

Lumiere & Son Theatre Company

present their 10th anniversary production

SENSELESS

an opera

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cast

David Bartleet:	John, Mr. Seal, the Earl of Essex
Simon Hayes:	Alan Baptiste, the Earl of Wessex
Heather Keens:	Jane Rivers/Romaine Pope
Jeanine Osborne:	Lisa Michele/Queen Elizabeth I
Trevor Stuart:	Michael Wade
Geoffrey Thompson:	George Marsh/Leonard Moore

musicians

Alan Brett:	Cello
Ruth Holton:	Violin, viola, vocalist
Simon Limbrick:	Percussion
Frank Millward:	Keyboards, flugelhorn

Script and libretto by David Gale
Composed by Frank Millward
Directed by Hilary Westlake
Designed by Peter Whiteman
Lighting design: Simon Corder
Technician: Steve Wald
Musical Director: Howard Davidson
Rehearsal violinist: Mitchell Andersson
Repetiteur: Stephen Hose
Copyist: John Barker
Costumes: Jackie Bitton, Eleanor Peck
Props: Mandy Diamond
Furniture dressing: Annie Simeon, Mike Spencer
Floor-cloth painting: Andrew Nisbet
Furniture: P.L. Parsons & Co.
Metalwork: Metherall Engineering Co.
Poster design: Storm Thorgerson Designs
Rostrum camera operation: Lol Sargent
Mr. Wade's slides: John Stalin
Programme design: Paul Derrick
Gentlemen's suits: TAKE 6 of 362-4 Oxford Street

With thanks to Colin Chambers, Mark Eynon, Roland Westlake,
Special thanks to Wimbledon School of Art for providing workshop facilities.

Performances in Birmingham are subsidised by the West Midlands Arts Association.

Performances in Edinburgh are subsidised by the Scottish Arts Council.

Performances in Manchester are subsidised by the North West Arts Association.

Michael Wade is a spy operating at the outer limits of what is generally held to be acceptable or legal behaviour. When his superiors realise that his grip on reality is deteriorating rapidly they send him to a clinic for rehabilitation. Freed from everyday constraints, Wade descends into an imagined Elizabethan world in which his professional attitudes break down into a series of obsessions with ways of seeing.

Part one. THE MISSION

On Santa Anita, an island in the West Indies, Michael Wade receives instructions and moves towards their execution.

Part two. THE TRUTH

Back in London, Wade is debriefed and apprised of certain errors. He is despatched on a further mission.

Part three. THE GLORY

Accepted into the court of Elizabeth as an invaluable aide to the crown, Wade uses his knowledge of the twentieth century to his advantage. When ghostly conspirators threaten his relations with the Queen, Wade is compelled to draw on skills peculiar to her period. His clairvoyant and astrological talents enable him to expose plots against both his patroness and himself.

Lumiere & Son Theatre Company

Lumiere & Son was founded in 1973 by David Gale and Hilary Westlake. For much of the work David Gale writes the scripts and Hilary Westlake directs them. Others, marked with an asterisk, were devised and directed by Hilary Westlake.

1974

Tip Top Condition* (performed again in 1981)
Jack. . . The Flames
Trickster

1975

Pest Cure & Molester
White Men Dancing
The Sleeping Quarters of Sophia
Indications Leading To . . .

1976

Dogs
Special Forces

1977

Icing*
Passionate Positions

1978

Nightfall

1979†

The Dancers
Glazed
Giants*
Jean Pool (Directed by Trevor Stuart)

1980

String of Perils*
Circus Lumiere
Ship Shape* (Co-directed by Trevor Stuart)

1981

Blood Pudding*
Slips

1982

Son of Circus Lumiere
The Final Order
The Appeal (For Channel 4)

1983

Senseless

For Lumiere & Son:

Simon Corder – Technical Manager
Adrian Evans – Administrator
David Gale – Writer
Trevor Stuart – Actor/Director
Hilary Westlake – Director

Lumiere & Son

70 Silverthorne Road London SW8 3HE
Telephone 01 622 4865

David Bartleet (John, Mr. Seal, the Earl of Essex)

Won an opera scholarship to the Royal College of Music and later studied at the London Opera Centre.

He worked with the English Music Theatre Company from 1976 until 1980 where his roles included Blifil in TOM JONES, Paco in LA CABANA, 1st Armoured Man in THE MAGIC FLUTE and The Shogun in Minoru Miki's kabuki opera AN ACTOR'S REVENGE. He has sung in a number of broadcast operas including Rodas in THE ROYAL HUNT OF THE SUN with the English National Opera. He recently sang the title role in PETER GRIMES for the Geraint Evans Master Classes on BBC2.

David Gale (Writer)

Studied English at Cambridge University and then trained as a filmmaker at The Royal College of Art. After three years working as a free-lance film-maker he formed Lumiere & Son with Hilary Westlake. He has written fifteen plays for the company and performed in eleven of them.

In 1981 he was awarded an ACGB Writer's Bursary which enabled him to leave the UK for a year to work in South America and the USA.

