

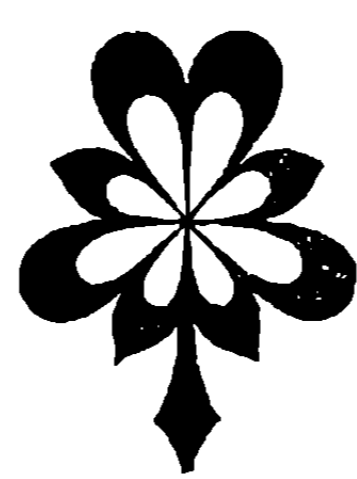
LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

PRESENTS

**The Beaux'  
Stratagem**

A BAWDY  
18th CENTURY COMEDY

BY GEORGE FARQUHAR



# PROLOGUE

Spoken by Mr. Wilks, 1707.

When strife disturbs, or sloth corrupts an age,  
Keen satire is the business of the stage.  
When the "Plain-Dealer" writ, he lash'd those crimes,  
Which then infested most—the modish times :  
But now, when faction sleeps, and sloth is fled,  
And all our youth in active fields are bred ;  
When through Great Britain's fair extensive round,  
The trumps of fame, the notes of UNION sound ;  
When Anna's sceptre points the laws their course,  
And her example gives her precepts force :  
There scarce is room, for satire ; all our lays  
Must be, or songs of triumph, or of praise  
But as in grounds best cultivated, tares  
And poppies rise among the golden ears ;  
Our product so, fit for the field or school,  
Must mix with nature's favourite plant—a fool :  
A weed that has to twenty summers ran,  
Shoots up in stalk, and vegetates to man.  
Simpling our author goes from field to field,  
And culls such fools as may diversion yield ;  
And, thanks to Nature, there's no want of those,  
For rain or shine, the thriving coxcomb grows.  
Follies to-night we show ne'er lash'd before,  
Yet such as nature shows you every hour ;  
Nor can the pictures give a just offence,  
For fools are made for jests to men of sense.

## TEXT

The text of "The Beaux' Stratagem" used in this production has a number of minor cuts and most of the revisions made by the author after the first performance, including the removal of the character of Count Bellair.

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

<b>Thomas Aimwell</b>	}	..	<b>Mr. Mitcheson</b>
<b>Francis Archer</b>			

Two gentlemen of broken fortunes, the first as master, and the second as servant

<b>Squire Sullen</b>	.. .. .	<b>.. Mr. Stoker</b>
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A country blockhead, brutal to his wife

<b>Sir Charles Freeman</b>	.. .. .	<b>.. Mr. Cook</b>
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A gentleman from London, brother to Mrs. Sullen

<b>Foigard</b>	.. .. .	<b>.. Mr. Young</b>
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A Priest, Chaplain to the French officers

<b>Gibbet, A Highwayman</b>	..	<b>.. Mr. Carlin</b>
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<b>Hounslow</b>	} His Companions	<b>Mr. Pashley</b>
<b>Bagshot</b>		

<b>Boniface, Landlord of the Inn..</b>	<b>Mr. Wilson</b>
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<b>Scrub, Servant to Squire Sullen</b>	<b>Mr. Mountain</b>
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<b>Tapster, At the Inn</b>	<b>Mr. Wharton</b>
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<b>Lady Bountiful</b>	.. .. .	<b>Mrs. Rhodes</b>
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An old, civil, country gentlewoman, that cures all her neighbours of all distempers, and foolishly fond of her son, Squire Sullen

<b>Mrs. Sullen</b>	.. .. .	<b>Mrs. Brown</b>
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Her daughter-in-law, wife to Squire Sullen

<b>Dorinda, Lady Bountiful's daughter</b>	..	<b>Mrs. Swift</b>
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<b>Gipsy, Maid to the ladies</b>		<b>Mrs. Thresh</b>
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<b>Maid, to Lady Bountiful</b>	.. ..	<b>Mrs. Clark</b>
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<b>Cherry, the Landlord's daughter in the Inn</b>		<b>Mrs. Wilson</b>
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The action of the Play takes place at Boniface's Inn and Lady Bountiful's house at Lichfield

## ADVERTISEMENT

The reader may find some faults in this play, which my illness prevented the amending of ; but there is great amends made in the representation, which cannot be matched, no more than the friendly and indefatigable care of Mr. Wilks, to whom I chiefly owe the success of the play.

GEORGE FARQUHAR, 1707.

Stage Manager	Mr. Nelson
Properties ..	Mrs. Parker
Costumes by Leeds Arts Centre and Leeds Playhouse	
	Supervised by Mrs. Robinson
Prompt ..	Mrs. Gilmore
Box Office.. ..	Mrs. Irving
Publicity .. ..	Mr. Stoker
Front of House Managers	.. Mr. and Mrs. Stevenson

**DIRECTED and DESIGNED by MR. BROWN**

There will be one interval of fifteen minutes, during which the Theatre bar will be open. The ladies may care to partake of our esteemed coffee. Gentlemen of discernment, will find a wide range of stronger beverages to suit their palates.

Also during the interval, ladies and gentlemen, formerly of high station, but alas, now of somewhat impoverished means—will pass among you, offering ice cream sweetmeats. We earnestly entreat you to buy.

## THE AUTHOR AND THE PLAY

George Farquhar was born in 1678. He was an Irishman who turned his hand to many things, including soldiering, acting and writing plays. His first play, "Love and a Battle," was written in 1698, and others followed: "The Constant Couple," in 1699, a sequel in 1701 called "Sir Harry Wildair" and "The Twin Rivals" in 1702. In 1706 "The Recruiting Officer" appeared.

One night in the same year Farquhar was contemplating deserting his wife while reading Milton's pamphlet "The Doctrine and Discipline of Divorce," when his friend, the actor Robert Wilks, visited him and gave him twenty guineas to encourage him to write a play. The result was "The Beaux' Stratagem," which was completed only shortly before the author's death in 1707.

Although a comedy, "The Beaux' Stratagem" is also a vehicle for the author's serious thoughts on divorce:

"Wedlock we own ordain'd by Heaven's decree,  
But such as Heaven ordained it first to be ;  
Concurring tempers in the man and wife  
As mutual helps to draw the load of life.  
View all the works of Providence above,  
The stars with harmony and concord move ;  
View all the works of Providence below,  
The fire, the water, earth, and air, we know,  
All in one plant agree to make it grow.  
Must man, the chiefest work of art divine,  
Be doom'd in endless discord to repine ?  
No, we should injure Heaven by that surmise,  
Omnipotence is just, were man but wise."

(Mrs. Sullen, Act III, Scene III).

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*NEXT WEEK*

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The public may leave the Civic Theatre at the end of the performance, by all exits and entrance doors, and such doors at that time must be open.

All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs, or any obstructions.

The Safety Curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before each performance, to confirm that it is in proper working order.

LEEDS METROPOLITAN WATCH COMMITTEE.