

Directors Notes

If Richard Brinsley Sheridan had died at the age of 30, we should have mourned the premature loss of a great playwright and speculated on what he might have accomplished had he lived. Our grief would have been in vain, for after the dazzling successes of his twenties, Sheridan abandoned his writing for new careers. It was his early conquest of the comic stage that enabled him to become manager of London's Drury Lane Theatre, and it was control of that theatre which enabled him to pay for the expensive elections that made him a member of the House of Commons.

As a Whig politician and man of fashion, he bears some resemblance to his own Captain Absolute, a man of gaiety, wit and charm. Sheridan's life reads like the script of his romantic comedies. Before he was 21, he had participated in two duels and eloped to France with the beautiful Elizabeth Linley, "the Nightingale of Bath." And before he was 30, he had written a brilliant light opera, *The Duenna*; a popular farce, *The Critic*; and two of the liveliest comedies in the English language, *The School for Scandal* and *The Rivals*.

When *The Rivals* opened in January of 1775 it was heralded as the triumph of "laughing comedy." It is especially reminiscent of Goldsmith's anti-sentimental play, *She Stoops to Conquer*. In fact, *The Rivals* might easily have been called *He Stoops to Conquer*, since its main plot revolves around a rich young Captain who masquerades as a poor ensign to win the hand of his fair Lydia. We do well to keep the present title, however, for it suggests not only the rivalry of Captain Absolute with his other self, Ensign Beverly, but also his rivalries with amiable Bob Acres and the over-zealous Sir Lucius O'Trigger.

The Rivals was successful in combining elements of sentiment with boisterous laughter. The true spirit of comedy dances on a tightrope. It's always in danger of falling on one side of the rope to the ground of farce, or on the other side, into sentiment. In *The Rivals*, the exuberant Sheridan dances on both sides of the rope, and occasionally right on top of it.

Sheridan's talent was well summed up by Lord Byron: "He was for thirty years the most brilliant talker, the greatest conversational wit of the splendid circle in which he moved; but unlike many writers of his time, he had taste as well as genius."

- Bill Hutson



Department of Fine & Performing Arts

Dr. Marilyn A. Kielniarz – music – *Department Chair*
 Alan Klem – theatre – *Associate Chair, Performing Arts*
 Michael Flecky, S.J. – photography – *Associate Chair, Visual Arts*

Theatre

Bill Van Deest – *Theatre Coordinator/Technical Director*
 Dr. Bill Hutson – theatre history/acting/directing

Adjunct Theatre

Mark Krejci – *Assistant Technical Director*
 Michael Markey – *Managing Director, Nebraska Shakespeare Festival*
 Michael J. McCandless – *Building Operations Director/Admissions Liaison*
 Charleen Willoughby – *Costume Designer*

Music

Dr. Frederick Hanna – instrumental music/
 music theory – *Music Coordinator*
 Carole Seitz – music theory/music appreciation/class voice
 Charles Jurgensmeier, S.J. – choral music/music history

Adjunct Music

Jeffry L. Baron – percussion	Craig Bircher - trumpet
Mary Bircher – harp	James Compton - bassoon
Ron Cooley – guitar	Kenneth Drefke - saxophone/clarinet
Nestor Herszbaum - flute/piccolo	Ken Kielniarz - euphonium/tuba
Paul Koenig – voice	Jeremy Laukhuf - string bass
Elaine Majors - piano	David Moore - music education
William Ritchie - string bass	Glenn Smith – guitar
Louis Stout - horn	Claudette Valentine - Gospel choir/piano
Luigi Waites - percussion	Margaret Wilmeth – cello
Dr. Jay Wise - trombone	

Dance

Valerie Roche – *Dance Coordinator*

Adjunct Dance

Patrick Roddy Kelly Holcombe Patti Zukaitis

Visual Art

Dr. Roger Aikin – art history
 Littleton Alston – sculpture
 G. Ted Bohr, S.J. – art history – *Gallery Director/Community Liaison*
 Bob Bosco – painting
 Don Doll, S.J. – photography – *Charles & Mary Heider
 Endowed Jesuit Faculty Chair*
 Jerome K Horning – ceramics
 John Thein – printmaking

