

“The Rivals”

A Comedy by Richard Brinsley Sheridan

First performance - COVENT GARDEN THEATRE in 1775

CAST

Sir ANTHONY ABSOLUTE – a wealthy baronet who likes to get his own way

Martyn Fry

CAPTAIN JACK ABSOLUTE – his son, in pursuit of Lydia while masquerading as “Ensign Beverley”.

Michael Robson

FAULKLAND – Jack’s friend, in love with Julia but suspicious and lacking in confidence.

Helen Roberts

BOB ACRES – a country bumpkin, neighbour of Sir Anthony also in pursuit of Lydia.

Tim Blakey

Sir LUCIUS O'TRIGGER – an Irish gentleman of high honour but poor finance. He thinks he is in romantic correspondence with Lydia but is being deceived.

Geoff Ramshaw

FAG – servant to Captain Absolute.

John Palmer

Mrs PICKLE – housekeeper to Bob Acres.

Sue Drinkwater

THOMAS – servant to Sir Anthony.

Tim Masling

Mrs. MALAPROP – a widow with strong moral views and designs on Sir Lucius. Her use of language is extravagant but inaccurate.

Jane Jones

LYDIA LANGUISH – her niece; much engaged with romantic fiction and passionate about “Beverley”.

Bethie Connor

JULIA MELVILLE – a sensible young woman and friend of Lydia. She is part of Sir Anthony’s entourage and loyal to Faulkland despite his tiresome behaviour.

Melody Davies

LUCY – servant to Mrs Malaprop and a go-between; plays simple but isn’t!

Alison Talbot

JULIA’S MAID

Sylvia Fry

ERRAND BOY

Molly Powell

MAID at Mrs Malaprop’s lodging

Debbie Masling

MAID at Mr Acre’s lodgings

Jane Kane

SCENE – This production will be set in Cheltenham around 1850.

Action within one day.