

Leeds Arts Centre

Jane Austen's

Sense and Sensibility,

adapted by Jessica Swale



Thursday 23rd – Saturday 25th April 2015

Directed by Maria Kwater



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 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 The Carriageworks Theatre
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.



www.lfbbsolicitors.co.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 Art Theatre
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, why not 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 please visit <http://www.lcag.btck.co.uk/>
or <http://lcag.boards.net>**

Sense and Sensibility





A note from our Director

Sense and Sensibility is one of my favourite novels and is one of those books which I return to at intervals. As soon as I read this adaptation, I fell in love with it. It was only then that I realised the enormity of the task I had set for myself, the cast, and the crew. With 25 fast-moving scenes and even more scenes within scenes, the play takes us on a rollercoaster ride through the plot. The simple set acts as a backdrop for a cauldron of bubbling passions, and the occasional use of different but simultaneous settings means we can peek into two conversations at the same time. The set is representational and fluid, so different areas of the stage represent different settings at different points in time.

I hope that I have not offended too many traditionalists by my choice of modern music – this play is all about the highs and lows of teenage romantic angst (as well as cheating and conniving relatives and nosey neighbours). There are so many modern music tracks which capture these emotions and describe the mood on stage perfectly; I hope you will allow me this indulgence.

The cast and crew have worked tremendously hard on bringing all aspects of the complicated plot to life. I would like to thank them very much for all of their effort, enthusiasm and commitment in what has been an enjoyable, but nevertheless demanding and immersive, rehearsal period. I would also like to thank my nearest and dearest for their amazing support throughout the process – I really could not have done it without them.

I hope you all enjoy the show.

Maria Kwater - Director

Cast (in order of appearance)

Elinor Dashwood	Lydia Waller
Mrs Dashwood	Maureen Willis
Margaret Dashwood	Victoria Cooper
Marianne Dashwood	Ayshea Megyery
Fanny Dashwood	Zoë Freedman
John Dashwood	Barry Green
Thomas	Zack Jackson
Edward Ferrars	Michael Cordwell
Mrs Jennings	Margaret Savage
Sir John Middleton	Edwin Barraclough
Colonel Brandon	Rick Brookes
Willoughby	Leo Charlton
Mrs Palmer	Zoë Freedman
Mr Palmer	Barry Green
Lucy Steele	Fiona Galloway
Mr Perks	Zack Jackson
Robert Ferrars	Michael Cordwell
Miss Grey	Victoria Cooper
Gossip 1	Fiona Galloway
Gossip 2	Zoë Freedman
Doctor	Zack Jackson

Production team

Director	Maria Kwater
Production Manager	Ken Taylor
Stage Manager	Steve Fryatt
ASM	Margaret Davey
Prompt	Joyce King
Properties	Rich Francis, Kathryn Francis Denise Davies Margaret Savage ('woodcock')
Costume	Caroline Webster, Maggie McCulley, Mary Nelson, Zoë Freedman
Wig Dressing and choreography	Jean Blundell
Set design	Maria Kwater
Set construction and painting	Ken Taylor, Alan Buttery, Camilla Asher
Sound recording and operation	David Bower
Lighting	Carriageworks theatre team
Publicity artwork	Tom Nixon, Caroline Webster, Malcolm Brown
Fly floor operation	John Kendell
Front of House	Robin Thornton



Setting the play in context

Jane Austen lived from 1775 to 1817. Although *Pride and Prejudice* was written between 1795 and 1797, *Sense and Sensibility* was, in 1811, her first published work, having first been written as a short story entitled 'Elinor and Marianne' in about 1797. Austen wrote 6 novels in all, with two of them (*Persuasion* and *Northanger Abbey*) being published posthumously.

One biographer (Jane Austen Centre www.janeausten.co.uk), describes her thus:

During her placid life Miss Austen never allowed her literary work to interfere with her domestic duties: sewing much and admirably, keeping house, writing many letters and reading aloud. Though, however, her days were quiet and her area circumscribed, she saw enough of middle-class provincial society to find a basis on which her dramatic and humorous faculties might build, and such was her power of searching observation and her sympathetic imagination that there are not in English fiction more faithful representations of the life she knew than we possess in her novels.

Jane Austen grew up in the parsonage at Stevenage where her father was rector. She never married and rarely left the family home, except on visits to nearby Bath, where the family moved when she was sixteen. It is amazing that, living such a relatively sheltered life, she was able to encapsulate such wit and insight into all of her characters. After her father's death in 1805, she moved to Southampton with her mother and sister, and in 1809 to Chawton, in Hampshire, where she remained until her death at Winchester on 18th July, 1817.

The opening of *Sense and Sensibility* is rooted in the legal practice of entailment - property was generally inherited by the eldest male heir, often leaving female descendants to find alternative accommodation and means of support. Despite their desperate circumstances, Elinor and Marianne aspire to ideals of true love, whilst contending with matchmaking relatives in the guise of Mrs Jennings and scheming competitors in the person of Lucy Steele.

This modern adaptation of *Sense and Sensibility* by Jessica Swale was premiered at the Watermill Theatre in April 2014.

Sense and Sensibility





Advertising and Sponsorship

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



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>

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

THE NEXT LEEDS ARTS CENTRE PRODUCTION IS

The Birthday Party
By Harold Pinter
Directed by Ken Taylor

4th to 7th November 2015

Contact the Carriageworks Theatre Box Office
on 0113 224 3801

Upcoming Leeds Civic Arts Guild productions at Carriageworks Theatre

Cosmopolitan Players present

The Ladykillers

Adapted for the stage by Graham Linehan

Wednesday 20th May 2015 to Saturday 23rd May 2015

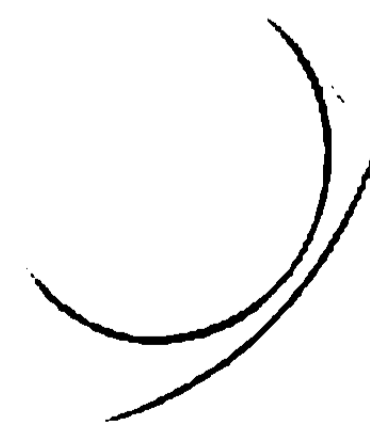
LIDOS present

The Addams Family

Wednesday 9th June 2015 to Saturday 13th June 2015



www.lcag.org.co.uk



Carriageworks
Theatre