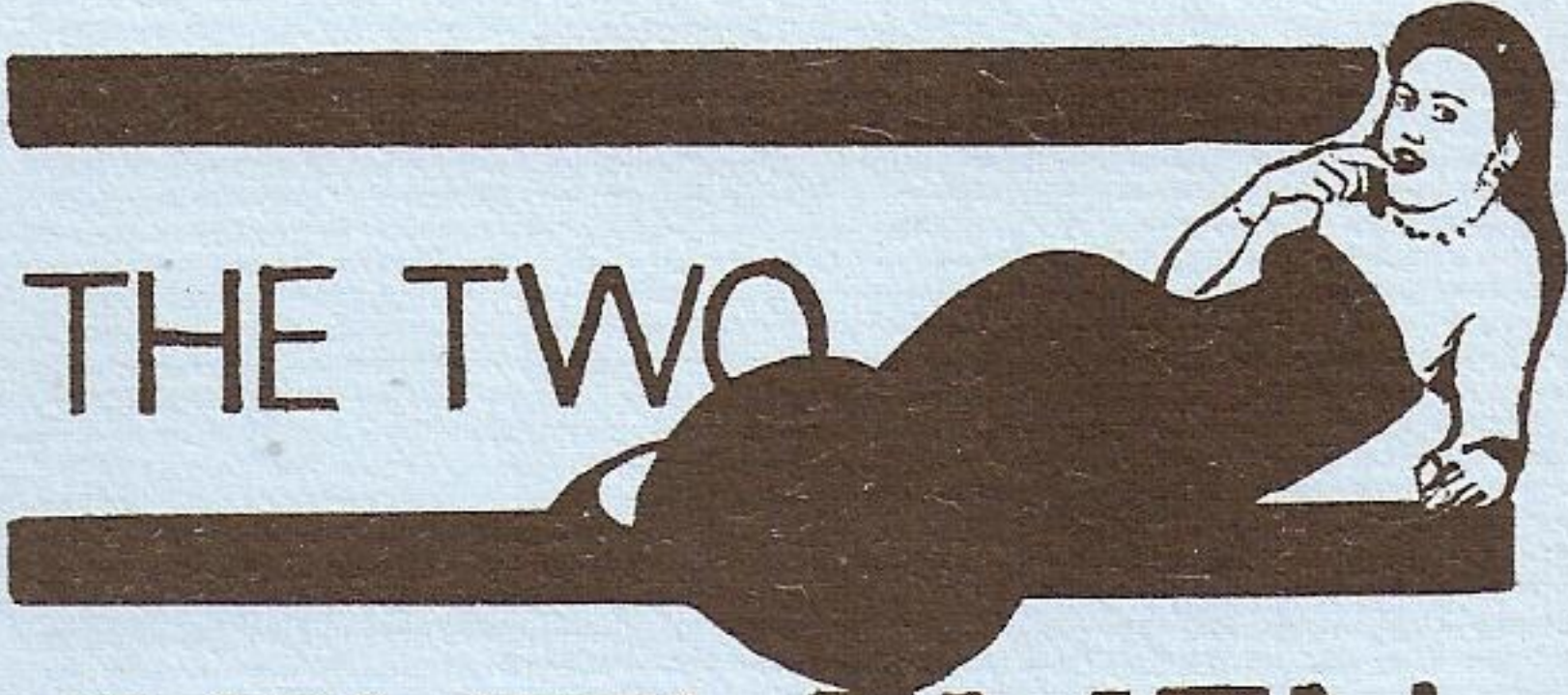


Shakespeare

THE TWO

GENTLEMEN

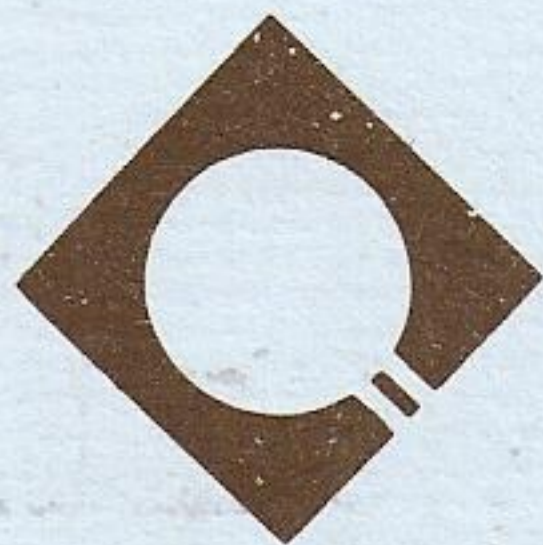


OF

VERONA



THE QUESTORS THEATRE



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

PRESIDENT: JUDI DENCH OBE

VICE-PRESIDENTS: SIR BRIAN BATSFORD, ALFRED EMMET OBE,
ROGER REES, MICHAEL WILLIAMS

First performance: 20 March 1987

As with all of Shakespeare's plays, many thousand words of analysis and criticism have been written about *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*.

Most of the commentators are in agreement that the text as we have it is almost certainly incomplete, and that within it are many inconsistencies. Characters enter, say a few lines, and then are silent for several pages although no exit is indicated and they may indeed say something after this lengthy silence. It is fun to speculate why, for example, Thurio is on stage at the beginning of Act 3 Scene 1, but is instantly dismissed by the Duke before he has uttered a word. What can he have been up to? Why is Silvia silent for so long during the final scene? I wonder if you will agree with our solutions.

Whatever the imperfections of this version of the text however, no one has ever suggested but that the events of the story are indeed as we have them. Perhaps sections of Acts 2 and 5 are missing but, even if Shakespeare intended him to take longer to do it, Proteus does fairly rapidly abandon one love for another in Act 2, and in Act 5 Valentine forgives his friend's perfidy with a gesture which you may find excessive. Was Shakespeare's purpose to show the redemptive power of forgiveness as some commentators suggest? Surely not, when this forgiveness of one condemns another to a life of utter misery. Perhaps in this comedy Shakespeare simply wrote of lovers (male) as he knew them to be — selfish, illogical, stupid, inconsistent and morally blinded by their passion.

As for what befalls the women, Silvia may be 'worshipped, kissed, loved and adored' as Julia says her picture will be, but her wishes are given as much consideration by her various suitors as if she had indeed as little feeling as an inanimate portrait.

Of the treatment meted out to Julia 'you' our audience 'shall judge'. Despite her ordeal, not one word of apology or even sympathy is offered to her by any of the play's male characters. An omission on the playwright's part or simply a true reflection of male arrogance?

The Two Gentlemen of Verona is probably Shakespeare's first play — an immature attempt to write a 'romance' comedy with moralistic overtones, or a fiercely feminist send up of male values? You could come to the open discussion on 31 March and tell us your view; meanwhile we hope you enjoy ours!

C.M.

