

There will be a discussion of this Play at the Theatre on Monday, March 5th, at 7.30 p.m., to which all members of the audience are cordially invited. Why not come along and give us your views and hear the views of others?

Written criticisms of the production are welcomed, and will be read anonymously at the discussion

"THE RIVALS", first produced at Covent Garden in January, 1775, was Sheridan's first play, written at the age of 23. It is recorded that at the first performance the play was an undoubted "flop", partly on account of its inordinate length, partly on account of an indifferent performance by the actor who played Sir Lucius O'Trigger. The unprecedented step was taken of withdrawing the play after the first night, when it was heavily cut, partly re-cast, and re-presented two or three weeks later, to achieve an enormous success.

As further introduction, if such be needed, we cannot do better than to quote Edmund Gosse, who writes:

"There are few prominent plays in the literature of the world which contain so many traces of the condition and of the adventures of their author as does "THE RIVALS". Without being directly autobiographical, it is coloured from prologue to epilogue by the personal history of the brilliant young fellow who wrote it, and without reminding ourselves what were the events through which he had lately passed, we fail to appreciate half the touches in it. He had lately been a part of the sham chivalry and the sham romance of which he made such immortal fun, and the impressions of the absurdities of life were fresh upon his memory when he wrote "THE RIVALS". He had been twenty years of age when he eloped with Elizabeth Linley, exactly as Lydia Languish hoped to fly with her Beverley. He had been twenty-one when he fought two ridiculous duels, which were evidently in his mind when he invented the inimitable scenes in the fifth act of the play. He had suffered "inexpressible torments", and had indulged in "sheets of unintelligible rhapsody". At the house of Mrs. Miller in Bath, he had met with pretension and incongruity and fashionable flutter enough to rig out a dozen Mrs. Malaprops. He had poured verses into the celebrated vase, dressed with pink ribbons and myrtles, which crowned the fair of Parnassus at Bath Easton. Throughout his tumultuous, absurd, romantic, youth, Sheridan had seemed to be rather acting than observing, but his keen eyes were open to the world of folly, and he was still but twenty-three when he sat down to write this immortal picture of it all".

NEXT PRODUCTION—

"A DOLL'S HOUSE" - by HENRIK IBSEN

OPENING DATE - - - - MAY 5th

## THE QUESTORS THEATRE MATTOCK LANE, EALING



present

# "THE RIVALS"

BY

RICHARD BRINSLEY SHERIDAN

FEBRUARY—MARCH, 1945

PROGRAMME - - - THREEPENCE

# “THE RIVALS”

*Characters in order of their appearance :*

Fag, servant to Capt. Absolute ... ..	RICHARD WOOD
Thomas, a coachman ... ..	MICHAEL KELLY
Lydia Languish, niece to Mrs. Malaprop ... ..	JOAN ANGEL
Lucy, their maidservant ... ..	GWEN CALCUTT
Julia Melville, ward to Sir Anthony Absolute and Lydia's cousin ... ..	JEAN SHERIDAN
Mrs. Malaprop ... ..	BARBARA HUTCHINS
Sir Anthony Absolute ... ..	FRANK WHITE
Captain Jack Absolute, alias "Beverley", his son ... ..	PHILIP ALLEN
Faulkland ... ..	ALBERT HOOPER
Bob Acres, friend to Captain Absolute ... ..	TOM FRANKLIN
A boy ... ..	PHYLLIS SHORT
Sir Lucius O'Trigger ... ..	ERIC VOCE
David, manservant to Acres ... ..	MAURICE BALLINGER
Julia's maidservant ... ..	DIANA RUTLAND

The action of the play takes place in Bath—Time: 1775.

The Play Produced by ALFRED EMMET.

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Stage Managers - - -	E. G. CORDWELL H. R. LUCAS
Assistant Stage Managers - -	MAURICE BALLINGER ERIC VOCE
Wardrobe Mistresses - -	DIANA KELLY BRIDGET SPALDING
Properties Managers - -	BETTY SHEPHERD ISOBEL BENNS
Lighting Manager - -	MICHAEL KELLY

ACT I.	Scene i.	...	...	...	...	A Street
	Scene ii.	...	...	...	...	Lydia's Dressing-room
	Scene iii.	...	...	...	...	Jack's Apartments
	Scene iv.	...	...	...	...	A Street

*INTERVAL OF TEN MINUTES.*

ACT II.	Scene i.	...	...	...	...	A Street
	Scene ii.	...	...	...	...	Julia's Dressing-room
	Scene iii.	...	A Room in Mrs. Malaprop's	...	...	Apartment
	Scene iv.	...	...	...	...	Acres's Apartments

*INTERVAL OF THREE MINUTES.*

ACT III.	Scene i.	...	...	...	...	Acres's Apartments
	Scene ii.	...	...	...	...	Mrs. Malaprop's Apartments
	Scene iii.	...	...	...	...	A Street

*INTERVAL OF FIVE MINUTES.*

ACT IV.	Scene i.	...	...	...	...	Julia's Dressing-room
	Scene ii.	...	...	...	...	A Street
	Scene iii.	...	...	...	...	King's Mead Fields

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The Settings Designed by HONOR O'NIANS.

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Genuine period costumes kindly loaned by J. CYRIL NAIRNE, Esq.

Furniture kindly loaned by ELDRED SAYERS & SON, LTD.

Wigs by "BERT".