

**CHEEK
BY
JOWL**



THE COUNTRY WIFE was performed for the first time in London in 1674/5. An instant success with the aristocratic audience for whom it was written, it is now generally considered the first, indeed one of the few, masterpieces of English Restoration Comedy.

The new comedy satirised the new morality; sexual liasons on either side of the matrimonial blanket were treated with a lack of sentimentality which alarmed future generations: THE COUNTRY WIFE was never played in its unexpurgated form until 1924.

CHEEK BY JOWL is a new theatre company formed after a highly successful production of 'Tis Pity She's a Whore' in London earlier this year. Our primary aim is to tour classics to smaller venues, and this year 'The Country Wife' will visit many venues throughout England and Scotland.

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:-

Homer: Kevin Burke
Doctor: Nigel Leach
Sir Jasper Fidget: Caroline Swift
Lady Fidget, his wife: Jane Maud
Mistress Squeamish, her sister: Michael Irwin
Harcourt, friend to Homer: Michael Irwin
Sparkish, betrothed to Alithea: Nigel Leach
Pinchwife, a jealous husband: Simon Needs
Margery, his new country wife: Jane Maud

Other parts played by the company

Director: Declan Donnellan
Designer: Nick Ormerod
Company Stage Manager: Caroline Donnellan
Lighting: David Atkinson

KEVIN BURKE. After leaving Durham University, Kevin entered the profession via a national tour of ALICE IN WONDERLAND with the Travelling Players Theatre for Children. He then went to Great Eastern Stage at Lincoln

before working for eighteen months in the North-East, touring extensively in Durham, Newcastle, Northumberland and Carlisle, He has most recently worked with the Court Theatre Company in London in David Edgar's BLOODSPORTS, and is soon to be seen in an episode of MINDER for Euston films.

DECLAN DONNELLAN has worked at the Thorndike Theatre, Leatherhead, and at English National Opera North. He has directed plays at the King's Head, the Old Half Moon and elsewhere on the London Fringe and has devised improvised plays for the Young Activists at the Royal Court,

MICHAEL IRWIN trained at L.A.M.D.A. This is his second production with Cheek By Jowl as he played Vasques in 'Tis Pity She's a Whore' earlier this year. As well as appearances at Bristol Old Vic, (including PROVOK'D WIFE), Glasgow Citizen's, Ken Campbell's THE WARP, weekly rep and London fringe, appearances include Konstantin in THE SEAGULL, MARAT/SADE, HENRY IV, 6 CHARACTERS, WOYZECK, KABUKI and musicals. His last job was as John the Baptist/Judas in GODSPELL for Perth rep.

NIGEL LEACH was originally trained as a stage designer: he then studied as an actor at R.A.D.A., which he left last August. Since then he has appeared in KING LEAR and DESIGN for LIVING at the Northcott, Exeter., 'TIS PITY SHE'S A WHORE for Cheek By Jowl, as well as other London fringe productions. He also played Strephon in the recent BBC film about Jonathan Swift, NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN.

JANE MAUD did a degree in Arts at Essex University then a postgraduate acting course at Mountview Theatre School. She has worked with Live Theatre Company, Newcastle, Brighton Actor's Workshop, and for two seasons at the Duke's Theatre, Lancaster, where she played in KING LEAR, EQUUS, KENNEDY'S CHILDREN, PRIVATE LIVES, THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST, and A DOLL'S HOUSE among others. Film experience includes MIXED DOUBLES by Martin Amis.

SIMON NEEDS trained at L.A.M.D.A. Repertory seasons include Worcester, Oldham, Glasgow, Liverpool Playhouse, Edinburgh Lyceum. London appearances include the Royalty Theatre,

Sadler's Wells, Theatrespace, the Gate Theatre. Television credits include the lead in a documentary on Pierre Bonnard, SECRET ARMY, A TALE OF TWO CITIES, BLOOD MONEY, JOHN KEATS.

NICK ORMEROD trained at Wimbledon School of Art. He was Assistant Designer at the Lyceum, Edinburgh, since when he has been working in London. His work includes ROBERT LE DIABLE at Nottingham University and THE SOLDIERS TALE for the London Sinfonietta. Future plans include BECOMING by Anton Gill at the Nottingham Playhouse.

CAROLINE SWIFT after taking a drama degree at Bristol University, completed her training at the Drama Studio in 1977. Since then she has worked with Spectrum Theatre Company touring schools, in two lunchtime productions at the Elephant Theatre, a rock revue, and FUNERAL GAMES by Joe Orton, on tour with RING AROUND THE MOON, with Bristol Express Theatre Company at the 1980 Edinburgh Festival in SUDDENLY LAST SUMMER and revue, and in rep at Hornchurch, Colchester, Cheltenham and Exeter.

Original music composed by CAROLINE DONNELLAN and NIGEL LEACH, and played by CAROLINE SWIFT, KEVIN BURKE and the Company.

Musical Adviser, CATHERINE JAYES.

Set built by KEVIN PEACOCK.

Head-dresses by JOHN BROOKING.

Special thanks to John Scott Moncrieff, Ann Hubbard, L.A.M.D.A. Workshops.

Costumes by ELAINE COCKERILL

Stage Management: DAVID ATKINSON, CAROLINE DONNELLAN

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