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

by WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

VALENTINE	} <i>the gentlemen of Verona</i> . . .	{	PIERS WHIBLEY
PROTEUS			JOHN CAREY
SPEED, <i>Valentine's Man Servant</i> . .			JONATHON PLUNKETT
JULIA, <i>beloved of Proteus</i>			CZARINA DEEN
LUCETTA, <i>her Maid</i>			SUE WEST
ANTONIO, <i>Proteus' Father</i>			PETER KNIGHT
PANTHINO, <i>Antonio's Office Manager</i> . .			CHRIS WALDOCK
DUKE OF MILAN			JACK WOOD
SILVIA, <i>his Daughter</i>			SARAH MORRISON
THURIO, <i>her Suitor</i>			DAVID EMMET
LAUNCE, <i>Proteus' Man Servant</i>			GEOFF WEBB
CRAB, <i>his Dog</i>			TRUDY
EGLAMOUR, <i>a Gentleman</i>			KEN RATCLIFFE
HOST,			PETER KNIGHT
OUTLAWS	}		JEREMY BENTHAM
			CHRIS WALDOCK
			STUART RHODES
			MARK WEBB
			SATVINDER DUHRA
TAILOR			JEREMY BENTHAM
SHOP ASSISTANT			STUART RHODES
JULIA'S FRIENDS	}		KATE DUNNING
			MARK WEBB
ANTONIO'S SECRETARY			ELIZABETH CHADWICK
URSULA, <i>Duke's Housekeeper</i>			EVEYLN JONES
THE DUKE'S BUTLER			JOHN TURPIN
" MAID			KATE DUNNING
" WAITERS			STUART RHODES
" "			JEREMY BENTHAM
" 1ST PA			ADRIENNE LAWLER
" 2ND PA			ELIZABETH CHADWICK
" BODYGUARD			TERENCE MORRISON
" "	}		ALICE DIBBEN
" GUESTS			TONY FENELON
			OENONE GRANT
			JOHN KELLY
SINGER			ROGER DOUGLAS
THE SOUND MAN			JOHN KELLY

THERE WILL BE ONE INTERVAL OF FIFTEEN MINUTES

THE PLAY DIRECTED BY : **CAROL METCALFE**
DESIGNED BY : **RAY DUNNING**
COSTUMES DESIGNED BY : **SARAH ANDREWS**
assisted by : **MARIA DUFFY**
LIGHTING DESIGN : **ALAN N. SMITH**
SOUND DESIGN : **ALAN B. SMITH**

The music for *Who is Silvia?* composed and
arranged by Chris Richardson

STAGE MANAGER : **CHRIS SYDENHAM**
DEPUTY STAGE MANAGER : **TINA HARRIS**
LIGHTING OPERATOR : **LES SMITH**
assisted by : **LUCY DAMON**
PROPERTIES : **ELIE MONSON**
KATE AIKEN
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT : **CLAUDINE MURPHY**
PROMPTERS : **BRIDGET STREVENS**
DOROTHY WOOD
ASSISTANT STAGE : **JULIA ALLEN**
MANAGERS : **SIMON CROMBIE**
CHRISTINE NEWBY
NEIL COOKE
CONSTRUCTION : **ARTHUR BOARDMAN**
WARDROBE ASSISTANTS : **MARY ANGUS**
JANE CRAGGS
JEAN DARBY
ANNE GILMOUR
CAROLE LASHMAR
BRIAN MOORHOUSE
JUNE NEVIN
HILARY PHILPOT
ANNE TURNER
MAKE UP : **SOPHIE ARNOLD**
ALEX CAWDRON
SHARON HUNT
KIM ISAACS
CORINNE KIRBY
JACQUETTA LEVON
ANGELIQUE RICCA

OUR THANKS TO
JAMES LINEHAN — *Dog handler*
TESSA CURTIS
BENTALLS PLC (1 Ealing Broadway Centre)
CHANTAL for *chocolates* (52E Ealing Broadway Centre)
LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW, Parks Department
A.J. SUTTON MOTOR CYCLES, Northfield Avenue, W5

Mr Webley's clothes supplied by **High & Mighty**,
international specialists in clothes for the
big and tall man.

WEST FOYER EXHIBITION

CLOTHING THE BARD — NEW AND OLD APPROACHES

THE OPEN DISCUSSION ON THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

will be held in The Main Foyer
on TUESDAY, 31 MARCH at 7.45pm.