Simon Hayes (Alan Baptiste, the Earl of Wessex)

Trained at the Royal Northern College of Music. He has appeared in JEWEL OF THE MADONNA and I GIORNO I RENGNO at the Wexford Opera Festival. He has also acted with regional and fringe theatre companies. He has recently completed a season at the Olympia Theatre in Dublin as Samuel in THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE.

Ruth Holton (Violin, viola, vocalist)

Studied music at Clare College where she was a choral exhibitioner. While at Cambridge she played for the University Symphony and Chamber Orchestras and sang in the Chamber Choir. As a choral singer she has toured the East Coast of America, Finland, Italy and W. Germany. She studied the violin and viola with Rosemary Nalden and Sheila Nelson and singing with Sally le Sage.

Heather Keens (Jane Rivers/Romaine Pope)

Trained at Winchester School of Art and at the Royal College of Music where she was awarded the Clytie Mundy and the Major van Someren-Godfrey Memorial prizes.

She has worked with the Surrey Opera Group and the English National Opera Chorus. Her roles have included Niald, Susanna, Miss Jessel and Marzelline. In September 1982 she was awarded the Austrian Government Scholarship to study Lieder with Erik Werba at the Salzburg Mozarteum.

Simon Limbrick (Percussion)

Studied Percussion and Electronics at the Royal College of Music. He has since played with Lontano, the Koenig and Endymion Ensembles and with Lost Jockey, at the National Theatre and for the BBC. In 1981 he won an award as part of the GLAA Young Musicians Scheme and performed solo shows in Edinburgh, Cardiff and Amsterdam. He has taught and played in Italy. He is currently creating a project with Lost Jockey for the ICA.

Frank Millward (Composer)

Graduated from the Queensland Conservatorium of Music and then moved to America where he studied for a Masters Degree in composition at New York's City University. He is currently a successful commercial composer doing most of his work in Australia. In 1981 he wrote the music for the Lumiere & Son production SLIPS.

Jeanine Osborne (Lisa Michele/Queen Elizabeth I)

Trained initially in drama and subsequently performed as an actress-singer in Switzerland, Israel, France and the USA, including a season on Broadway in the musical ONLY FOOLS ARE SAD.

She has been awarded classical music scholarships in France, Switzerland and the UK and has studied under Jeanine Reiss of the Paris Opera, Vera Rozna and Sylvia Gahwiller.

Her operatic roles include Cleopatra, The Countess, Marguerite, Russalka, Cassilda and Magda Sorel.

She has recently worked with Opera Viva in London and Opera Factory in Zurich.

Trevor Stuart (Michael Wade)

Trained in theatre at university whilst taking a degree in science, he joined the Queensland Theatre Company in 1972. After two years in experimental theatre he left Australia to study mime in Paris with Etienne Decroux. He joined Lumiere & Son in 1976 and has performed in twelve plays with the company.

In 1978 he directed PASSIONATE POSITIONS in Australia, in 1979 he directed JEAN POOL, in 1980 he co-devised SHIP SHAPE and in 1983 he co-directed the Australian production of CIRCUS LUMIERE.

Geoffrey Thompson (George Marsh/Leonard Moore)

Trained at the Birmingham School of Music, the Royal College of Music and with Otakar Kraus.

He has worked with the Welsh National Opera, the Ambrosian Singers, Opera North, the Royal Opera and Abbey Opera. With the latter he sang the title roles in GIANNI SCHICCHI and FALSTAFF and Bottom in A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM. His many appearances with the Royal Opera include Sciarone in TOSCA, 2nd Mate in BILLY BUDD, the Capadocian in SALOME and Mercury in THE TROJANS.

Hilary Westlake (Director)

Trained as an actress at East 15 and then worked with Inter-Action's TOC and the London La Mama Company. In 1973 she and David Gale formed Lumiere & Son. She has directed all but one of the company's scripted plays and has devised five of her own works.

She has been awarded two ACGB Director's Bursaries which enabled her to study ethnic performance in China, South East Asia and India. At the beginning of 1983 she co-directed, with Trevor Stuart, a version of CIRCUS LUMIERE in Australia. She has also directed for other companies, including SHAKESPEARE'S SISTER for Monstrous Regiment, WOUNDS for Three Women Mime and MATA HARI for the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith.

Peter Whiteman (Designer)

Trained at the Central School of Art in the Theatre Department. He has been awarded two ACGB Designer's Bursaries. The first, to work at the Sadlers Wells Theatre; the second, to work at the Bristol Old Vic. He has designed about 75 operas, plays and musicals. Opera designs include THE ITALIAN GIRL IN ALGIERS and THE CORONATION OF POPPEA for the English National Opera; play designs include PEER GYNT for the Oxford Playhouse and FUNNYHOUSE OF A NEGRO for the Royal Court; musicals include Nilsson's THE POINT (Winner of the ABTT Design Award) and film designs include THE DARK CRYSTAL for EMI. He is currently a teacher at Wimbledon School of Art in the Theatre Dept.

LUMIERE & SON RECEIVES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN.