William Wycherly was born in 1641. At the age of fifteen, he was sent to France to join the precious 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."


FURTHER READING:
McAdam, E.L. Jr., and George Milne, JOHNSON’S DICTIONARY, A MODERN SELECTION, Pantheon, 1963.

THE COUNTRY WIFE
BY WILLIAM WYCHERLY

THE PENTHOUSE THEATRE
60TH SEASON
423RD PRODUCTION
APRIL 12–23, 2000

SCHOOL OF DRAMA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Sarah Nash Gates

FACULTY
Professors: Robert Dahlstrom, Steve Pearson, Barry Witham
Associate Professors: Mary Louise Geiger, Robyn Hunt, Mark Jenkins, William Forrester
Assistant Professors: Valerie Curtis-Newton, Odai Johnson, Shanga Parker, Tina Redd
Senior Lecturers: Mark Harrison, Judith Shahn
Lecturers: Tom Burke, Deborah Trout
Artist-in-Residence: Catherine Madden

PART-TIME FACULTY
Geoff Alm, Scott Hafso, Dale Merrill, Stephanie Skura, Scott Weldon

RETIRED, EMERITUS FACULTY AND FORMER PROGRAM HEADS

STAFF
Kris Bain, marketing and pr manager
Bob Boehler, stage technician
Nacho Bravo, master electrician
Malcolm Brown, stage technician
Sue Bruns, graduate programs
Alex Danilchik, stage technician
Josie Gardner, costume shop manager
Arlene Hamilton, administrator
Andrea Johnson, costumer
Cecile Kummerer, computer technician
Laurie L. Kunz, costumer
Scott Perkins, fiscal technician
Anne Stewart, general manager
Joanne Tall, secretary
Rebecca Traber, office assistant
Alan Weldin, scene shop manager

* Deceased
CAST (IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE)

HORNER
JASON GINGOLD†

A QUACK
ROBYNE WALKER†

SIR JASPER FIDGET
PETER BALKWILL†

MY LADY FIDGET
KATHLEEN CLARKE†

MRS. DAINTY FIDGET
MOLLY HALL†

MRS. DORILANT
MICHAEL LOPEZ†

MR. SPARKISH
MICHALE ESTRADA*

MR. PINCHWISE
BILL SMARTT†

MRS. MARGERY PINCHWISE
JOEL McHALE†

MRS. ALITHIA
MEGHAN WOLF†*

MRS SQUEAMISH
LISA ROSETTA STRUM†

LUCY
MARY ASHLEY†

OLD LADY SQUEAMISH
COLLEEN RANEY*

JESSICA JORY

THE COUNTRY WIFE
BY WILLIAM WYCHERLY

DIRECTED BY
DREW BARR

ROSS MACQUARIE

TINA GEORGE

STEVE O' SHEA

GUSTAV BROWN

DEAN WILSON

BOB BOEHLER

STORMY EDWARDS

SET DESIGN

LIGHT DESIGN

COMPOSER

SOUND DESIGNER

TECH DIRECTOR

STAGE MANAGER

Ross MacQuarrie
Tina George
Steve O’Shea
Gustav Brown
Dean Wilson
Bob Boehler
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, Mattis Sniedz
Tres Tracy, Jose Ulloa, Laura Jean Wickman, Kristin Zetterstrom

CONSTRUCTION CREW
Heidi Ganser, Christy Granquist, Norah Tullman-Kaltenbach, 211 Lab Students, 291 Lab Students

RUNNING CREW
Chong Ahn, Matt Ahrens
Sam Balderas, Travis Brugeman, 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 LEEF, RAY DOOLEY, BARRY EDELSTEIN, MARY LOUISE EGGER, NICHOLAS HITTNER, TIM KIRKMAN, STEPHANIE SKURA, LAURA WORTHEN