

THE VICTORIAN COLLEGE  
OF THE ARTS  
SECONDARY SCHOOL  
PRESENTS



# The Beaux' Stratagem

A comedy by George Farquhar  
Adapted by Thornton Wilder & Ken Ludwig

GASWORKS THEATRE  
**14-16**  
MAY 2019  
7PM EACH NIGHT



Bookings @ [www.gasworks.org.au](http://www.gasworks.org.au) or call (03) 8606 4299  
An amateur production by arrangement with ORiGiN™ Theatrical, on behalf of Samuel French, Inc.



## WELCOME FROM THE DIRECTOR



I knew nothing about Restoration Theatre when I first saw *The Beaux' Stratagem* at The Athenaeum Theatre in Collins Street. It was 1978 and as a part of an MTC school student subscription package I and the other members of the senior Literature class – Drama would not be a recognised HSC subject for another 12 years - had received a cheap ticket to see this 'comedy'. It turned out to be the best \$2.75 I would spend for that year. The play was hilarious, the acting boisterous, the dialogue witty and slick and the whole experience so memorable that it has remained with me ever since.

Fast forward to October last year when I was searching for something appropriately challenging and different from previous offerings for the Theatre Studies mainstage performance for 2019. I was not aware that 'The Beaux' had been revived and revised by American playwrights Thornton Wilder and Ken Ludwig and was delighted to discover their excellent adaptation of George Farquhar's 1707 original.

The intention for this mount of the play was to resist the lure of sumptuous stagecraft or the digital 'smoke and mirrors' available through multimedia. The style is stripped back - the focus on the actors - broad in its characterisation, paced in a manner reminiscent of English farce and supported by music conceived and performed by members of the company.

I would like to thank the generous support of the management and technical staff at Gasworks Theatre, the principal of VCASS, Hilary Bland, our production and stage manager Tanje Ruddick, Jenn Purcell and Goran Banyai for their support, patient advice and friendship and the academic staff for their understanding. Most importantly I would like to acknowledge the work of the company who appear on stage tonight and their committed contribution to the realization of this play. I hope you enjoy the work.

**Christopher Button - Head of Theatre Arts**

# THEATRE ARTS CAPTAIN REFLECTION



The process of The Beaux Stratagem has been rewarding for the year 12 theatre artists as we have been exploring restoration theatre in the style of farce, a comedic approach to acting. As most of our focus in our time in acting classes has been with a naturalistic approach, it has been challenging for us as a cohort to understand how to play characters that are larger than life.

The last few months have been enjoyable, experimenting with a variety of accents and using physicality in a way that a lot of us have rarely explored. Mr Button challenged us all individually to find our confidence, expanding our techniques as a result of taking risks during rehearsals.

Double casting has pushed us to work collaboratively with different members of the group and learn how to be adaptable on stage and in rehearsal. This helped us to be more spontaneous in each scene as with each person you relate and respond to them in a different way. Working with more members of the cast and doubling up also made us focus on our own ability and characterisation, paying close attention to our objectives in the scene. We have all benefited immensely from this opportunity to grow comically, collaboratively and hopefully entertain the audience and make them laugh as much as we have throughout this process.

**Erin Herr - Theatre Arts Captain**









## SYNOPSIS

Out of luck at cards and almost out of money Jack Archer and Tom Aimwell find themselves at Will Boniface's tavern in rural Lichfield. There they conceive a bold stratagem of deceit and impersonation in the desperate hope of reviving their fortunes and making a triumphant return to the gaming tables of London. While Archer dabbles in the seduction of Cherry, the inn-keeper's daughter and a spot of robbery with Mr Gloss, preacher and part-time highwayman, Aimwell meets local heiress Dorinda Bountiful and promptly falls head over heels in love.

The action shifts to the manor house of Dorinda's mother Lady Bountiful, local luminary and a complete 'quack'. Archer has insinuated his way into the household through a fortuitous friendship with Squire Sullen, reprobate, perpetual drunkard and husband of the long-suffering Kate. Aimwell also finds his way into the house and through barely competent subterfuge manages to woo Dorinda while Archer makes thinly veiled love to Kate. Everything would appear to be going to plan until the men unwittingly expose themselves as frauds and bounders.

The final action of the play centres on the visitation of highwayman Gloss and his henchmen Hounslow and Bagshot to the manor. As they engage in a little break, enter and steal, Archer and Aimwell seize the opportunity to expose Gloss's treachery, rescue the innocent, save the day and gain the undying love of the handsomest women in Staffordshire. All achieved through a little sword-play, the frustrated ministering of Monsieur Foigard, the arrival of an absent brother, the death of another and a measure of English common sense.





# THE CAST



William Brien



Mia Bizzotto



Costa D'angelo



Jared Gabriel



Max Geddes



Alex Glenk



Mietta Hyland-Johns



Pearl Hunter



Erin Herr



Andrew McArthur



Amon Mether



Jessie McGuigan



Elizaveta Nemchinova



Tilly Prescott



Ariana Rigazzi



Hannah Ruthven



Angus Stoffel



Mack Williams



Ally Winslow

Alexander Glenk  
**JACK ARCHER**

Angus Stoffel  
**AIMWELL**

Hannah Ruthven  
**MRS SULLEN**

Ariana Rigazzi  
**DORINDA**

Mietta Hyland-Johns  
**LADY BOUNTIFUL**

William Brien  
**SULLEN**

Erin Herr  
**CHERRY**

Max Geddes  
**MR BONIFACE**

Costa D'angelo  
**MR GLOSS & HOUNSLOW**

Mack Williams  
**MR GLOSS & HOUNSLOW**

Ally Winslow  
**SCRUB**

Mia Bizzotto  
**SCRUB**

Amon Mether  
**FOIGARD & BAGSHOT**

Andrew McArthur  
**SIR CHARLES FREEMAN & DANIEL**

Jared Gabriel  
**SIR CHARLES FREEMAN & DANIEL**

Elizaveta Nemchinova  
**THE LADY**

Pearl Hunter  
**THE COUNTRY WOMAN**



Year 12 Theatre Arts Class of 2019

## CREDITS

### PRINCIPAL

Hilary Bland

### ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Donatella Mannolini, Michael Sargeant

### HEAD OF THEATRE ARTS / DIRECTOR

Christopher Button

### SCRIPT

George Farquhar. Adapted by  
Thornton Wilder & Ken Ludwig

### THEATRE ARTS COORDINATOR & ADMINISTRATION

Jenny Purcell

### PRODUCTION MANAGER

Tanje Ruddick

### SOUND

Alex Glenk

### LIGHTING & STAGE MANAGER

Christopher Button

### WARDROBE & PROPS FACILITATION

Jenny Purcell

### PHOTOGRAPHY & ROMOTIONAL DESIGN

Dylan Breninger in collaboration with Amon  
Mether, Mack Williams & Alex Glenk

## SAVE THE DATES

- *THE ILIAD (THEATRE ARTS)*  
24 & 25 July @ VCASS Recital Room
- *TERMS & CONDITIONS (MUSIC)*  
12 September @ Melbourne Recital Centre
- *VIVACE (DANCE)*  
19-21 September @ Malthouse Theatre

Ticket information available @  
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