



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 frailties 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

C A S T

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
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

I N T E R V A L

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	...	...	...	...	...	Jim Blaine
LIGHTING	...	...	...	...	..	Alan Phillips
PROPERTIES	..	...	...	...	..	Christopher Stanley
A.S.M.	...	...	...	...	...	Jacquie Russell, Ian Cartnell, Ian Pearson, Philip Longhurst.
COSTUMES	...	Opera Workshop,	Divertimento,	Proscenium		
WARDROBE MISTRESS	..	...	...	...	...	Nicola Poate
Wigs dressed by	..	...	...	...	...	Pat Hickman
Extra wigs	..	...	...	...	...	Wig Creation

The Set designed and the back projection created by
Colin Tufnell

For details of future productions apply to:

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4, Whitefriars Drive,
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Secretary for Active Membership:

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