dave Phillips
Myra Arundel	Margaret Savage
Richard Greatham	Laurie Toczek
Jackie Coryton	Kathryn Francis
Sandy Tyrell	Jim Brassil
Clara	Pat Foster

Crew

Production Manager	Richard Francis
Stage Manager	Martyn Drake
Assistant Stage Manager	Dave Mallinson
Set design	Malcolm Brown
Set construction	LAC Team
Props	Doreen Parker, Denise Davies
Prompt	Jean Blundell
Costume	George Judd, Maggie Rhodes & LAC Wardrobe
Lighting	Peter Waddicor
Sound Operation	Margaret Davey
Sound Recording	Jim Marshall
Front of House Manager	June Stevenson
Box Office	Maggie Rhodes & Team
Production Photography	Vic Clarkson

Directed by Joyce M. King

**There will be one interval of 15 minutes between
Acts 1 and Act 2**

**Please remain in your seats between Acts 2 and 3 - there
will be a short intermission of approximately 5 minutes**

NOËL COWARD

A few words of wisdom from the man himself...

Advice on motivation to a demanding young actor

My dear boy, forget about motivation, just say the lines and don't trip over the furniture.

On playwriting

The most important ingredients of a play are life, death, food, sex and money. But not necessarily in that order.

When asked to identify things with style

A candy-striped Jeep, Jane Austen, Cassius Clay, *The Times* before it changed, Danny la Rue, Charleston in South Carolina, "Monsieur" de Givenchy, a zebra (but *not* a zebra crossing), evading boredom, Gertrude Lawrence, the Paris Opera House, white, a seagull, a Brixham trawler, Margot Fonteyn, any Cole Porter song, English pageantry, Marlene's voice... and... Lingfield has a tiny bit.

On his own legend of ultra-sophistication

With the success of *The Vortex* I was unwise enough to be photographed in bed wearing a Chinese dressing gown and an expression of advanced degeneracy. This was accidental and was caused by blinking at the flashlight, but it emblazoned my unquestionable decadence firmly on the minds of all who saw it.

On television

Time has convinced me of one thing. Television is for appearing on, not looking at.

And finally, on wit

Wit is like caviar, it should be served in small, elegant portions and not splashed about like marmalade.

Civic Theatre

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Ben Parfitt, Chris Horton*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Syliva 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 place has been specially allowed by the Licensing 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.

Leeds Arts Centre

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur society. Our members come from all walks of life and include people who have worked in the theatre, others who hope to make a career on the stage and quite a number who are very happy to remain amateurs. We're a friendly company, working together to maintain the high standards for which our productions are known. First and foremost, we aim to enjoy ourselves!

Each year we produce plays at the Civic Theatre - but that's not all. . .

Our **Green Room** group devises plays, readings, quizzes and other entertainments to keep members not involved in current productions busy and to develop our skills in acting, directing and production.

Last, but not least, we enjoy a variety of **social activities**, including theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

We welcome new members . . .

. . . so if you're interested in:

**acting, directing, producing,
set building & painting (scenery & pictures)
making and repairing costumes
back stage and front of house
or publicity and promotion**

. . . why not have a chat with one of our members front of house this evening - or in the bar after the show. You can also write, with contact telephone number for further information to:

The Secretary
Leeds Arts Centre
c/o Civic Theatre
Cookridge Street
Leeds LS2 8BH

FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

Mr *Dr Jekyll &* Hyde

a spine-chilling new adaptation of this classic tale by
Malcolm Brown – director of highly acclaimed productions:

The Phantom of the Opera and *Frankenstein*

Wednesday 11—Saturday 14 October 2000

A comedy to chase away the winter blues...

We're currently chuckling over a number of scripts and
will soon be announcing a comedy to keep you smiling
through the winter months.

Directed by Judith Unwin — January 2001

Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead

by Tom Stoppard

*directed by
Trudy Stewart*

**Coming to the
Civic Theatre
in March 2001**

The next Guild production at the Civic Theatre is

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

by Bob Larbey

presented by Cosmopolitan Players

Director Pamela Elsey

22-24 June 7.30pm

Friends of Leeds Civic Theatre

if you'd like to support this theatre - why not join the Friends?

Application forms available in the foyer