

The Rivals

'He who has written the two best comedies of his age', observed Johnson of Sheridan, 'is surely a considerable man'. This opinion can now be carried a good deal farther, for *The Rivals* and *The School for Scandal*, of which Johnson was thinking, together with *The Critic*, which had not yet been written, are still alive by virtue of the classic quality which enables certain works of art to defy time and change.

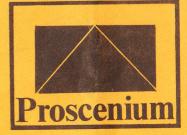
It is possible to trace, more or less distinctly, three separate elements in his plays. The first is that which belongs to artificial comedy, or the comedy of manners, as it was written by the Restoration dramatists. It lends itself naturally to wit but makes no attempt to explore the wide range of emotions or to see human nature in the round. It can be brilliant and as far as it goes, true; at its best is an admirable form of dramatic art.

The second is derived from the sentimental comedy which Steele brought into favour early in the eighteenth century. This is good-humoured rather than witty, and genial rather than penetrating; and its appeal is not so much to the intellect as to the emotions.

Finally, we have the basic element of all comedy - a keen perception of the ludicrous, and of the surprising contrasts of people's characters, as well as of the unexpected circumstances in which they reveal their various frailities and follies.

These elements, mixed in due proportion, give Sheridan's comedies their special flavour.

(Lewis Gibbs in an Introduction to Sheridan's Plays.)



presents

The Rivals

A Comedy

by

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN

MAY 1980

Proscenium is affiliated to the Harrow Arts Council_

The Rivals

CAST

SIR ANTHONY ABSOLUTE		 	. Colin Hickman
CAPTAIN JACK ABSOLUTE		 	. David Pearson
FAULKLAND	• • •	 	Christopher Drake
ACRES		 	Michael Collins
SIR LUCIUS O'TRIGGER		 	Roderick Jones
FAG		 	Andrew Penny
DAVID		 	James McIntyre
COACHMAN		 	. Martin Heaney
MRS MALAPROP		 	Anne Gerrard
LYDIA LANGUISH		 	Pam Holden
JULIA		 	Patrice Sheldon
LUCY		 	Crystal Anthony
MAID		 	Nicola Poate
MANSERVANT		 	James Holden

DIRECTED BY

JEANNE HAWKES

The Scene : Bath

The Time of Action : Five Hours

ACT	I	Scene	1	A street in Bath
		Scene	2	A dressing room at Mrs Malaprop's lodgings
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ACT II Scene 1 Captain Absolute's lodgings Scene 2 The North Parade

ACT III Scene 1 The North Parade
Scene 2 Julia's dressing-room
Scene 3 Mrs Malaprop's lodgings

INTERVAL

ACT	IV	Scene	1	Acres' lodgings
		Scene	2	Acres' lodgings
		Scene	3	Mrs Malaprop's lodgings
		Scene	4	The North Parade
ACT	V	Scene	1	Julia's dressing-room
		Scene	2	The South Parade
		Scene	3	King's Mead-Fields

PRODUCTION STAFF

STAGE MANAGER LIGHTING	• • •				A1	Jim Blaine an Phillips
PROPERTIES	• • • •		• • •	Cl	nristop	her Stanley
A.S.M						n Cartnell,
			Ian Pea	rson,	Philip	Longhurst.
		Work	shop, D	iverti	imento,	Proscenium
WARDROBE MISTRI					N	icola Poate
Wigs dressed by						Pat Hickman
Extra wigs	• • •				W	ig Creation

The Set designed and the back projection created by Colin Tufnell

For details of future productions apply to:

BOX OFFICE: Mrs M. Tufnell

4, Whitefriars Drive,
Harrow Weald.
Tel: 427 6402

Secretary for Active Membership:

Miss Janet Harrison 388A, Field End Road, Eastcote. Tel: 868 7078

PROSCENIUM was founded by George Woolands and Margaret Rendle in 1924.