

At the BOYS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL
LLANELLI

The Public are respectfully informed that, under the management of

THE SCHOOL DRAMA SOCIETY,
THE ENTIRE COMPANY

which, direct from the rural regions of Pwll,
is engaged for a limited number of nights

Wednesday to Saturday
December 12th-15th 1973
each evening at 7p.m. sharp
to appear in

SHE STOOPS
TO CONQUER.

or 'The Mistakes of a Night'

Written by OLIVER GOLDSMITH and allowed by
all Judges to have more masterly strokes of comedy than
any other performances of that inimitable author.

with ENTIRELY NEW DRESSES & APPOINTMENTS

- The house to be illuminated with electricity -

Admission — thirty pence

NO MONEYS ARE TO BE RETURNED

All Servants paid by the Establishment Pass-out checks are not transferable.
NO SMOKING ALLOWED within the walls of the Theatre. No Children in arms will be admitted.

Unobtrusive bonnets are allowed, there being retiring rooms and
cloakrooms provided exclusively for the Ladies

N.B. NO ADMITTANCE BEHIND THE SCENES

VIVAT REGINA

TO SAMUEL JOHNSON, L. L. D.

Dear Sir,

BY inscribing this slight performance to you, I do not mean so much to compliment you as myself. It may do me some honour to inform the public, that I have lived many years in intimacy with you. It may serve the interests of mankind also to inform them, that the greatest wit may be found in a character, without impairing the most unaffected piety.

I have, particularly, reason to thank you for your partiality to this performance. The undertaking a comedy, not merely sentimental, was very dangerous; and Mr. Colman, who saw this piece in its various stages, always thought it so. However I ventured to trust it to the public; and though it was necessarily delayed till late in the season, I have every reason to be grateful.

I am, Dear Sir,

Your most sincere friend,

And admirer,

OLIVER GOLDSMITH.



Oliver Goldsmith

1730-74

(Copyright -- National Portrait Gallery)

" You have waked the spirit of mirth
Which has so long layn dormant "

-- Boswell, 1773



OLIVER GOLDSMITH
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER
OR, THE MISTAKES OF A NIGHT

When *She Stoops to Conquer* opened at Covent Garden on March 15, 1773, Goldsmith was so uneasy about its success that he stayed away from the theater till the last act. The manager, who had a low opinion of the play, had been persuaded by Dr. Samuel Johnson "by much solicitation, nay, a kind of force, to bring it on"; and in rehearsal, the actors were reluctant to play their roles. To counteract the anticipated hissing and hooting, Goldsmith's friends of the Literary Club attended in a body. But the play won an immediate success. As Dr. Johnson said, "I know of no comedy for many years that has so much exhilarated an audience; that has answered so much the great end of comedy, making an audience laugh."

The prevailing taste then was for sentimental comedy, at which theater-goers wept rather than laughed. The middle-class audience wanted comedies with genteel characters, pious sentiments, and an edifying moral. Two of the most popular plays of this type were Hugh Kelly's *False Delicacy* (1768) and Richard Cumberland's *The West Indian* (1771). Against this tide of tears and sentiment stood a few critics and writers who favored a more robust kind of play. Goldsmith himself had taken up arms against lachrymose comedy in *An Essay on the Theatre; or, A Comparison between Laughing and Sentimental Comedy* (1772). *She Stoops to Conquer* was intended as an example of laughing comedy.

The play borders on farce, with the main plot based on a young man's mistaking a private home for an inn, a mistake that Goldsmith is said to have made himself years before. The play is "unfashionable" in being set in the country rather than in London; but its characters and the handling of the plot are fairly conventional. The comedy arises from mistaken identities, people at cross-purposes, even an intercepted letter and a conversation overheard from behind a screen. The Hardcastles are an elderly bickering couple: she loves new fashions and the town; he loves the country and only things that are old—"old friends, old times, old manners, old books, old wine; and . . . an old wife." Young Marlow, who makes the mistake, is odd by modern if not by 18th century standards: he is bashful with virtuous women, but bold with women of another kind. Miss Hardcastle, whom he takes to be a common barmaid, is wise enough to stoop to win a handsome husband. The second young couple, Miss Neville and Hastings, who provide the subplot, are closer to sentimental drama. The most striking character in the play is Tony Lumpkin, the country booby who impishly misleads Marlow. Intended as a "low" character in contrast to the genteel figures in sentimental comedy, he is not only comic in himself but the source of the comic complications. He is not above playing tricks on his dotting mother Mrs. Hardcastle, who regards this "pretty monster as the very pink of perfection." But Tony is at bottom a good-natured creature. As he says very sensibly, "Ecod, mother, all the parish says you have spoiled me, and so you may take the fruits on't." Hardcastle observes, "There's morality . . . in his reply."

