

ST JOHN'S PLAYERS
present
SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER
by Oliver Goldsmith

The entire action takes place in a small village
in the North of England.

ACT I

- Scene One:* A living room in the Hardcastle country house — late afternoon.
Scene Two: The garden of the Three Pigeons Inn — shortly thereafter.

ACT II

The Hardcastle living room — a half-hour later.
(INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES)

ACT III

The same — about an hour afterwards.

ACT IV

The same — a further hour has elapsed.
(INTERVAL OF 10 MINUTES)

ACT V

- Scene One:* The same — some two hours later.
Scene Two: The Hardcastle grounds — shortly after.
Scene Three: The living room — immediately following.

TIME A fine Spring evening in 1773

THE PLAYWRIGHT

OLIVER GOLDSMITH was born in Ireland in 1728. He graduated from Trinity College, studied medicine at Edinburgh and took a medical degree at Leyden. His poem *The Traveller*, called by Johnson the best verse since Pope, commemorates his wanderings through Europe as a flautist and ballad-singer.

In 1756 he reached London in destitution and made a precarious living as an usher, physician and literary hack. By 1766 he had published his novel *The Vicar of Wakefield* and had been made a member of the famous Literary Club.

Goldsmith was small and ungainly and his face was pitifully marked by the ravages of small-pox. Although desperately shy among people of fashion, he was gay and sprightly in tavern company. This split in his personality is projected in the character of Young Marlow in the play.

In 1773 *She Stoops to Conquer*, was performed at Covent Garden with immense success. Within a year he was dead.

During his short prosperity he was sponged upon by hordes of his tavern cronies, his health declined as his debts increased, and he died in misery and loneliness at the age of 45.

AND THE PLAY

In a reaction to the immorality of the Restoration stage the 18th Century saw the comedy of sentiment, with its refined language, its weeping heroines and high-minded heroes.

Goldsmith set out to recover the spirit of the Restoration comedy without its profanity. With *She Stoops to Conquer* he not only achieved this, but gave to the English stage a play ranking second only to the great comedies of Shakespeare and Sheridan.

The title is taken from a line of Dryden's and the plot from an incident in Goldsmith's own youth. On his way home from school he was directed to the house of the local squire as an inn. Here he assumed the grand manner and invited the supposed landlord, his wife and daughter to a bottle in the supper-room.

Goldsmith uses the weapons of fun and ridicule to debunk the mannered affectations of sentimental comedy. The reserved and bashful Marlow is contrasted to the witty, self-assured Kate and the feminine common-sense of Miss Neville with the sentimental gesturing of Hastings. Mrs. Hardcastle has absurd pretensions to fashion while her husband lives perpetually in the past. And Tony Lumpkin, a true descendant of Falstaff, is the personification of the play's robust humour.

She Stoops to Conquer presents no moral nor philosophy; with its comic servants and its tavern brawlers it is far from genteel: it is an entertainment. And it is our hope that you will find it as entertaining in 1966 as the "exhilarated audience" of its first night found it two hundred years ago.

Jack Newby

CAST

(In order of appearance)

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Mr. Hardcastle | <i>Tom Ormanroyd</i> |
| Mrs. Hardcastle | <i>Brenda Davies</i> |
| Miss Kate Hardcastle | <i>Sara Tunnickliffe</i> |
| Tony Lumpkin | <i>Leslie Rhodes</i> |
| Miss Constance Neville | <i>Fiona Saint</i> |
| Landlord | <i>Graham Hunt</i> |
| 1st Fellow | <i>Barry Juxon</i> |
| 2nd Fellow | <i>Neale Scott</i> |
| 3rd Fellow | <i>John Marshall</i> |
| 1st Crony | <i>Ian Bower</i> |
| 2nd Crony | <i>Keith Robinson</i> |
| Bet Bouncer | <i>Valerie Phillips</i> |
| Hastings | <i>Philip Cowood</i> |
| Marlow | <i>David Prosser</i> |
| Roger | <i>John Walters</i> |
| Diggory | <i>Norman Daniels</i> |
| 1st Servant | <i>Gwyn Williams</i> |
| 2nd Servant | <i>Kit Grafton</i> |
| Servant | <i>Ralph Quarton</i> |
| Pimple | <i>Doreen Clarke</i> |
| Jeremy .. | <i>Peter Langtree</i> |
| Sir Charles Marlow | <i>Douglas Harwood</i> |

The Play Produced by

JACK NEWBY

THE STAGE

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Stage Manager</i> | Paul Turner |
| <i>Set Construction</i> | Keith Robinson |
| <i>Decor</i> | Graham Hunt |
| <i>Lighting</i> | Brian Leonard |
| <i>Wardrobe</i> | Elaine Ball |
| <i>Properties</i> | Edith Hamriding Robina Coveney |
| <i>Prompter</i> | Betty Geary |
| <i>Assistant Stage Manager</i> | Peter Langtree |

BUSINESS

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Business Manager</i> | Norman Martin |
| <i>Publicity</i> | Ron Ion |
| <i>House Manager</i> | Ralph McNaught |
| <i>Programme Cover Motif</i> | Tom Briggs |
| <i>Photographs</i> | Paddy Neely |

Music arranged and recorded by
Frank Wood

The Play performed in St. John's School,
SINGAPORE,
at 8 p.m. on 24th, 25th & 26th March 1966.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We wish to thank:

The Stage Club for certain properties and costume

The Scene-shifters for loan of costume

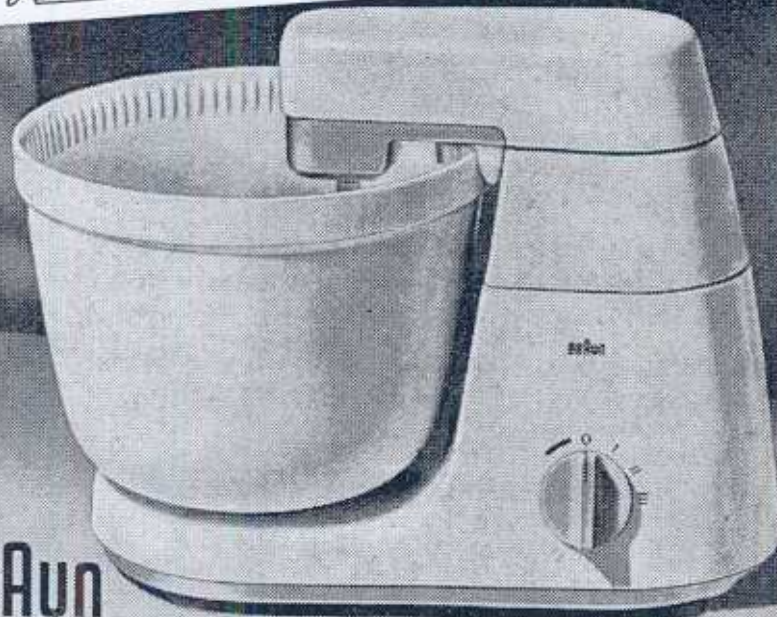
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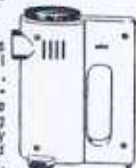
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By
Oliver Goldsmith