

William Wycherly was born in 1641. At the age of fifteen, he was sent to France to join the précieux salon of Madame de Montausier at Angouleme, where he would meet many who were prominent in French life. Shortly before the restoration he returned to England. In 1659 he was admitted to the Inner Temple, London, and in 1660 he went to Queens College, Oxford. Wycherly's literary career began with occasional poems and the anonymous publication of HERO AND LEANDER IN BURLESQUE in 1669. His first two plays, LOVE IN A WOOD and THE GENTLEMAN DANCING-MASTER were first performed in 1671 and 1672. With the performances of THE COUNTRY WIFE in 1675 and THE PLAIN DEALER in 1676 he established himself as the leading writer of satirical comedy. Wycherly lived almost another forty years, but did not write another play. He died on New Year's Eve of 1715.

"There is a passion that hath no name; but the sign of it is that distortion of the countenance which we call laughter, which is always joy: but what joy, what we think, and wherein we triumph when we laugh, is not hitherto declared by any...Men laugh often, especially such as are greedy of applause from every thing they do well, at their own actions performed never so little beyond their own expectations; as also at their own jests: and in this case it is manifest, that the passion of laughter proceedeth from a sudden conception of some ability in himself that laugheth. Also men laugh at the infirmities of others, by comparison wherewith their own abilities are set off and illustrated. Also men laugh at jests, the wit whereof always consisteth in the elegant discovering and conveying to our minds some absurdity of another...I may therefore conclude, that the passion of laughter is nothing else but sudden glory arising from some sudden conception of some eminency in ourselves, by comparison with the infirmity of others...It is no wonder therefore that men take heinously to be laughed at or derided, that is, triumphed over."

— Thomas Hobbes, On Human Nature, 1650.

FURTHER READING:

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Alan Weldin, *scene shop manager*

* Deceased



THE COUNTRY WIFE

BY WILLIAM WYCHERLY

THE PENTHOUSE THEATRE

60TH SEASON

423RD PRODUCTION

APRIL 12- 23, 2000

CAST
(IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

HORNER
A QUACK
SIR JASPAR FIDGET
MY LADY FIDGET
MRS. DAINTY FIDGET
MR. HARCOURT
MR. DORILANT
MR. SPARKISH
MR. PINCHWIFE
MRS. MARGERY PINCHWIFE
MRS. ALITHIA
MRS SQUEAMISH
LUCY
OLD LADY SQUEAMISH

*JASON GINGOLD †**
*ROBYNE WALKER †**
*PETER BALKWILL †**
*KATHLEEN CLARKE †**
*MOLLY HALL †**
*MICHAEL LOPEZ †**
*MICHALE ESTRADA **
*BILL SMARTT †**
*JOEL McHALE †**
*MEGHAN WOLF †**
*LISA ROSETTA STRUM †**
*MARY ASHLEY †**
*COLLEEN RANEY **
JESSICA JORY

†In partial fulfillment of a Master of Fine Arts in Drama.
*Members of the Professional Actor Training Program.

THE COUNTRY WIFE

By WILLIAM WYCHERLY

DIRECTED BY
DREW BARR

SET DESIGN **Ross MacQuarriet**
COSTUME DESIGN **Tina George**
LIGHT DESIGN **Steve O'Shea**
COMPOSER **Gustav Brown**
SOUND DESIGNER **Dean Wilson**
TECH DIRECTOR **Bob Boehler**
STAGE MANAGER **Stormy Edwards**

ACT ONE

Horner's Lodging. Morning.

ACT TWO

Pinchwife's Lodging. Early Afternoon

ACT THREE

Scene One Pinchwife's Lodging. Morning.
Scene Two The New Exchange Night.

There will be one ten minute intermission.

ACT FOUR

Scene One Pinchwife's Lodging. Morning.
Scene Two Pinchwife's Lodging. Late Morning.
Scene Three Horner's Lodging. Afternoon.
Scene Four Pinchwife's Lodging. Late Afternoon

ACT FIVE

Scene One Pinchwife's Lodging. Evening.
Scene Two Horner's Lodging. Evening
Scene Three Piazza, Covent Garden. Night.
Scene Four Horner's Lodging. Night.

PRODUCTION STAFF

PROP MASTER **Alex Danilchik**
MASTER ELECTRICIAN **Nacho Bravo**
MASTER CARPENTER **Tristan Dalley**
LEAD PAINTER **Clay Satterfield**
SCENIC ARTISTS **Laura Jean Wickman, Ellen King**
SET CONSTRUCTION **Greg Glynn, Steve O'Shea, Kris Shaw, Matiss Sniedze, Tres Tracy, Jose Ulloa, Laura Jean Wickman, Kristin Zetterstrom**
COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW **Heidi Ganser, Christy Granquist, Norah Tullman-Kaltenbach, 211 Lab Students, 291 Lab Students**
RUNNING CREW **Chong Ahn, Matt Ahrens, Sam Balderas, Travis Bruggeman, Heather Hill, Molly Kastner, Erica Michels, Travis Sherwood, Tammie Starwich**
HOUSE MANAGER **Michael Thompson**
TICKETS **UW Arts Ticket Office**

SPECIAL THANKS: MALCOLM BROWN, DANA COX, KRISTIN HUBBARD, BRYAN LEEP, RAY DOOLEY, BARRY EDELSTEIN, MARY LOUISE GEIGER, NICHOLAS HYTNER, TIM KIRKMAN, STEPHANIE SKURA, LAURA WORTHEN