



15th - 25th March 1995
7.30 p.m.

WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY?

by Brian Clark
Directed by
Vanessa Comer

*Tender, witty and moving -
critics declared it a winner!*



WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY? by Brian Clark

Director - Vanessa Comer
Setting - Richard Moore

CAST

Ken Harrison	PHIL REYNOLDS
Sister Anderson	JACKIE LAWN
Kay Sadler	MONA KAUSHAL
John	RICHARD BURGON
Dr Scott	JULIE PARSONS
Dr Emerson	STUART WATERWORTH
Mrs Boyle	HELEN ASHBOURNE
Phil Hill	JOHN FENNER
Dr Paul Travers	MICHAEL FRITH
Peter Kershaw	ROGER HARDING
Dr Barr	RICHARD MOORE
Andrea Eden	JUDY MURDOCH
Mr Justice Millhouse	TED WHITEHEAD

THE SETTING

The action takes place in a hospital ward and offices.
There will be an interval of 20 minutes between Acts I and II.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our thanks to:

Susan Handley - Nursing Adviser; South Warwickshire General Hospital Trust Pharmacy Dept.; Chadd George - Musical Arrangement; Sue White, Coventry Centre for Performing Arts - Voice Coach to Phil Reynolds; Hoskins Limited and Field Business Systems

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager	SOPHIE HAMILTON
Assistant Stage Manager	JUDY MURDOCH, SARA MOUNTNEY
Wardrobe Mistress	MARY MACDONALD
Property Mistress	TRICIA SPELMAN
Lighting & Sound Operators	LOFT TECHNICAL WORKSHOP
Set Construction	RICHARD MOORE, C. MOORE, GRAHAM TAYLOR, RON GREY
Theatre Technician	C. MOORE
Photographs	CHRISTOPHER BRADBURY
Programme Cover & Poster Design	GUS MACDONALD

PHIL REYNOLDS WISHES TO DEDICATE HIS PERFORMANCE TO THE MEMORY OF ERNIE GUTHRIE

Poignant and very funny

Whose Life is it Anyway? - Loft Theatre

The subject of euthanasia may not strike you as an obvious source of entertainment but *Whose Life is it Anyway?* at Leamington's Loft Theatre makes for a compelling night at the theatre.

Brian Clark's witty and moving play loses none of its impact in this Loft Theatre production, director Vanessa Comer creating a simple yet effective atmosphere which complements the play's themes perfectly.

The play is set in a hospital where road crash victim Ken Harrison is coming to terms with being paralysed from the neck down. Ken's battle to choose his own destiny and the contradictory opinions of the medical staff that surround him form the basis of the story.

Phil Reynolds gives an outstanding performance as Ken, capturing the subdued emotions of a man who is resigned to death quite wonderfully. Able support comes from Stuart Waterworth as the consummate professional Dr Emerson and Richard Burgon as John, the light-hearted porter.

But it is the dialogue which sets this play apart - both poignant and witty it manages to deal with the subject of euthanasia in a tender, understated way without ever losing the cutting edge of the subject. *Whose Life is it Anyway?* is guaranteed to make you laugh and make you think and is thoroughly recommended.

Michael Green
Whose Life is it Anyway? runs at the Loft until March 25.

Laughs amid the drama at the Loft

Whose Life is it Anyway? by Brian Clark - The Loft Theatre until March 25
THERE are a lot of laughs in the Loft Theatre's latest production.

The amazingly topical *Whose Life is it Anyway?* by Brian Clark had the audience chuckling throughout.

The play, directed by Vanessa Comer, is also cheerful and life-enhancing, because it affirms the resilience of the human spirit and the importance of free will.

Every part is a winner to play, not only because they are all 'goodies' in their own way, even the stuffy three piece suited doctor, but because of the quality of characterisation and writing.

The play is also a cliff-hanging thriller with all the ingredients for success - set in a hospital, and even including a court-room scene. The plot revolves round Ken, paralysed from the neck down, and what he wants to do about it.

Involved with his decision are the nurses and doctors caring for him, a clergy orderly, and the solicitor he engages to look after him. The deceptively simple set designed by Richard Moore works well.

The one criticism I would make is - it's hard to imagine so saintly a group of medical and legal folk in real life.

Phil Reynolds gives a fine performance as Ken, horizontal throughout, yet expressing every nuance of feeling though his voice and head-thrashing. Sterling performances are given by Jackie Lawn as Sister Anderson, Mona Kaushal as the young trainee nurse Kay, and Julie Parsons as Dr Scott. Stuart Waterworth is every inch the doctor who knows he is right every time.

But Waterworth makes us see the integrity behind the pigheadedness.

Richard Burgon as John, John Fenner as the solicitor and Ted Whitehead as the judge also bring conviction to their roles. *Joan Hewitt*

