

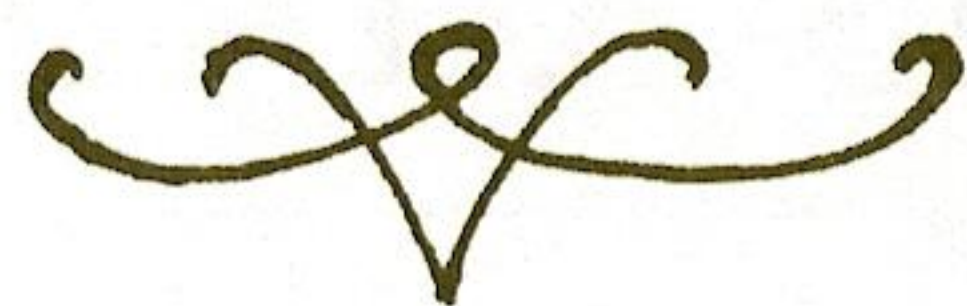
# LADY SUSAN

## THE NOVEL

Jane Austen probably wrote 'Lady Susan' in 1793/4 when she was 20 years old. It was never published in her lifetime but had to wait until her nephew Edward Austen-Leigh included it in the second edition of his 'Memoirs' in 1871.

In the past the novel was often dismissed as an unsuccessful early experiment. Critics believed that Jane Austen set it aside because she was unhappy with its traditional 18th century letter-form. Certainly the rather abrupt conclusion to 'Lady Susan' seems to support this theory. Also, 'Sense and Sensibility' which she was writing at the same time and in the same form was later reworked in the more familiar 3rd-person narrative. However, there is a belief that it was the novel's subject matter rather than its form that made its author uneasy. In fact some critics even go so far as to suggest that the Austen family imposed their 'censorship' on a story so blatantly ungentle!

Yet today, Fay Weldon is a staunch champion of the piece, rating it 'diverting, energetic and excellent'. And for all Jane Austen admirers who, like me, are forced to admit that they really do find 'Mansfield Park's' Fanny Bertram just a bit much to stomach, Lady Susan Vernon's undaunted and witty self-sufficiency is surely far more sympathetic.



# LADY SUSAN

FROM THE NOVEL  
BY JANE AUSTEN



SATURDAY 14th FEBRUARY, at 10.00  
in the BERNARD SHAW ROOM

Entry by programme — £2.00

All proceeds to the Rehabilitation Fund



The Company would like to thank those departments of... as all those friends and colleagues who helped with this production.

WHU'S WHU!  
Family Tree of the Vernon and De Courcy Families.

# LADY SUSAN

## CAST

Lady De Courcy	Pam Gower
Mrs Vernon (her daughter)	Lorna Duval
Reginald de Courcy (her son)	Iain Reid
Lady Susan Vernon (widow of Mrs Vernon's brother-in-law)	Gillian Kerswell
Frederica Vernon (Lady Susan's daughter)	Gwenan Evans
Mrs Alicia Johnson (friend to Lady Susan)	Ann Bevan
Narrator	Pam Gower

Play devised by Jane Dewey  
 Music devised and played by Michael Carver  
 Stage Manager Jenny Richardson,  
 Assisted by Anne Sawbridge and Jo Perse  
 Lights by Martin Stoner  
 Graphics by Phillip Sheahan and Marcel Hodges

