

The
Imaginary
Invalid
by Molière

8th – 12th December, 1981

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

MOLIÈRE

Molière was born in Paris in 1622. His real name was Jean Baptiste Poquelin, and he was the son of a well-to-do upholsterer.

In 1643 Molière renounced his right to succession to his father and became an actor. In association with the actress Madeline Béjart he founded his own company, but the venture was a total failure.

In 1645 Molière joined Charles du Fresne's touring company, and spent the next thirteen years working as an apprentice actor, playwright, manager and general factotum.

In 1653 the company gained the protection of the Prince de Conti. They continued on tour, gaining a high reputation, until 1658 when they came to Paris. Here they obtained the powerful protection of the King's brother, and the name 'la Troupe de Monsieur'.

Molière had aspirations to become a tragic actor, and it was some time before he accepted that his talent was in comedy. When one of his early comedies was mounted success was sudden and quite unparalleled.

In 1659 Charles du Fresne retired and Molière became director of the company. He thrived on hard work as actor, playwright, producer and manager. He wrote every kind of comedy and brought a new meaning and respectability to the genre. He made money and many jealous enemies.

In 1662 Molière married Armande Béjart. She was only eighteen, and a coquette, and this soon led to their estrangement. Towards the end of 1672 Molière was a sick man, but he refused to retire. When 'Le Malade Imaginaire' was first performed in 1673 Molière played Argan. During the fourth performance he became very ill, but managed to complete the final act before collapsing. He died shortly afterwards 'choked by the blood which gushed from his mouth'.

After his death Molière's company continued to perform under the direction of his wife, Armande. Subsequently they were amalgamated with two other companies, from the Théâtre du Marais and l'Hôtel de Bourgogne, and this triple alliance was the origin of the Comédie-Française.

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

translated by John Wood

CAST

ARGAN, a hypochondriac	George Teale
BÉLINE, his second wife	Monica Brown
ANGÉLIQUE, his daughter	Caroline Myers
LOUISON, his younger daughter	Shirley Hamer
BÉRALDE, his brother	Jim Young
CLÉANTE, in love with Angélique	Stuart Mitchell
MR. DIAFOIRUS, a doctor	Dennis Stevenson
THOMAS DIAFOIRUS, his son	Vic Clarkson
MR. PURGON, Argan's doctor	Gordon Wilson
MR. FLEURANT, an apothecary	David Mallinson
MR. BONNEFOY, a notary	Gordon Carlin
TOINETTE, a servant	Betty Triggs
GYPSIES and ACTORS	Jean Blundell, Joyce King, Pam Wilson Christine Wilson Julie Mitchell Jaine Rae Liz Richardson

FOR LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

STAGE MANAGER	Les Wormald
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER	Geoff Mountain
PROPS	Doreen Parker
Prompt	Denise Forton
MUSIC	Gill Thresh
CHOREOGRAPHY	Jean Blundell
COSTUMES	Peggy Daker and Elsie Bell
CENTRE WARDROBE	
MISTRESS	Maggie Rhodes
FRONT OF HOUSE MANAGER	June Stevenson

**DESIGNED AND DIRECTED BY
MALCOLM BROWN**

There will be one interval of
20 minutes duration.

FOR LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE:

General Manager & Licensee	Brian Goddard
Assistant Manager & Resident S.M.	Nicholas Morris
Assistant Stage Manager	Anthony McManus
Deputy Stage Manager	Pauline Mower
Theatre Electrician	Peter Waddicor

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

- a) The public may leave at the end of each performance by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time 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 or sit in any of the intersecting gangways or stand in any unseated space in the auditorium unless standing 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.**
- d) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before each performance to check that it is in proper working order.**

OUR NEXT PRODUCTION WILL BE:—

“CHARLEY’S AUNT”

by Brandon Thomas

9th – 13th February, 1982

WE SHALL ALSO BE PRESENTING . . .

“HALF WAY UP THE TREE”

by Peter Ustinov

27th April – 1st May 1982

NEXT WEEK . . .

City of Leeds Y.M.C.A.

present

“ROCK NATIVITY”

LEEDS ART CENTRE

LEEDS ART CENTRE was formed in 1945 as an amateur society to encourage and foster interest in the arts.

THE DRAMA GROUP presents five productions at the Civic Theatre each year – usually including a musical or revue type show.

THE GREEN ROOM GROUP puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members value 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.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES are organised for members, such as theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

NEW MEMBERS are always welcome so if you are interested in joining or would like more information please ask our members at the Box Office this evening or write to:

The Secretary,
Leeds Arts Centre,
Stansfeld Chambers,
Great George Street,
Leeds 1.

BOOKINGS: Advance bookings for any of our shows may be made at the Tourist Information Office in Calverley Street adjoining the Central Lending Library during the month before a production, or at the Bond Street Centre. Alternatively you may ask at the Box Office this evening or telephone Leeds 892346.

COSTUME HIRE: Many different periods are available for hire from the Leeds Art Centre costume collection at reasonable rates.

If you are interested please telephone Leeds 756796 and discuss your requirements with Mrs. Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress.