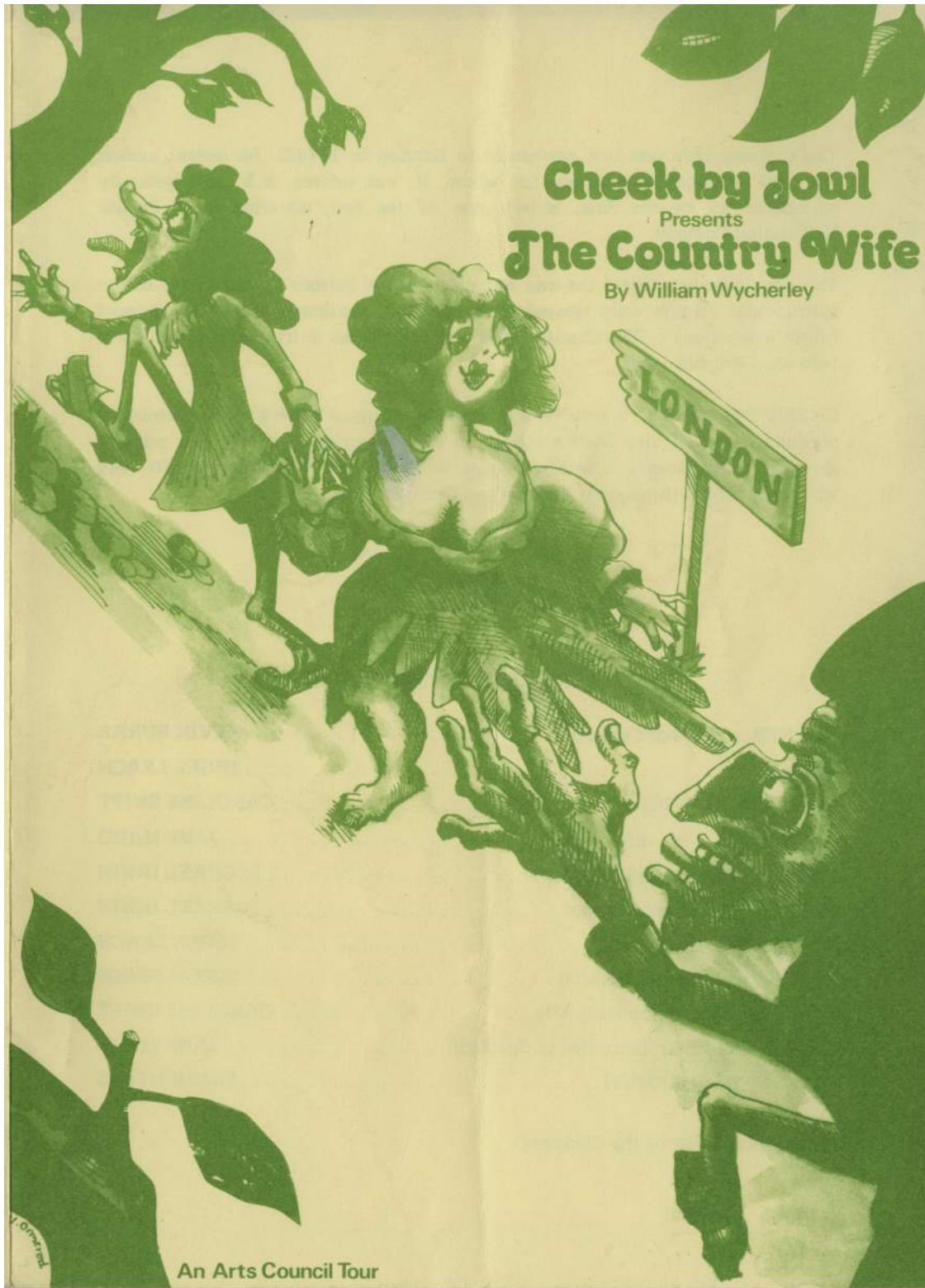


**Cheek by Jowl**  
Presents  
**The Country Wife**  
By William Wycherley



An Arts Council Tour

London

The Country Wife was first performed in London in 1674/5. An instant success with the aristocratic audience for whom it was written, it is now generally considered to be the first, indeed one of the few, masterpieces of English Restoration Comedy.

The new comedy satirised the new morality : sexual liaisons on either side of the matrimonial blanket were treated with a lack of sentimentality which alarmed future generations : 'The Country Wife' was not played in its unexpurgated form between 1700 and 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

HORNER, a pretended eunuch . . . . .	KEVIN BURKE
A DOCTOR . . . . .	NIGEL LEACH
SIR JASPAR FIDGET . . . . .	CAROLINE SWIFT
LADY FIDGET, his wife . . . . .	JANE MAUD
MISTRESS SQUEAMISH, her sister . . . . .	MICHAEL IRWIN
HARCOURT, friend to Horner . . . . .	MICHAEL IRWIN
SPARKISH, a wit . . . . .	NIGEL LEACH
PINCHWIFE, a jealous husband . . . . .	SIMON NEEDS
MARGERY, his new country wife . . . . .	CAROLINE SWIFT
ALITHEA, his sister, betrothed to Sparkish . . . . .	JANE MAUD
OLD LADY SQUEAMISH . . . . .	SIMON NEEDS

Other parts played by the Company

Director . . . . .DECLAN DONNELLAN  
Designer . . . . .NICK ORMEROD  
Company Stage Manager . . . . .CAROLINE DONNELLAN  
Technical Director . . . . .NEIL BURROWS

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 . . . . .JOHN BROOKING  
Costumes by . . . . .ELAINE COCKERILL and ANN HUBBARD  
Administration . . . . .RHOMBUS PRODUCTION SERVICES

Our special thanks to John Scott Moncrieff and L.A.M.D.A. workshops



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 Art 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 Playhouse, 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, and 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 SOLDIER'S 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 ROUND 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.

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