

The 'First Night'

When Goldsmith's first comedy, 'The Good-natured Man' was produced, it met with only moderate success. In 1771, however, he was wandering in the lanes of Hendon and Edgware 'studying jests' for his new comedy, and 'She Stoops to Conquer' was probably finished in that year.

There were two theatres to which Goldsmith might send his play—Drury Lane, managed by David Garrick, and Covent Garden, managed by George Colman the playwright. Goldsmith had a good opinion of Colman, so he sent the play to him, and then his difficulties began. Colman could not see its great merits and he thought it was not likely to be popular. Theatre-goers were few in number and regular in attendance, so that the taste of audiences was fairly well defined, and at this time their taste was for sentimental comedy—the genteel, moralising, pathetic plays to which Goldsmith took exception. Anything which was 'low' was condemned, and everything which was not thoroughly genteel was 'low'.

Now Goldsmith's new play contained much that was 'low' and nothing that was sentimental, so the manager hesitated and the author grew more and more anxious. In January, 1773 Goldsmith wrote to Colman begging for a decision, whereupon Colman returned the play with many adverse criticisms written on the manuscript. Much annoyed, Goldsmith sent the play to Garrick but almost immediately asked for it back because Dr. Johnson had persuaded Colman to give it a trial.

When the play was at last given to the public, poor Goldsmith did not venture to go near the theatre until a friend insisted that he might be needed. Instead of the hostility that they had expected, the author's friends found an enthusiastic audience around them; the play had won on its own merits.

Only twelve performances were possible, of which one was a royal 'command performance'. When it was revived in the following winter it was a great success—as it has been ever since.

THE INGLEWOOD DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENTS:

SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER OR, THE MISTAKES OF A NIGHT

-PRODUCED BY DAVID KATZ-



OLIVER GOLDSMITH

C A S T.

Mr. Hardcastle	Gerald Long
Mrs. Hardcastle	Doreen Long
Kate Hardcastle	Christina Lawry
Tony Lumpkin	Ben Corney
Marlow	Colin Hade
Hastings	John Smith
Constance	Anne Corney
Sir Charles Marlow	Alistair Nelson
Landlord (Old Stingo)	David Wicks

Servants:

Pimple	Christina Stachurski
Diggory	Tom Blundell
Roger	Gavin McLaughan
Oliver	Alan Spurdle

Shabby Fellows:

Tom Twist	Geoff Raddale
Dick Muggins	Terry Domkowski
Jack Slang	Barry Beckman
Little Aminidab	Neville Henry

S C E N E S.

An Old-fashioned House.
The "Three Pigeons Inn."
Up The Garden Path.

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There will be a short break between Acts 1 and 2 and the main interval between Acts 2 and 3.

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P R O D U C T I O N.

Stage Manager:	Ivonne Brown
Set Design:	Alan Stevenson
Set Construction & Decor:	Darcy Harrison David Ertel Alan Stevenson Terry Domkowski Bill Brown Gavin McLaughan Malcolm Nelson Carolyn Rowley Christina Stachurski
Wardrobe:	Beryl Rowley Val Hitchcock
Make-up:	Joan Ertel Ivonne Brown
Lighting:	Alan Scott
Sound:	Mary Beckman
Publicity:	Heather Harrison
Posters & Signs:	Loris Drake
Photographs:	Stan Long
Front of House:	Verna Froggert and Members.

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THEATRE SOCIETY