



LOFT THEATRE FIFTY-FIFTH SEASON 1976-1977

JUNE 29, 30, JULY 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED

By J. B. Priestley

Cast:

Ruby Birtle	...	JAN JONES
Gerald Forbes	...	TOM ATKINSON
Mrs. Northrop	...	KAY RIMAN
Nancy Holmes	...	CELIA ADAMS
Fred Dyson	...	GORDON FRANKLIN
Henry Osmoroyd	...	CLIVE CORNER
Ald. Joseph Helliwell	...	WILLIAM WILKINSON
Maria Helliwell	...	JEAN STEPHENSON
Coun. Albert Parker	...	JOHN FENNER
Herbert Soppitt	...	PETER RIMAN
Clara Soppitt	...	SUE SCOTT
Annie Parker	...	HAZEL COCKRILL
Lottie Grady	...	BETTY SANDERS
Rev. Clement Mercer	...	STANLEY MULLIN

DIRECTOR: DOROTHY DILLAM

The action takes place in the sitting-room of Alderman Helliwell's house in Cleckwylke, a town in the West Riding.

ACT I: A September evening.

ACT II: About half-an-hour later.

ACT III: About quarter of an hour later.
There will be two intervals of 15 and 10 minutes. Curtain down approximately 3.45 p.m.

Set Design	...	David Ellis
Stage Manager	...	Jack Lawrence
Assistant Stage Managers	...	Ala Macdonald, Margaret Rees, Geoffrey Mountford, Pat Griffiths, David Henson.
Lighting Design	...	Richard Pemberton
Lighting Operators	...	Bruce Draper, Martin Sabin
Sound	...	Julian Cairns, Carol Freshorn
Wardrobe	...	Madeline Gorrill
Construction Manager	...	Albert Whitehart
Photographs	...	Roger Harris, Martin Savage
Camera kindly loaned by	Brian Goodchild Ltd., Photographic Dealers, 65 Regent St., Leamington Spa.	
Ladies hairstyles by	Neville French.	

NO SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM

Smugly comic

WHEN WE ARE MARRIED — Loft Theatre, Leamington, until July 9 (running time: about 2hr. 15min.).

IN Victorian Ye-Kuhire male chatvinks... pages reigned supreme.

J. B. Priestley introduces us to two such self-styled Yorkshiremen — Alderman Joseph Helliwell and Councillor Albert Parker — and one of the hapless victims, Herbert Soppitt.

He builds up a thorough picture of these men's lives and values, then introduces a bombshell that shatters their peaceful existence.

The three men are very different, as are their wives, and they develop as such to the credit of the six members of the cast.

John Fenner (Coun. Parker) is the most pompous and chauvinistic, solemnly laying down the law to his wife, Annie, and the others. He is complemented by Peter Riman as Soppitt, with his timid, nervous mannerisms and fear of his wife.

Alderman Helliwell (William Wilkinson) comes somewhere between the two — less domineering than Parker but still the boss.

Facing these three are the wives, Jean Stephenson as Maria Helliwell is the most convincing, but the three work as a very effective team.

In a household of equally rich characters, the maid and the Press photographer take the other honours.

Jan Jones makes the maid into a wide-eyed, outspoken country lass whose excited reactions mirror the increasing momentum of the play.

And Clive Corner staggers around carrying an enormous camera as though he's been doing it all his life.

— Anne Leuchars

Married life wedded bliss

The Loft has brought a fitting conclusion to its 1976-77 season with a superb production of J. B. Priestley's "When We Are Married."

This is, by far, the most amusing and best presented production at the theatre since "Lady Windermere's Fan."

It builds with remarkable pace, never standing still for a moment, and with each section firmly interlocking with the next.

While it is entertaining from the start, the production grows, using the best of the author's lines to a very amusing climax.

Some excellent character-

isations are seen, particularly Clive Corner's cameo of a newspaper photographer, which is worthy of the professional stage.

WARMTH

William Wilkinson's portrayal of Ald Joseph Helliwell combines the right degree of pomposity and human warmth.

His compatriots, the "ating" Coun Albert Parker and the quiet, demure Herbert Soppitt, are well defined by John Fenner and Peter Riman.

Jean Stephenson is Joseph's wife Maria and she provides an excellent counterpoint to the alderman.

The two other wives, the embittered Clara Soppitt (Sue Scott) and Annie Parker (Hazel Cockrill), are also well played.

Congratulations to director Dorothy Dillam for doing justice to a fine play and delivering it with such expertise.

Set designer David Ellis should also be applauded for a superb set. The obvious effort and time consumed in preparing it helped to lift the show to its high level of presentation. — R. R.

Marriage mirth...

Three respectable couples are celebrating their silver wedding anniversaries... or are they?

J. B. Priestley manages to contrive endless permutations of a single joke, and the Loft Theatre amateurs of Leamington Spa realise most of the humorous possibilities of the extremely funny "When We Are Married."

Once again the Loft produces a first class set designed by David Ellis.

strong performances come from Hazel Cockrill as the enigmatic Annie Parker, Jean Stephenson as Alderman Helliwell's wife and Sue Scott as the annoying Clara Soppitt. Their menfolk support them admirably, and Betty Sanders gives a good Mae West impersonation as the less than respectable Lottie Grady.

Jan Jones is delightful as the frank and fearless servant girl, Ruby Birtle, and

V. McK.



