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 quiet, witty charm. Sheridan’s life reads like the script of his romantic comedy. 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, The Stoop to Conquer. In fact, The Rivals might easily have been called The Stoop 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’Tighe.

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

CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY

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 Jurgenmeier, S.J. – choral music/music history

Adjunct Music

Jeffry L. Baron – percussion
Mary Birsch – harp
Ron Cooley – guitar
Nestor Herszaum – flute/piccolo
Paul Koening – voice
Elaine Majors - piano
William Ritchie - string bass
Louis Stout - horn
Luigi Waits - percussion

Craig Bircher – trumpet
James Compton – bassoon
Kenneth Drefke – saxophone/clarinet
Ken Kielniarz – euphonium/tuba
Jeremy Laukhuf – string bass
David Moore – music education
Glenn Smith – guitar
Claudette Valentine – Gospel choir/piano
Margaret Wilmeth – cello

Dance

Valerie Roche – Dance Coordinator

Adjunct Dance

Patrick Roddy – Kelly Holmes

Art

Dr. Roger Akin – art history
Littleton Alston – sculpture
G. Ted Bobo, 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 Hornig – 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 Players

Homero Vela ................. Thomas
Mike Arch . ................. Mr. Jago
Kathleen Malloy .............. Lucy
Kirstin Kluver ............ Lydia Languish
Natalie Tichen ............ 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 Durcell ................. 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.

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

Harpisor Conertos

Ton Koopman/Amsterdam Baroque Orchestra

Production Staff

Technical Director .......... Mark Krejci
Costume Shop Manager ......... Charleen Willoughby
Fight Choreographer .......... Terry Doughman
Stage Manager ................ Bill Van Deest
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 ................ DeGeorge, Mark Blice, Paul Thelen, MaryAnn Eperiam, Kara Grimsley, Sarah Homier, Jenni Falbo, Emily Ober dorfer, Ginny Lawless, Haley Piper, Kim Matthijs, Holly De Los Reyes, Steve Finley, I.P. Rauh, Melanie Wigon, Cory Knuble, Nick Zadina, Tom Sanchez, Joe Sso, Jo Buttry, David Wanner

Scenic Artists ............... Homero Vela, Lisa Vining
Park Scenic Crop Painted by .......... Toby Lake Studios
Lighting Crew ............... Denise Chapman, Paul Thelen, Nick Zadina, Autumn Yosten, Joe Buttry, Jason Dorward, Denver Dalley, Lisa Vining, Ginny Lawless, Jenni Falbo, Anne Cigleris, Natalie Tichen, Steve Finley

Lightboard Operator .......... Paul Thelen
Sound Operator .............. Anne Cigleris
Master Electrician ............. Carol Wisner
Costume Construction .......... Autumn Yosten, Travis Halsey, Robert Valenta, Emily Ober dorfer, Haley Piper, Ginny Lawless, Jenni Falbo, Kathleen Malloy, Kirstin Kluver

Heartland Costume Shop

Box Office/Foise Manager .......... Ginny Lawless
Assistant House Manager .......... Lisa Vining

Special Thanks
Sharon Sebel & UNO Costume Shop
Omaha Community Playhouse
Omaha Theatre Company