

## AUDITION NOTICE

# *The* Rivals

by Richard Brinsley Sheridan



### PLAY READING

Tuesday 22 November 2022, 8pm in the Studio

### AUDITIONS

Sunday 4 December 2022, 2pm in the Theatre

### FIRST REHEARSAL

Wednesday 25 January 2023

### PERFORMANCES

Thursday 23 March – Saturday 1 April 2023, 8pm

Matinee on Saturday 1 April 2023, 2.30pm

### DIRECTOR

**Tony Richardson** tony.richardson9@btopenworld.com 01737 768254/07480 331906

### PA

**Steve Bishop** skrb@waldini.org 07734 037756

Scripts and audition pieces available from Director (Please make sure you name the character(s) you wish to audition for so the correct sheets can be sent to you.)

One of the best-known 18th century comedies of manners, Sheridan's first play, and still his most popular. Lydia Languish, a young woman from a good family, holds to an impossible romantic ideal of love, and resolves only to marry a pauper. So Jack Absolute pretends to be a poor soldier in order to win her hand. Meanwhile, Jack's father is attempting to procure the match through the proper channel of Lydia's guardian, and Jack becomes a rival to himself, before he is finally challenged to duels by rival suitors in both his identities...

### CAST DESCRIPTIONS:

#### SIR ANTHONY ABSOLUTE

Irascible father of Captain Absolute, strong willed, old fashioned, fixed opinions. Plagued by gout - which is why he has come to Bath. Quick tempered, although he believes himself to be mild mannered - so long as everyone agrees with him. In cahoots with Mrs Malaprop. (50s to 60s).

#### Audition pieces:

Sheet 4. Sir Anthony & Mrs Malaprop

Sheet 6. Sir Anthony & Captain Absolute

## **CAPTAIN JACK ABSOLUTE**

Dashing young blade. Called Jack by his father, trying to win over Lydia by disguising himself as a penniless ensign called Beverley. He's on a recruiting drive for the army, which he's been in since he was twelve. His subterfuge creates a multitude of problems. (late 20s to late 30s)

**Audition pieces:** (only 2 may be used but be familiar with them all)

Sheet 5. Captain Absolute & Faulkland

Sheet 6. Captain Absolute & Sir Anthony

Sheet 8. Captain Absolute & Mrs Malaprop

Sheet 9. Captain Absolute & Lydia

## **FAULKLAND**

Sentimental friend of Jack Absolute, pretty indecisive and insecure. Although he loves Julia he's not sure of her regard for him, especially as she was betrothed to him by her father after he 'rescued' her in a boating incident. He continuously blows hot and cold about his relationship with her. (late 20s to late 30s)

**Audition pieces:**

Sheet 5. Faulkland & Captain Absolute

Sheet 7. Faulkland & Julia

## **BOB ACRES**

A Devon Squire, friends of Faulkland and Jack Absolute. He is seeking to gain a position in society through marriage, setting his sights on Lydia Languish. He is not wise to the ways of society so is attempting to gain the required trappings, rather clumsily. Unwillingly and fearfully led into fighting a duel by Sir Lucius O' Trigger. (30s to 40s plus)

**Audition pieces:** (be familiar with both sheets)

Sheet 11. Acres & Sir Lucius

(Sheet 10. Acres & David – may not be needed)

## **SIR LUCIUS O'TRIGGER**

Irish landed gentry but on hard times so seeking to boost his fortunes through marriage. Lydia's £30 000 will do nicely. He is secretly writing to Lydia, however it's actually Mrs Malaprop (using the non-de-plume Celia/Delia) A chancer and quick to use a situation, he takes great delight in 'using' Bob Acres! (30s to 40s plus)

**Audition pieces:**

Sheet 11. Sir Lucius & Acres

## **MRS MALAPROP**

Aunt and minder to Lydia Languish and her fortune. A lady with definite opinions, overreaching pretensions and an ability to use totally the wrong word, often with the totally opposite meaning. She wants Lydia to marry a good name and a decent fortune. Meanwhile she is playing Sir Lucius Trigger by intercepting his letters to Lydia and replying to him under the 'non-de-plume' Delia. (50s-60s)

**Audition pieces:**

Sheet 4. Mrs Malaprop & Sir Anthony

Sheet 8. Mrs Malaprop & Sir Anthony

## LYDIA LANGUISH

In Bath with her aunt Mrs Malaprop for the season. All suitors are unsuitable. Lydia is full of the new reading fashion of sentimental novels and has a strong desire to be wed 'romantically' and not for her money. The man she believes fits this role is Ensign Beverley. Though underneath this masquerade she can be cunning and forthright when she wants to be! ( 20s - early 30s)

### **Audition pieces:**

Sheet 3. Lydia & Julia

Sheet 9: Lydia & Captain Absolute

## JULIA MELVILLE

Close friend to Lydia and probably the most level headed. She is a ward of Sir Anthony and betrothed to Faulkland. He rescued her after a boating accident and her father decided on the betrothal. She is reasonably certain of her love for him, but he is constantly indecisive. (20s - early 30s)

### **Audition pieces:**

Sheet 3. Julia & Lydia

Sheet 7. Julia & Faulkland

## LUCY

Lydia Languishes servant and go between. Lucy feels that there is money to be made from this situation. There's not much loyalty to her mistress due to the way she's treated. She will be introducing and closing the play with a prologue and an epilogue (20s into 30s plus)

### **Audition pieces:**

Sheet 1. Prologue & Act 1 Sc.2

## FAG

A servant to Captain Absolute/ Ensign Beverley, party to the subterfuge being played by Jack and assists in passing on information. Helps to raise the alarm when things get out of hand.

### **Audition pieces:**

Sheet 2: Fag & Coachman

## DAVID

An outspoken servant to Bob Acres, tries to point out the dangers of duelling to his master and helps to raise the alarm when things get out of hand.

### **Audition pieces:**

Sheet 10. David & Acres

## COACHMAN

Coachman to Sir Anthony and used to establish both characters and situations in the first scene. They will also play one of the servants, see below.

### **Audition pieces:**

Sheet 2. Coachman & Fag

**MAIDS & SERVANTS TO ALL HOUSEHOLDS** - There are a number of individual lines for these characters as well as the very important role of helping to keep up the pace of the play by setting up each scene change.