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Charley’s Aunt

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Taylor Theatre Presents

Charley’s Aunt

by Brandon Thomas

April 29-May 1, May 5-8, 1993
Little Theatre
Taylor University
From the Director
The reputations of many comic playwrights such as Moliere, Sheridan and Wilde were firmly established by their production of a large body of work. Brandon Thomas's reputation rests on one extraordinary script written a hundred years ago. Thomas successfully combines the attributes of sentimental comedy with the style of Oscar Wilde. He then creates a plot which contains many of the ingredients of farce built on a hilarious sequence of improbable possibilities. The result is Charley's Aunt, a world famous farcical comedy which has been done repeatedly on the professional and amateur stages of the world and has found its way to the motion picture screen more than once during the last one hundred years.

How can we account for the power of Charley's Aunt, for the power of comic theatre? Isn't comedy--especially farce--merely an escapist diversion, a vastly inferior dramatic genre? Isn't our taste for it prompted by the desire to turn off our intellects in favor of being entertained?

Critics and aestheticians have long pondered these questions. Here are some of their thoughts on the nature of comedy:

"The pleasure caused by laughter, even on the stage, is not an unadulterated enjoyment; it is not a pleasure that is exclusively esthetic or altogether disinterested. It always implies a secret or unconscious intent, if not of each one of us, at all events of society as a whole. In laughter we always find an unavowed intention to humiliate and consequently to correct our neighbor, if not in his will, at least in his deed."

--Henri Bergson

"Comedy is an escape, not from truth but from despair: a narrow escape into faith. It believes in a universal course for delight, even though knowledge of the course is always twitched away from under us which leaves us to rest on its own buoyancy. In tragedy every moment is eternity; in comedy eternity is a moment. In tragedy we suffer pain; in comedy pain is a fool, suffered gladly."

--Christopher Fry

"This human life-feeling is the essence of comedy. It is at once religious and ribald, knowing and defiant, social and freakishly individual. The illusion of life which the comic poet creates is the oncoming future fraught with dangers and opportunities, that is with physical or social events occurring by chance and building up the coincidences with which individuals cope according to their lights.

--Susanne K. Langer

Charley's Aunt
Directed by Dr. Jessica Rousselow
Designed by Dr. Oliver Hubbard

CAST (in order of appearance)

Jack Chesney......................... Matthew Minnes
Brassett.................. Nathan Smith
Charley Wykehahm.............. Steven Roggenbaum
Lord Fancourt Babberly........... *Jason Welch
Kitty Verdun.................*Karen Stafford
Amy Spettigue.................. *Kristin Wolgemuth
Col. Sir Francis Chesney, Bart... Bryan Parris
Stephen Spettigue............. Stefan Koch
Donna Lucia D'Alvadorez......... *Sandy Walker
Ela Delahay...................*Wendy Loney

Commenoration Week, Oxford, 1892

ACT I
Jack Chesney's Rooms in College. Morning.
"When pious frauds--are dispensations."- Hudibras

ACT II
Jack Chesney's Rooms. Afternoon.
"While there's tea there's hope." --Pinero

ACT III
Drawing Room at Spettigue's House. Evening.
"Dinner lubricates business." --Boswell

There will be a fifteen-minute intermission
between Act II and Act III
Act III Running Time: 30 minutes

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Our special thanks to Mrs. Madge Gaff; Mrs. Bertha Bir and Marion Civic Theatre for help with costuming; Mr. Brian Holtzleiter for the use of his piano and Mr. Harry Yeakle, and Mr. James Turner for their help in securing it; Jimmy's Used Furniture Store, 14th and South Adams Street, Marion, for furniture items used on the set, which are also available for purchase.

******************************************************
A Communication Arts Department Production
Thanks for your support--see you next season!
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As a courtesy to the actors, please do not use cameras during the performance.
PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director........... Dr. Oliver Hubbard
Assistants to the Director....... *Lisa Angerer
                                 *Holly Gaff

Set Crew.................... *JASON WELCH
                            Colette Camp
                            *Peter Marshall
                            Bryan Parris

Light Crew................... TIM DIXON
                            Bill Cuttino
                            Kim Abbott
                            Ronda Yoder

Audio Technician.................. Erik Hotmire

Make-up........................ KIM SPRAGG
                             *Peter Marshall
                             Amy Brailey
                             *Shelly Dudelston
                             Jena Habegger
                             *DeAnn Ludeker
                             Heidi Oakley
                             Alex Patterson
                             Jennifer Reese
                             *Chris Thornton
                             Mary Van Veldhuizen

Properties.................... *KRISTIN WOLGEMUTH
                             Amy Phillips*
                             Connie Schneeberger
                             Camilla Swain
                             Tim McDaniel
                             Derrick Sanford
                             *Tricia Cable
                             Rebecca Grandi
                             Sarah Nieman
                             Matt Widdoes

Costumes.................... *DANIELLE BEAUCHAINE
                             APRIL HUNTER
                             Valerie Nielsen
                             Jeff Penn
                             Jennifer Reese
                             Lisa Rozema
                             Lori Savage
                             *Tina Corner
                             Colette Camp
                             Hugh Hamilton
                             Heather McCready

House............................ SHARON HONG
                               Rachel Bell
                               *Tricia Cable
                               Kelly Klopfenstein
                               Abby Nelson
                               Jeff Penn
                               Lisa Rozema
                               Eric Tower
                               *Tina Corner
                               Marc Curless
                               Tracey Doude
                               Alesa Galvin
                               Jennifer Giese

Cover Design.................. Laura Bernd

*Alpha Psi Omega Membership