



# THE FAN



## Carlo Goldoni

Carlo Goldoni (1707-1793) was a man of many parts. Despite early success in the theatre, he happily settled into a career as a small town lawyer, and he was already forty when - after much persuasion - he reluctantly agreed to become a full-time playwright. In the next twenty years he wrote about 150 plays, and set about his self-appointed task of reforming the Italian theatre, at that time still ruled by the out-dated conventions of the by now moribund *Commedia dell'Arte* style. With his early plays he persuaded the *Commedia* actors to follow a script instead of improvising, and to remove their masks.

However, it was with his later plays that he effected a real revolution in Italian theatre, introducing a degree of naturalism and psychological subtlety into his writing that had not been seen before. He was revolutionary, too, in his themes and his sympathies, focusing on ordinary working people and the rising middle-classes, and showing particular insight into the lives of women, who usually - as here - outwit and dominate the men in his plays.

This dramatic revolution was by no means unopposed, and such was the hostility of his arch-rival, the thoroughly conservative Carlo Gozzi, that Goldoni was ultimately forced to leave the country. Goldoni's revenge - typically - was mild and comparatively good-natured, but it is not without relevance to our play tonight that Gozzi was an aristocrat - a Count, in fact - and that his plays are often described as 'fables'.

After leaving Italy, Goldoni moved to Paris, where he wrote **The Fan**, but it is a thoroughly Italian piece, a celebration of outdoor, communal living, where everyone lives a little too close to their neighbours, where perceived notions of social status and sexual role are continually under challenge, and where private emotions have to be played out in a very public space.

Goldoni retired from the theatre not long after writing **The Fan** and became Italian tutor to the daughters of Louis XVI at Versailles, but he continued to write, and his Memoirs give a wonderfully lively picture of the period. His opera libretti were set by, among others, Mozart and Haydn, and it is Haydn - that most civilised of composers - who provides the music for our production of the work of this most civilised of writers, with his early 'Times of the Day' symphonies, written - like **The Fan** - in 1763.

Goldoni's end was not what one might have wished for so amiable and generous a man. After the French Revolution, he was deprived of his pension from the King, and, old and half-blind, faced the direst poverty. When his case was raised in the National Assembly, the Deputies unanimously voted to restore the pension of so radical a writer and so noble a champion of the rights of the common man. Sadly, unknown to them, Goldoni had died the previous day.

Steve Fitzpatrick

Please ensure all mobile phones and pagers are switched off while in the Theatre. Photography is not allowed during the performance, and food and drinks are not permitted in the auditorium

9-16 June 2001

## THE FAN

By Carlo Goldoni, adapted by Steve Fitzpatrick

### CAST

The Count di Rocca-Monte  
The Baron del Cedro  
Signor Evaristo  
Signor Geltruda, a widow  
Signorina Candida, her niece  
Signora Susanna, a haberdasher  
Coronato, an innkeeper  
Crespino, a cobbler  
Giannina, a peasant girl  
Moracchio, her brother  
Timoteo, a herbalist  
Limonado, a café-owner  
Tognina, servant at the villa  
Scavezzo, servant at the inn  
Maids at the inn

Ken Ratcliffe  
Andrew Jones  
Richard Matthews  
Pam Gower  
Elizabeth Pinnock  
Charmian Norman-Taylor  
Graham Williams  
Gary Tapley  
Vanessa Robinson  
Paul Francis  
Michael Hislop  
Charles Bertram  
Gemma Head  
Gary Reid  
Aviva Treger  
Emma Davies

The action takes place in the piazza of a small hill-town called Case-Nuove

ACT ONE: Morning  
ACT TWO: Noon  
ACT THREE: Evening

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts Two and Three

### Production

Director and set designer  
Design co-ordinator  
Lighting designer  
Sound designer and operator  
Costume design and manufacture  
Properties  
Hair and Make-up  
Stage Management

Lighting operator  
Prompt  
Construction  
Scene Painting

Fit-up special team

Choreography

Steve Fitzpatrick  
John Rolfe  
Martin Stoner  
Colin Horne  
Amy Coulson, Jenny Yates and Sarah Anderson  
Harriet Simon  
Lucy Askew, Anita Griffin, Kate Laurin  
Alec Atchison, Victoria Butler, Sophie Dobson, Susan Gerlach, Anna Jablkowska, Lynn Jackson, Joumana Jeffers, Eric Lister, Eleanora Murphy, Melissa Naylor, Ruth Simpson  
Mark Lucek and Nigel Bamford  
Sue Oliver  
John Rolfe, Jim Craddock  
Elaine Hagan, Jackie Dover, Usha Kamerkar, Zarine Richmond  
Jim Craddock, Roger Brace, Peter Collins, Colin Horne, John Drewery  
Julia Cooke

Special thanks to: Katy Gallantry and Joe Iles

THE FAN



# FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

**For one night only:**

## **"LIFE AFTER FAWLTY"**

In the Playhouse, Saturday 23rd June at 8.00pm

An evening of talk and tunes with ANDREW SACHS

(alias Manuel from BBC's Fawlty Towers)

This show is selling fast so book early to avoid disappointment!

Special prices for Questors Members!



## **THE BIRTHDAY PARTY** *by Harold Pinter*

In the Studio, 16th - 30th June

A darkly menacing comedy about a reclusive man in a shabby seaside boarding house who is terrorised by two sinister visitors. This critically acclaimed play is a classic of modern British theatre.

## **TRELAWNY OF THE 'WELLS'** *by Arthur W. Pinero*

In the Playhouse, 14th -21st July

Rose Trelawny, young and much adored star of the Sadlers Wells Theatre, is leaving the profession to marry into High Society.

But can she tolerate society, or more to the point, can society tolerate her?

This is a charming romantic comedy, and a delightful period piece full of wonderful characters, all set against the background magic of life in the Victorian Theatre.

**And don't forget our Christmas show -**

## **THE SNOW QUEEN** *by Stuart Paterson from a story by Hans Christian Andersen*

In the Playhouse, 8th December - 5th January

Join Gerda on a thrilling journey to rescue her best friend Kay from the clutches of the evil Snow Queen.

Follow her across a perilous country of snow and ice, meeting a host of amazing characters on the way - Peck and Scruff the ravens, the terrible Cobweb, two Polar Bears, Ice Ghosts, a Reindeer...and many more.

Hans Christian Andersen's classic tale has enchanted children and adults alike for generations and will continue to do so in this stunning Christmas production.

It's not too early to book!

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