IT WILL BE LED BY


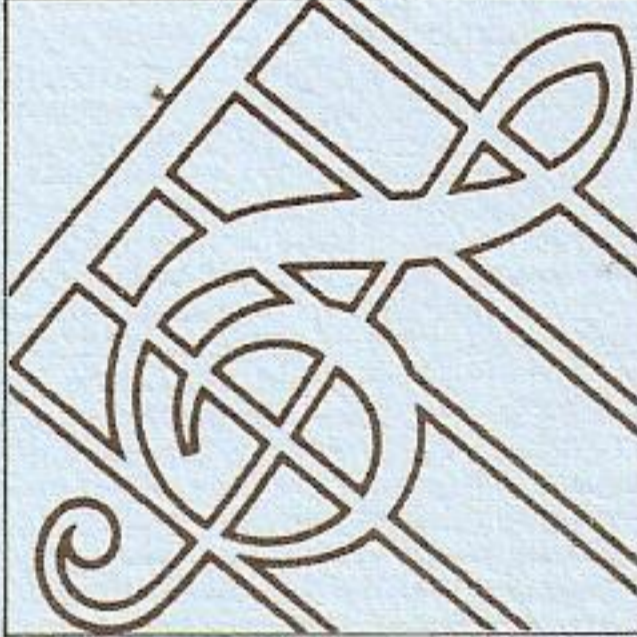
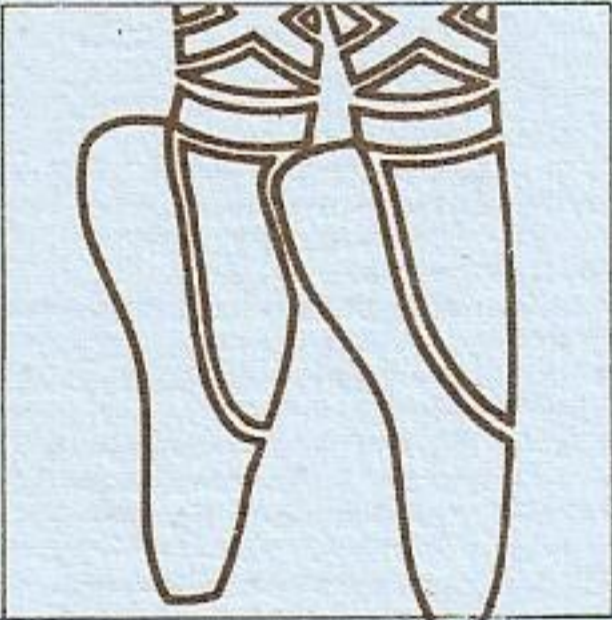


RICHARD PROUDFOOT, M A, B LITT.
Professor of English, King's College, London

ADMISSION FREE

ALL ARE WELCOME

*Why not join us to talk about one of
Shakespeare's earlier plays?*

*The production of THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA is
sponsored by the Ealing Branch of The Royal Bank of Scotland*

<i>B a n k i n g S e r v i c e s</i>		
		
	PERFORMING ON YOUR BEHALF	
	14 High Street, Ealing, London W5 Telephone: 01-840 7171	
 The Royal Bank of Scotland		

**PLANT DISPLAYS IN THE LOWER FOYER ARE
SUPPLIED BY BARRALET'S GARDEN CENTRE,
PITSHANGER LANE, EALING W5.
TELEPHONE 997 0576**

COMING EVENTS

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 APRIL at 7.45pm
12 & 18 APRIL at 3pm

THE COARSE ACTING SHOW

The very first and original Coarse Acting Show which took the Edinburgh Festival by storm in 1977 now has its first performance in the main Playhouse

'The hit of the Festival' — *Punch*

2, 5, 6, 7, 8 9 MAY at 7.45pm
3 MAY at 3pm

BRIEF LIVES

by John Aubrey

adapted by Patrick Garland

FUND RAISING EVENTS

EVADNE MILKY'S *Tales from Shakespeare No. 4*

TWO GENTLEMEN — devised by Kevin Madley
27 — 28 March, 11pm.

HARVEY AND THE WALLBANGERS

10 & 11 April 11pm

IN THE STUDIO

28, 29, 30 APRIL, 1, 2 MAY at 7.45pm

AMERICAN DREAMS

3 PLAYS

by Dorothy Velasco

16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 MAY at 7.45pm

BLOODY POETRY (*A play about Byron & Shelley*)

by Howard Brenton
