

SCENE	I	:	King Arthur's Palace.
SCENE	II	:	Another part of the Palace
SCENE	III	:	A Street.
SCENE	IV	:	The Princess Huncamunca's Apartment.
SCENE	V	:	The Palace.
SCENE	VI	:	King Arthur's Chamber.
SCENE	VII	:	A Plain.
SCENE	VIII	:	Another part of the Plain.
SCENE	IX	:	The Plain; the Field of Battle.
SCENE	X	:	The Palace.

HENRY FIELDING, a tall and handsome young man arrived in London in 1728 with a taste for the pleasures of town life, but little money to buy them. He soon discovered the Theatre as a potential source of income and within a few years had written over 28 scripts.

However, his taste for satire and in particular his lampooning of Robert Walpole eventually brought his career as playwright and Theatre Manager to a close; in fact, it was mainly due to his activities that Theatrical Censorship was re-established in 1737.

'TOM THUMB THE GREAT' (presented tonight in Fielding's second version and with the footnotes of "H. Scriblerus Secundus") was an instant hit when first staged.

It is a burlesque - like Shaw's 'FANNY'S FIRST PLAY' earlier this season - and as such, directs it's satire at Artistic pretension. In this case, it's targets are the Literary and Theatrical absurdities of the fashionable yet incongruous heroic style so popular in it's day.

The story of TOM THUMB was a favourite folk/children's tale in which a poor childless couple were granted a child through the intervention of Melin.

Thumb sized Tom grew up to be a mighty hero and giant slayer, but, sadly, as will be revealed in tonight's reading, met a sad - if unusual - end. Tom's Political significance and the courtly machinations which surround him in 'TOM THUMB THE GREAT,' are Fielding's own additions to the story.

FOR YOUR DIARY

The next Rehearsed Reading will be:

'AH, WILDERNESS.'

E. O'NEILL.

Directed by Phillip Sheahan. FOYER 7.45; Sunday January 13th.

1990?

THE
TRAGEDY
OF
TRAGEDIES;
OR THE
LIFE *and* DEATH
OF
TOM THUMB *the Great.*



50p

D R A M A T I S P E R S O N A E

MEN

<p>KING ARTHUR - A passionate sort of King, husband to Queen Dollalolla, of whom he stands a little in fear; father to Huncamunca, whom he is very fond of; and in love with Glumdulca.</p> <p>TOM THUMB THE GREAT - A little hero with a great soul, something violent in his temper, which is a little abated by his love for Huncamunca.</p> <p>GHOST OF GAFFER THUMB - A whimsical sort of Ghost.</p> <p>LORD GRIZZLE - Extremely jealous for the liberty of the subject, very choleric in his temper, and in love with Huncamunca.</p> <p>MERLIN - A conjurer, and in some sort father to Tom Thumb</p> <p>NOCdle - DOODLE - Courtiers in place, and consequently of that party that is uppermost.</p> <p>FOODLE - A Courtier that is out of place and consequently of that party that is undermost.</p> <p>BAILIFF - FOLLOWER - Of the party of the Plaintiff.</p> <p>PARSON - Of the side of the Church.</p>	<p>MR. RATCLIFFE</p> <p>MR. WIDDRINGTON</p> <p>MR. TURNER</p> <p>MR. KEARNS</p> <p>MR. TURNER</p> <p>MR. DAVEY MR TURNER</p> <p>MR. SCRIVENER</p> <p>MR. TURNER MR. SCRIVENER</p> <p>MR. TURNER</p>
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WOMEN

<p>QUEEN DOLLALOLLA - Wife to King Arthur, and Mother to Huncamunca, a woman entirely faultless, saving that she is a little given to drink; a little too much a virago towards her husband, and in love with Tom Thumb.</p> <p>THE PRINCESS HUNCAMUNCA - Daughter to their Majesties King Arthur and Queen Dollalolla, of a very sweet, gentle, and amorous disposition, equally in love with Lord Grizzle and Tom Thumb, and desirous to be married to them both.</p> <p>GLUMDULCA - Of the Giants, a captive Queen, beloved by the King, but in love with Tom Thumb.</p> <p>CLEORA - Maid of Honour.</p> <p>COURTIERS, GUARDS, REBELS, DRUMS, TRUMPETS, THUNDER AND LIGHTNING</p> <p>H. SCRIBLERUS SECUNDUS -</p>	<p>MRS. TURNER</p> <p>MISS MACREADY</p> <p>MISS WHEATLEY</p> <p>MISS SCRIVENER</p> <p>BY MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY</p> <p>MR. GREEN</p>
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With Thanks to Grace Craddock, Diana Nesbitt, Primrose Melville, Richard Lewis and many others