



# THE RELAPSE

BY SIR JOHN VANBRUGH

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PRESENTED BY THE QUESTORS THEATRE







# THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance October 9th 1982

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SIR JOHN VANBRUGH has a unique double distinction in our history. Not only is he one of the most popular of Restoration playwrights, but he is also one of the most original and colourful of English architects. In addition he was a soldier, a spy, a herald (the Clarenceaux King of Arms) and a leading member of the famous Kit-Cat Club. His father was a prosperous sugar merchant of Dutch descent who had 18 children. John Vanbrugh was born in 1664, in London. Our next news of him is in 1692 when, as Captain Vanbrook, he was arrested in Calais for making drawings of the fortifications. He was imprisoned in the Bastille in Paris and turned his quite pleasant incarceration to good account by drafting a comedy. This later saw the light at Drury Lane, called *The Provok'd Wife* which The Questors presented in 1972.

On his release Vanbrugh took up soldiering again as a Captain of Marines and developed a lasting admiration for the Duke of Marlborough. He also much admired a play by Colley Cibber called *Love's Last Shift* and particularly the character of Sir Novelty Fashion (acted by Cibber), so much so that Vanbrugh wrote a sequel to the play, which he did in six weeks. This play was *The Relapse* and Sir Novelty Fashion became Lord Foppington. At its first night the actor playing Worthy, according to Vanbrugh, 'waddled on the stage' blind drunk and nearly ravished Amanda for real. Despite, or perhaps because of, this incident, *The Relapse* was a huge success and made Vanbrugh's reputation as a playwright. He followed it up with *The Provok'd Wife* and a series of adaptations from French plays. At his death he left behind an unfinished play called *A Journey to London* and Colley Cibber returned the compliment by completing it as *The Provok'd Husband*, another lasting success.

Almost simultaneously with all this, Vanbrugh built up a considerable reputation as an architect. We do not know what caused this surprising development. Swift commented:

'Van's genius, without thought or lecture,  
Is hugely turned to architecture.'

He designed many great country houses of which the most notable still extant are Blenheim Palace at Woodstock, Castle Howard (the setting of *Brideshead Revisited*), the gardens and the Rotunda of Stowe School, Seaton Delaval (in Northumbria) and Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire. Vanbrugh was knighted by George I in 1714. While he was staying at Castle Howard in 1718



# THE RELAPSE

by  
SIR JOHN VANBRUGH  
1664-1726

with a Prologue and Epilogue by Vincent McQueen

## THE COMPANY

*who provide the continuity, assist  
the characters and assume many roles  
in the course of the evening*

Scott Cook  
Stan Dulson  
Steve Fitzpatrick  
Andrew Haynes  
Peter Knight  
Anne Renn  
Helen Walker  
Paul Weir

## THE PROLOGUE

Pam Gower

## THE CHARACTERS — *in order of appearance*

LOVELACE, *a reformed rake*

AMANDA, *his wife*

YOUNG FASHION,

*an impecunious second son*

LORY, *his manservant*

COUPLER, *a matchmaker*

BERINTHIA, *Amanda's cousin*

WORTHY, *a former lover of Berinthia's*

SIR TUNBELLY CLUMSY,

*a country gentleman*

HOYDEN, *his daughter, an heiress*

NURSE, *Hoyden's governess*

BULL, *Chaplain to Sir Tunbilly*

John Hines  
Sarah Morrison

John Dobson  
Roger de Toney  
Tony Rushforth  
Ann Bevan  
Tony Barber

Wilfrid Sharp  
Anna-Lisa Taylor  
Grace Craddock  
John Martin

*The play takes place in London  
and the country.*

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

*Director*  
*Associate Director*  
*Settings designed  
and painted by*  
*Costumes designed by*  
*Music selected by*

