

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

ACT ONE Scene i A Tavern.
 Scene ii Prim's House.

ACT TWO Scene i The Park.
 Scene ii Prim's House.

ACT THREE The Tavern.

INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

ACT FOUR Scene i Jonathan's Coffee-house.
 Scene ii The Tavern.
 Scene iii Periwinkle's House.
 Scene iv The Tavern.

ACT FIVE Prim's House.

During the interval you may remain in your seats and be served with tea and biscuits, or cross to the Lounge, where coffee and sandwiches are also available.

Silverware kindly loaned by ALBERT BARNETT, Bond Street, Ealing.

A NOTE ON THE AUTHOR AND THE PLAY

Susanna Centlivre was born about the year 1670. She left home before she was fifteen and became a strolling player. Her first husband, a certain Mr. Carroll, was killed in a duel eighteen months after the marriage; and it was by her second marriage, in 1709, that she was to obtain the name Centlivre. Mr. Joseph Centlivre, one of Her Majesty's cooks, first saw Susanna at Windsor, where she was playing the "breeches" part of Alexander the Great, in 1706. If his own rank was modest, it did not prevent his name living through the industry of his wife, who wrote no fewer than nineteen plays and several powerful political poems.

A Bold Stroke for a Wife was first played at Lincoln's Inn Fields on February 3rd, 1718, where it ran six nights (a substantial success in those days). Although it was regarded as a mere farce, not worth serious critical attention, it is nevertheless one of our author's best constructed plays. Moreover, as she claims in her dedication—to his Grace Philip, Duke and Marquis of Wharton, etc.—"All I dare say in favour of this Piece, is, that the Plot is entirely new, and the Incidents wholly owing to my own Invention; not borrowed from our own, or translated from the Works of Any Foreign Poet; so that they have at least the Charm of Novelty to recommend them."
B. H.

FORTHCOMING ATTRACTIONS FOR YOUR DIARY

June 26th. SILVER JUBILEE GARDEN PARTY. A meeting for all those helping with the Garden Party is being held in the Theatre on **Sunday, June 20th, at 10.30 a.m.** All offers of help will be welcome.

Posters for display are available at the Theatre during the run of the present production, and it would be greatly appreciated if anyone who is able to place one in a window, or with a local shop, would apply to one of the Stewards.

June 30th. CLUB NIGHT—"STUDENTS AT WORK." Once again this most interesting and popular Club Night, showing how the Students are taught the basic principles of acting, will be partly rehearsed and partly quite impromptu. This special event has always proved extremely popular, so early booking is advised. Tickets, at 2s. 6d. each, are on sale during the run of *A Bold Stroke for a Wife*.

July 17th. OPENING NIGHT OF NEXT PRODUCTION. The final production of the current season will be a revival of Norman Nicholson's play, *The Old Man of the Mountains*, which will be given six performances by the Student Group. Box Office opens July 7th.

"AFTER-THE-SHOW" PARTY

It is customary for us to have an informal party on the discussion night after each play. If you would care to come along, please see the Chief Steward before you leave to-night. He will take your name and give you details.

The discussion of "*A Bold Stroke for a Wife*" will take place in the theatre on **Thursday, June 24th, at 7.30 p.m.** All members and friends welcome.

THE QUESTORS



present

A Bold Stroke for a Wife

by

SUSANNA CENTLIVRE

AT THE QUESTORS THEATRE
MATTOCK LANE, EALING, W.5
JUNE 12TH TO 23RD 1954

SIXTH PRODUCTION
TWENTY-FIFTH SEASON
1953-54

PROGRAMME
SIXPENCE

The Sixth Time of the Company's performing this Season.

By the **QUESTORS COMPANY**,
At the Questors Theatre in Mattock Lane,

This present **SATURDAY**, June 12, 1954,
(and thereafter for **NINE** more nights).

A BOLD STROKE for a WIFE.

Col. Fainwell by Mr. **RAWLING**,

(Being his First Appearance in the Character)

Freeman by Ma. **CLEMON**.

Obadiah Prim by Mr. **LORRAINE**,

Toby Periwinkle by Mr. **GREEN**,

Sir Philip Modelove by Mr. **MCQUEEN**,

Thomas Tradelove by Mr. **SMITH**,

Sackbut by Mr. **IVES**,

Simon Pure by Mr. **BOUD**,

Mrs. Anne Lovely (*First Time*) by Miss **SEYRES**,

Betty by Miss **POPHAM**,

Mrs. Prim by Miss **CRAIK**,

Mary by Miss **WHITE**,

The Masked Woman by Miss **WHITE**,

In crowd scenes with Stockjobbers, gentlemen &c.

These **PARTS** will be played by,

Mr. **WEBB**, Mr. **EAMES**, Mr. **CLARK**,
Mr. **SMITH**, And Mr. **GETTINGS**,

The **PROLOGUE** will be **SPOKEN** by
Miss WHITE.

Ladies are desired to send their servants a little after 6.30 to keep Places, to prevent Confusion.

The Doors will be open at **SEVEN** o'CLOCK,

To begin exactly at **HALF** after **SEVEN** o'CLOCK,

And by Command, No Person to stand upon the Stage.

Vivat Regina.

The Grand Entertainment **PRODUCED** by Miss **HUTCHINS**.

The Several Settings **DESIGNED** by Mrs. **HOWARD**.

Stage **MANAGEMENT** under Mr. **MACWILLIAM**,

who will be Assisted by

Mrs. **HARRINGTON**,

Miss **PARKER** and Miss **KNIGHT**.

Scenery Constructed under the Direction of Master Carpenter Mr. **JONES**.

Wardrobe Mistresses Miss **HORNETT**, And Miss **RODWELL**.

Properties by Miss **LYNN**, And Miss **DEERING**.

Illuminations by Mr. **ISENTHAL**,

Assisted by Mr. **FISHER**.

Master of the Musick, Mr. **VERNON**.

The Profits of the Last Night, **WEDNESDAY**, June 23, being appropriated to the Benefit of the Theatre Building Fund, there shall be no free places reserved for Members, as Usual upon that Occasion.