The play carries no greater burden of thought. But with its quick dramatic pace, the gusto and humor of the dialogue, the lively characterization, and the good-natured fun, *She Stoops to Conquer* would delight any audience. Returning to an older tradition of comic writing, Goldsmith recaptured something of the spirit of Shakespeare's low comedy. The play combines simplicity with sophistication, humor with good nature, and charm with common sense. Along with Sheridan's *School for Scandal*, it is one of the best comedies of the 18th century.



SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.

or 'The Mistakes of a Night'

Dramatis Personae

in order of speaking

Mrs Hardcastle	Miss HELEN ROBERTS
Mr Hardcastle	Mr HUGH J. PHILLIPS
Tony Lumpkin	Mr PAUL MORGAN
Miss Hardcastle	Miss SUSAN E. RICHARDS
Miss Neville	Miss HELEN HAYES
Aminadab	Mr NEIL H. THOMAS
Jack Slang	Mr SIMON OWEN
Tom Twist	Mr LUCIO DI BATTISTA
Dick Muggins	Mr JOHN MORGAN
Landlord	Mr ADRIAN DAVIES
Barmaid	Miss DIANE PHILLIPS
Pubber	Mr MICHAEL PAYNTER
Young Marlow	Mr ROGER MILES
Hastings	Mr DAVID HUGHES
Thomas	Mr NIGEL S. JONES
Roger	Mr MARK BATTERSBY
Servant	Miss SUSAN RICHARDS
Diggory	Mr JULIAN MURPHY
Pimple	Miss KARYN EDWARDS
Jeremy	Mr KEVIN BUSH
Sir Charles Marlow	Mr CHRISTOPHER DAVIES

The Production by

Mr W. NOEL REES

The Scenes take place in and around the
residence of Mr. Hardcastle and in an
Alehouse nearby

There will be one Interval of eight minutes

Behind the Scenes

The Stage Management
entrusted to

Mr KEVIN WILLIAMS
Mr PHILLIP BOULTON
Mr GARY BEARD
Mr CHRISTOPHER WATKEYS
Mr KEVIN G.STOBBS
Mr MEIRION THOMAS
Mr JOHN MALIPHANT
Mr OWAIN HUGHES

The Properties
in the care of

Mr DAVID ONLLWYN-JONES
Mr ROGER PHILLIPS
Mr PHILIP THOMAS

The Foot-candles
controlled by

Mr MARK HOUGHTON
Mr MARK DAVIES
Mr HUW WILLIAMS

The Sounds by

Mr KEITH THOMAS
Mr RICHARD W.G.EVANS

The Periwigs
Wardrobe and
Greasepaints
managed by

Mr GRAZIANO A.LUZZI
Mr CHRISTOPHER M.MAY
Mr ANTHONY MCGOWAN
Mr MEIRION WILLIAMS

Photographic Images by

Mr D.MICHAEL MORRIS

Staff:

Mr JOHN BOWEN
Mr RONALD JACOB
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Mr DONALD HUGHES
Mr EVAN JONES
Mr KERI DAVIES
Mr ALAN W.JONES
Mr DAVID LEWIS
Mr WYNNE OLIVER
Mr GORDON PRICE
Mr MYRDDIN REES
Mr KEITH WILLIAMS









We wish to thank all those who have
helped to make this production possible,
and to express our appreciation of the
co-operation of the Headmaster, Staff
and Students of Llanelli Girls' Grammar
School.