

FIVE NIGHTS

CIVIC THEATRE, LEEDS

from TUESDAY EVENING, February 8th, 1977,

until SATURDAY EVENING

Leeds Arts Centre

Will perform Mr. SHERIDAN'S celebrated COMEDY, call'd

The Rivals:

Or, A TRIP to BATH.

With a considerable number of entirely new Dreffes and a DUEL arranged by Mr. YOUNG himself.

Sir Anthony Abfolute	—	—	Mr.	SHELDON
Captain Abfolute	—	—	Mr.	YOUNG
Faulkland —	—	—	Mr.	SCOTT
Acres —	—	—	Mr.	POLLEY
Sir Lucius O’Trigger	—	—	Mr.	LEATHAM
Fag —	—	—	Mr.	CLAYTON
David —	—	—	Mr.	KEY
Thomas —	—	—	Mr.	LEATHAM
Mrs. Malaprop —	—	—	Mrs.	STEVENSON
Lydia Languifh —	—	—	Mrs.	WILSON
Julia —	—	—	Mrs.	ROBINSON
Lucy —	—	—	Mrs.	WILSON
Servants, Maids, etc.	—	—	Mr. LOCKWOOD, Mr. STEVENSON, Mrs. BLUNDELL, Mifs ELSEY, Mifs GILLHAM, Mifs HYDE.	

To which will be added a MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT, call’d

MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS

written specially for the occasion by Mr. HANDEL and played during the interval
by the personal choice of Mrs. RHODES of Headingley

who will direct the PLAY.

The stage to be managed by Mr. CARLIN assisted by Miss THRESH. The incidental music
to be played by Miss KING. Miss TRIGGS and another person will prompt the players where
necessary.

Pit and Gallery 12s. Tickets to be had of Mr. Pemberton at the Theatre shortly before
each performance OR of Messrs. Barker at their music emporium in the Upper Head Row
in Leeds.

Doors to be open at Seven and to begin at half past seven o'Clock. No Half Price into
the Gallery; nor any Places kept after the First Act.

No Liquor allowed to be taken into the Galleries.

All Tradesmen, are requested to observe, that the Concern, will not be answerable for
any goods, unless by the Order of Mrs. Rhodes.

LEEDS ARTS CENTRE

Coming shortly

SPECIAL JUBILEE PRODUCTION

"WHEN WE ARE MARRIED"

by J. B. Priestley

Directed by Nina Goldthorpe.

3rd to 7th MAY 1977

followed by our last play of the season:

"THE FIRST BORN" — a story of Moses.

by Christopher Fry.

Directed by Malcolm Brown.

28th JUNE to 2nd JULY 1977

NEXT SEASON

A list of our productions for the 1977/78 season will shortly be published. If you would like to receive a copy of this list together with details of our season ticket scheme please leave your name and address at the box office this evening or write to Mrs. Pam Wilson, 22 Becketts Park Drive, Headingley, Leeds LS6 3PB.

Richard Brinsley Butler Sheridan was born in Dublin in 1751, His father was a famous Irish actor-manager, his mother a playwright and popular novelist. He was educated at Harrow but in 1770 moved with his family to Bath, where he began to write short plays and verses and met a beautiful young singer, Elizabeth Linley. Two years later Miss Linley, seeking to escape the attentions of her violent suitor, Major Matthews, appealed to Sheridan to escort her to France; the flight became an elopement and ended in their betrothal, although Sheridan had to fight two duels with Matthews before they finally married in 1773.

The Rivals was Sheridan's first attempt to earn an income large enough to support himself and his wife, whom he would not allow to sing in public as she wished. The play first appeared at Covent Garden in January 1775 and, after some initial difficulties, achieved great success. He followed it the same year with a farce, *St. Patrick's Day*, and a highly popular comic opera, *The Duenna*. In 1776 he succeeded Garrick as manager (and later part-owner) of Drury Lane, where he repeated *The Rivals* and produced *A Trip to Scarborough*, an unsuccessful adaptation of Vanbrugh's *The Relapse*. His masterpiece, *The School for Scandal*, appeared in 1777 and his brilliant farce *The Critic* two years later.

From then on Sheridan effectively abandoned his career as a dramatist for that of a politician and quickly won renown as a witty and eloquent orator. His only other play, a tragedy called *Pizarro* in 1799, was a failure but although his later years were marred by financial troubles he rarely lost his spirited and cheerful manner and remained until his death in 1816 a jovial companion, charming and amusing in conversation, whose private fits of depression were unguessed at by most of his friends.

The Rivals remains our most amusing comment upon the social life of eighteenth century England. Sheridan drew his material from many sources — Captain Absolute's "stooping" to a humbler station may have been inspired by Goldsmith, the planned elopement and the duel probably owed something to his own experiences, Mrs. Malaprop certainly originated in an unfinished play by his mother — but above all he set out to make fun of the foibles and peculiarities of fashionable society, imbuing his charming caricatures with a generous share of his own wit and vitality.

New Members are always welcome so if you are interested in acting, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please write to:

*The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre,
Stansfeld Chambers, Great George Street,
Leeds 1.*

The Rivals:

Act First	Scene 1	A street in Bath
	2	A dressing room in Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings
Act Second	Scene 1	Captain Absolute's lodgings
	2	The North Parade
Act Third	Scene 1	The same
	2	Julia's dressing room
	3	Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings
	4	Acres' lodgings

I N T E R V A L

Act Fourth	Scene 1	Acres' lodgings
	2	Mrs. Malaprop's lodgings
	3	North Parade
Act Fifth	Scene 1	Julia's dressing room
	2	The South Parade
	3	King's — Mead — Fields

There will be one interval of twenty minutes during which the theatre bar will be open. Ice cream will be on sale in the auditorium and coffee will be available in the bar.

costume hire

You may not realise that the costumes you have seen tonight and countless others from different periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates.

If you are interested please telephone Leeds 756796 and discuss your requirements with Mrs. Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress.

Publicity photographs for this production were taken at Templenewsam House by **Anthony E Mitchell** with the kind permission of the Director, Leeds City Art Galleries.

Resident Stage Manager — Julia Piggott; **Lighting Technician** — Nick Morris
Theatre Manager — Fred Mower

The public may leave the Civic Theatre at the end of the performance by all exit and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open. All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any obstruction. The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before each performance to check that it is in proper working order.