

The Lark

By Jean Anouilh



LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

TUESDAY, 23rd MARCH

TO SATURDAY, 27th MARCH 1971

THE LARK

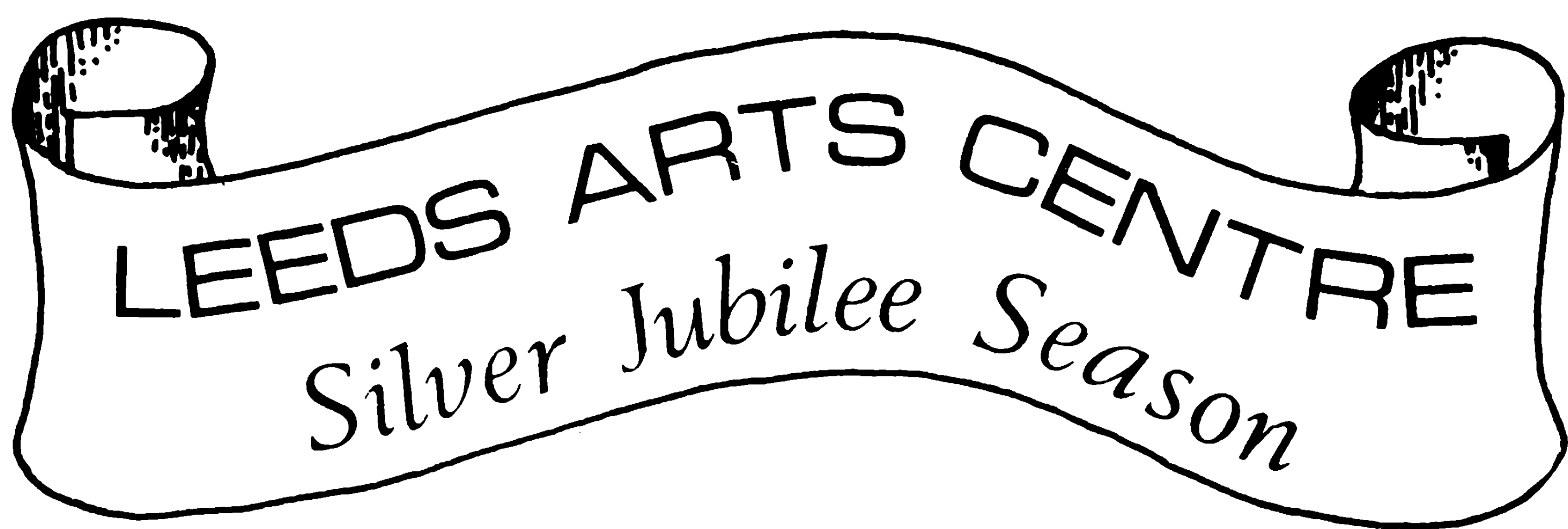
by

Jean Anouilh

CAST

Beauchamp	Michael Dack
Cauchon	Leonard Sheldon
Joan	Mary Nelson
Her Father	Eric Parker
Her Mother	Hazel Spray
Her Brother	Geoffrey Mountain
The Promoter (the Prosecutor)	Brian Shaw
The Inquisitor	George Westmoreland
Brother Ladvenu	David Nicholls
Robert de Beaudricourt	Dennis Stevenson
Boudousse	John Stevens
Agnes Sorel	Pat Appleson
The Young Queen	Ruth Wilkinson
Charles	Edward Macro
Queen Yolande	Fay Jack
Archbishop of Rheims	Arthur Cockerill
M. de la Tremouille	Gerald Beaumont
Page to the Dauphin	John Passelow
Captain La Hire	Trevor Money
The Hangman	Eric Parker
An English Soldier	Geoffrey Mountain
Clerk of the Court	Roy Dallywater
Guard	Robert Jarvis
Court Ladies	Gillian Rule
	Betty Johnson
Peasant Women	Barbara Gilmor
	Sheila Wilson
Monks	Jack Clark
	George Tealle

DIRECTED BY TONY NELSON



THE LARK

*"Do you think you are in a state of grace, Joan?
If I am not, may God in His goodness set me there.
If I am, may God in His goodness keep me so".*

Joan of Arc was born about 1412 and burnt at the stake in 1431. Although she was rehabilitated in 1456, the quashing of the previous verdict was really only an affirmation of the validity of the coronation of the Dauphin as Charles VII. The judgements against her were dismissed, her judges deemed corrupt and evil; and the body of Peter Cauchon, Bishop of Beauvais, who had been in charge of her trial, was disinterred, excommunicated and thrown into the common sewer. It was not until the twentieth century that Joan's true worth was confirmed by the Church and, designated Venerable in 1904, declared Blessed in 1908, she was finally canonised in 1920. And in the impressive rehabilitation by posterity her judges also are vindicated. The publication by Quicherat in 1841 of the records of both her trial and rehabilitation revealed much of the truth both about Joan and about the sincerity of Beauvais.