Staff

Robert Caudillo – *Promotions Coordinator/Technology Liaison*
 Elaine Witt – *Senior Specialist*



February 22-24, 2001 - 7:30pm

February 25, 2001 - 2:00pm

March 1-3, 2001 - 7:30pm

Main Stage

Lied Education Center for the Arts
 24th & Cass Streets on the Creighton University Campus

The Rivals

a comedy by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

directed by

Bill Hutson

choreography by

Patrick Roddy

costume design by

Wendy Stark

scenic & lighting design by

Bill Van Deest

music by Haydn

Harpicord Concertos

Ton Koopman/Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra

The Rivals is produced through a special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

The Players

Homero Vela..... Thomas
Mike Arch..... Mr. Fag
Kathleen Malloy..... Lucy
Kirstin Kluver..... Lydia Languish
Natalie Tiehen..... Julia Melville
Denise Chapman..... Mrs. Malaprop
Paul Lickteig.... Sir Anthony Absolute
Andrew Brooks.. Captain Jack Absolute
Robert Valenta..... Faulkland
Nick Zadina..... Bob Acres
Christopher Cloyd.... Sir Lucius O'Trigger
Jon Purcell..... David

Time: Spring, 1775

Place: Bath, England

NOTICE

The use of cameras or other recording devices is strictly prohibited.

There will be a ten minute intermission
between the two acts.

Production Staff

Technical Director Mark Krejci
Costume Shop Manager Charleen Willoughby
Fight Choreographer..... Terry Doughman
Charge Scenic Artist..... Bill Van Deest
Stage Manager Anne Cigleris
Assistant Stage Manager..... Abby Rassette
Assistant Lighting Designer..... Paul Thelen
Properties Master..... Krista Phair
Assistant Properties Manager Stephanie Kidd
Assistant Costume Designer Autumn Yosten
First Hand Travis Halsey
Cutter/Draper Darin Templeton
Costume Running Crew Haley Piper, Autumn Yosten,
Betsy Zadina
Running Crew Melanie Wigton, Brian Ehrhart,
Krista Phair, Jenni Falbo,
Joe DeFazio, Joe Buttry
Set Construction..... Joe DeGeorge, Mark Blice, Paul Thelen,
MaryAnn Eperiam, Kara Grimsley,
Sarah Homier, Jenni Falbo, Emily Oberdorfer,
Ginny Lawless, Haley Piper, Kim Matthis,
Holly De Los Reyes, Steve Finley, J.P. Rauh,
Melanie Wigton, Cory Knubley, Nick Zadina,
Tom Sanchez, Joe So, Jo Buttry, David Wanner
Scenic Artists..... Homero Vela, Lisa Vining
Park Scene Drop Painted by..... Tobins Lake Studios
Lighting Crew..... Denise Chapman, Paul Thelen,
Nick Zadina, Autumn Yosten, Joe Buttry,
Jason Dorwart, Denver Dalley, Lisa Vining,
Ginny Lawless, Jenni Falbo, Anne Cigleris,
Natalie Tiehen, Steve Finley
Lightboard Operator Paul Thelen
Sound Operator Anne Cigleris
Master Electrician Carol Wisner
Costume Construction..... Autumn Yosten, Travis Halsey,
Robert Valenta, Emily Oberdorfer,
Haley Piper, Ginny Lawless, Jenni Falbo,
Kathleen Malloy, Kirstin Kluver,
Heartland Costume Shop
Box Office/House Manager..... Ginny Lawless
Assistant House Manager..... Lisa Vining

Special Thanks

Sharon Sobel & UNO Costume Shop
Omaha Community Playhouse
Omaha Theatre Company