Barbara Hutchins  
Elayne Gomersall

Mary Anderson  
Lindsay Udell  
Andrew Brixey





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| <i>Stage Manager</i>   | Neville Bradbury  |
| <i>Deputy Stage Managers</i>   | David Palmer, Keith Taylor  |
| <i>Assistant Stage Managers</i>  | Barbara Coulton, Elizabeth Marshall,<br>Lucinda Angus, Catherine Heathfield   |
| <i>Construction</i><br><i>assisted by</i>  | Richard Cruse, Geoff Moore<br>Neville Gillett   |
| <i>Costumes made in</i><br><i>The Questors Wardrobe by</i><br><i>assisted by</i> | Lindsay Udell<br>Jane Allan, Hania Belej, Hilda Collins,<br>Hilary Evans, Mary Hummerston,<br>Diana Lloyd, Valerie Palmer.<br>Edith Ricket, Ewa Siwecka |
| <i>Wardrobe Mistress</i>   | Jane Allan  |
| <i>Properties Manager</i>  | Bob Ricket  |
| <i>Lighting</i>  | Steve Hames   |
| <i>Sound</i>   | Maury Horwich   |
| <i>Show Printing by</i>  | Martin Udall  |

## DISCUSSION

Enjoyed it? Or not? Or so-so? Why not come along and talk about it?

Increasingly, members are finding that the Discussions held after the run of each production provide a fascinating and interesting extension of their theatre going. You may like to express views of your own, favourable or otherwise, you may like to ask questions, you may like to hear what others thought, you may like to learn something more about the play or playwright, and particularly you may like to be stimulated by hearing the views of the experienced theatre personality who leads the discussion. This time the leader will be

### MICHAEL SIMPSON

the distinguished theatre and TV director. One time Director of the prestigious Birmingham Rep., Michael Simpson's more recent theatre experience has included directing the Chichester Festival Theatre, at the Edinburgh Lyceum and for the Prospect Theatre at the Old Vic, where he himself directed *The Relapse*. His TV experience is extensive, both for the BBC and ITV, and he is currently working on a new series for Maybury for BBC2.

Any member of the audience is welcome. Do come along.

### NOTE THE DATE

TUESDAY, 19th OCTOBER

at 7.45 p.m.

in the BERNARD SHAW ROOM

*All are welcome*

*Admission is free*



## THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING HAPPENING AT THE QUESTORS

because of the members and their subscriptions.

If you are a member and bring guests to productions, why not persuade one friend to join The Questors?

If you are a guest, why not join The Questors and enjoy ten free shows during the year, plus the chance to join in the multifarious activities at The Questors Theatre. Collect a membership form from the foyer, or find out more from an OPEN MEETING, any Wednesday at 7.45 pm.

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## FUTURE PRODUCTIONS IN THE MAIN THEATRE

(remember that during main theatre shows delicious food is available from THE HOTPLATE in the upper foyer)

**November 6--13**

### HAPPY END

by Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill

*Happy End* is a melodrama with music, telling a tale of Chicago hoods and Salvation Army tootsies; the sequel to *The Threepenny Opera*.

**November 30 -- December 4**

### BONJOUR, LÀ, BONJOUR

by Michel Tremblay translated by John Van Burek and Bill Glassco

The British première of an unusual and rather beautiful play about love and conflict within a family, by the author of *Sisters*, seen at The Questors last February.

**December 30 -- January 8**

### ARSENIC AND OLD LACE

by Joseph Kesselring

Dear old Martha and Abby have three nephews — a drama critic, an international criminal and a *lad* who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt; but none of them is half as beastly as Martha and Abby. *Arsenic and Old Lace* is one of the great modern comedies.

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## AND IN THE STUDIO

**November 3--6**

### LOVE IS . . . . .

Revue like you've never seen it before.

**November 25--28**

### YOU'RE GONNA BE ALRIGHT, JAMIE BOY

by David Freeman

A savagely funny exposé of Canadian family life. As we all know so well, problems loom larger when the telly won't work . .

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