

Leeds Arts Centre
Amateur Theatre Company

Relatively Speaking



by Alan Ayckbourn

Civic Theatre - 25th to 29th June 1996

Relatively Speaking

In general, the people who liked this play when it was first seen remarked that it was 'well constructed'; those that didn't like it called it old-fashioned. If the latter is true, then I suppose it's because, as the song goes, I am too. As to whether it's well constructed, well, in a way I hope it is, since I did set out consciously to write a 'well made' play. I think this is important for a playwright to do at least once in his life, since in any science, he cannot begin to shatter theatrical convention or break golden rules until he is reasonably sure in himself what they are and how they were arrived at.

And this knowledge is really only acquired as a result of having plays produced, torn apart and reassembled by actors and held up to public scrutiny for praise or ridicule. I suppose I am extremely lucky, writing for a small theatre company as I did for so many years, to have had almost a dozen plays put through this very process before reaching the age of thirty. Not only this, but to have had to fight the limitations of a small theatre - the number of actors available, difficulties of staging, even lighting complications - and, most important, being aware that if my play didn't at least break even at the box office, we'd all be out of a job by Monday. I wrote, in a sense, to order, and there was no harm in this, since the order was always of a technical nature and dealt only minimally with content. But there is no sharper lesson for a dramatist than to find himself sharing a dressing room with an actor for whom he has written an impossible quick change.

I wrote this play originally as a result of a phone call from the late Stephen Joseph, a truly remarkable man of the theatre, without whose unrelenting deadlines this would never have been written and to whom I dedicate this play, sadly, but with great affection. He asked me then simply for a play which would make people laugh when their seaside summer holidays were spoiled by the rain and they came in to get dry before trudging back to their landladies. This seemed to me as worthwhile a reason for writing a play as any, so I tried to comply. I hope I have succeeded.

Alan Ayckbourn

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CAST

Greg	Stuart Watson
Ginny	Alison Rees
Philip	Neville Burbridge
Sheila	Pam Wilson

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Dave Mallinson
ASM	Gwyneth Hadley, Margaret Savage
Set Design	Malcolm Brown
Set Construction	Richard Francis, Margaret Savage George Westmoreland
Properties	Mary Nelson, Doreen Parker Danielle Coleman
Prompt	Shirley Burgess
Lighting	Laurie Ball
Sound recording	Jim Marshall
Front of House	Denise Forton, Kathryn Heneachon
Box Office Manager	Margaret Rhodes

Directed by Jonathan Coope

The action of the play takes place during a summer weekend in London and the country.

ACT I Scene 1 Ginny's bedsitter in London - 7am Sunday
Scene 2 The garden patio of Philip and Sheila's house in the Home Counties that same morning

INTERVAL

ACT 2 Scene 1 The same a moment later
Scene 2 The same an hour or so later



Leeds Arts Centre gratefully acknowledge the assistance of
Thorntons Chocolates and Red Hall Nursery

Costume Hire

Costumes of various types and periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates either by drama societies or by individuals for fancy dress occasions.

Please telephone Mrs Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress to discuss your requirements - Leeds (0113) 275 6796

Civic Theatre Staff

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Chas Elliott*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Sylvia Gooding*

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

- The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits 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 other obstructions.
- 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 a space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Committee. A notice is exhibited in that part of the auditorium in which standing has been sanctioned.
- The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance to make sure it is in proper working order.

Next Guild Production...

Leeds Youth Opera present

Gounod's **FAUST**

15th to 20th July 1996 at 7.30 pm nightly

FRIENDS OF LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

Please join the 'Friends' and
support this theatre

Application forms available from the foyer.

Leeds Arts Centre....

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur Society to encourage and foster interest in the Arts. Members come from all walks of life and include some who have worked in and others who aspire to the professional theatre.

Our activities are now mainly centred around the theatre with the Drama Group mounting four or five plays each year at the Civic Theatre. These often include a musical or review type show.

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 they tackle major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre. Prospective members are welcome to attend these performances.

The Fine Arts Group meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work. Annual exhibitions are held of members' work.

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

Interested in Joining?

We are always glad to welcome new members and our lively Green Room Group provides a friendly atmosphere in which younger and less experienced members develop their potential - making friends in the process.

If you are interested in acting, producing, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please have a word with one of our members tonight or write to:

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

Leeds Arts Centre

productions next season

will include....

She Stoops to Conquer

by Oliver Goldsmith

Director: Margaret Savage

8 - 12 October 1996

Our Country's Good

by Timberlake Wertenbaker

Director: Gwyneth Hadley

28 Jan to 1 Feb 1997

Glasshouse

The **World Premiere** of a new play
by West Yorkshire playwright Mark Wood

Director: Mark Wood

22 - 26 April 1997

**Book at Civic Theatre Box Office,
Cookridge Street, Leeds -
Tel:(0113) 245 5505 or 247 6962**