Shakespeare presents a simple heroic view of Joan at the beginning of "Henry VI" (Part I), but the concluding scenes make it clear that someone had convinced him that his English audiences would never tolerate a sympathetic representation of a French conqueror of English troops, and the true character created initially is destroyed. Voltaire in his burlesque of Homer — "La Pucelle" only used Joan to ridicule the institutions of his own day. Schiller's over-romanticised Joan in "Die Jungfrau von Orleans" is just as far from the real thing. The Quicherat reports were drawn on both by Mark Twain and Anatole France in their contrasting and conflicting histories of Joan. Shaw describes Mark Twain's Joan as "an unimpeachable American schoolteacher in armour", whilst Anatole France, the anti-mystic, debunked what he considered the Joan legend. He attributed her mission to clerical prompting and ascribed her military successes to Dunois, reducing her to a mere puppet. Andrew Lang's History of Joan, following so soon after, was probably an attempt to set right Anatole's misrepresentation.

Any play about Joan, as she emerges from Quicherat, is of itself a defence of patriotism. Jean Anouilh was born in Bordeaux in 1910 and his first play was produced in 1932, and it may well be that "The Lark" came at a time when France badly needed a resurgence of patriotism. Writers both influence and are influenced by their times.

Shaw calls Joan "the most notable Warrior Saint in the Christian calendar and the queerest fish among the eccentric worthies of the Middle Ages", but she is, without doubt, one of the most fascinating characters in all history. Her story in the hands of a gifted dramatist cannot fail to move even the stony-hearted.

*"Glory is like a circle in the water
Which never ceaseth to enlarge itself
Till by broad spreading it disperse to nought".*

L.S.

Stage Manager	Geoffrey Mountain
Asst. Stage Manager	Anne Robinson
Prompt	Thelma Stoker
Set constructed by	Fred Mower
Properties	Ruth Wilkinson
	Gillian Rule
Costumes designed and executed	
by	Arthur Cockerill
	and Members of the Centre
	Wardrobe Team
Lighting	Alan Upton
Music	Christine Wilson
Theatre Manager	Derek Rose
Front of House Managers	John & Dorothy Hooley
Box Office	Hazel Irving
	John Pemberton
Publicity	Edward Macro
	Josephine Davy
	Richard Strudwick

THERE WILL BE ONLY ONE INTERVAL.

CIVIC THEATRE, Cookridge Street, Leeds

Manager: Derek Rose

In accordance with the requirements of the Watch Committee of Leeds City Council:—

- (a) The public may leave at the end of the 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 obstruction.
- (c) The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance so as to ensure its being in proper working order.

We are delighted to announce the closing production for our Silver Jubilee Season – ‘Lock Up Your Daughters’ , to be presented from Tuesday, 15th June to Saturday, 19th June at 7.30 p.m. Adapted by Bernard Miles from the play “Rape Upon Rape” by Henry Fielding with lyrics by Lionel Bart and music by Laurie Johnson. Musical production is to be directed by Jack Lewis, who is well known to Civic Theatre audiences and was last seen as Sir Timothy Farrar in “Hindle Wakes”.

The drawing on the cover of this programme was done by Clement de Fauquemberge in the year 1429 who, at the time of Joan’s trial, was one of the clerks to the court. It appears as no more than doodling in the margin of his register and is the only effigy of the heroine drawn during her lifetime.

The Leeds Arts Centre is an Amateur Society which mounts five plays each season at the Civic Theatre.

It also has a Green Room Group which mounts plays and evenings of Drama in the Rehearsal Rooms and in the theatre, which is intended to give new members some acting experience before performing at the Civic Theatre.

If you are interested in joining the “Leeds Arts Centre” and would like more information about the society and the Fine Arts Group, please write to:-

The Secretary,
LEEDS ARTS CENTRE,
43, Cookridge Street,
Leeds, 2.