

USC School of Dramatic Arts
Bing Theatre
February 23–26, 2017



**THE
RIVALS**

**BY RICHARD
BRINSLEY SHERIDAN**

USC School of Dramatic Arts

PRESENTS

THE RIVALS

By Richard Brinsley Sheridan

WITH (in alphabetical order)

Gabriela Bonet Isadora Lee Eric Yamil Cruz

Lisa Ermel Shaun Heard Gogo Ivanovski

Michael Khachanov Wonjung Kim Richard James O'Young

Alyona Podkolzina Adrian Ramos

SCENIC DESIGN

Kaitlin Chang

COSTUME DESIGN

Howard Schmitt

LIGHTING DESIGN

Justus Bradshaw

STAGE MANAGER

Iman Khan

DIRECTED BY

Andy Robinson

Bing Theatre
February 23–26, 2017

CAST OF CHARACTERS

(in order of appearance)

Fag

Wonjung Kim

Thomas/David

Adrian Ramos

Lucy

Lisa Ermel

Lydia Languish

Alyona Podkolzina

Julia

Gabriela Bonet

Mrs. Malaprop

Isadora Lee

Sir Anthony Absolute

Shaun Heard

Captain Absolute

Michael Khachanov

Faulkland

Eric Yamil Cruz

Bob Acres

Richard James O'Young

Sir Lucius O'Trigger

Gogo Ivanovski

TIME: Summer, 1775

PLACE: Bath, England

There will be one 10-minute intermission.

PRODUCTION STAFF

VOCAL COACH Lauren Murphy | HAIR & MAKE-UP DESIGN Gary Domasin
FIGHT CHOREOGRAPHY Edgar Landa | ASST. DIRECTOR Kyla Ledes
ASST. STAGE MANAGER Tova Korman | ASST. SCENIC DESIGN Anhthiu Kieu
CREW Marisa Caddick, Aliyah Christian, Marissa Dubowy, Jack Eletto,
Lucy Grebin, Sarah Hahm, Abby Hilden, Kiana Lasko, Kimberly Mejia,
Patrick Olsen, Gabriella Tranchina

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

When Richard Brinsley Sheridan's comedy, *The Rivals*, was first performed it was received poorly, which usually buried a play in 1775 London. Sheridan, however, took note of the criticisms and in 11 days rewrote the play and gave it a second performance to glowing reviews. He was a young man on the make in a theatre scene where only the sharpest wit and language survived an audience easily diverted by their own witty conversation, and his first play reflects this ambitious and contending energy.

The Rivals is a perfect title for a play that depicts rivalries of various shapes and levels. There's the obvious rivalry of the suitors sniffing around the beautiful and wealthy Lydia Languish, the odd rivalry of Ensign Beverley and Captain Absolute (the same person) that sets off the action of the play, and the rivalry that leads to dueling with swords and pistols.

On a deeper level, the rivalry is between men and women. This was a patriarchal society, and women were often used as pawns and bargaining chips, subject to the marriage contracts drawn up by their keepers. Listen to how the rivalries of the two young couples — Lydia and Captain Absolute, Faulkland and Julia — play out.

And on an even deeper level there's a rivalry within each character. For me, this inner dynamic is what makes the play worth revisiting, and it is most clearly and agonizingly expressed in the character of Faulkland who struggles between his true feelings for Julia and loyalty to the conventions of male prerogative. But it's the character of Mrs. Malaprop that may be the most ingenious rendering of an inner rivalry. Each of her "malapropisms" (yes, the word comes from this character) reflects the tension between what she wants to say and the seemingly inappropriate word she chooses to say it. Every one of her malapropisms reveals a deeper meaning; it's almost as if they were escape valves for her subtext.

Please lend your ear to this play. It still has a lot to say about us.

DIRECTOR'S BIO

Andy Robinson, a Professor of Theatre Practice in the School of Dramatic Arts, is a graduate of The New School for Social Research and a Fulbright Scholar to the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts. He has worked as an actor and director in theatre, film, and TV for over 50 years. In 2004, Andy was asked to create the current USC MFA actor-training program. His theatre memoir, *Stepping Into the Light: Sources of an Actor's Craft*, was recently published by Figueroa Press.

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USC School of Dramatic Arts *2016/17 Season of Plays*

A Lie of the Mind

By Sam Shepard
Directed by Alan Freeman
SDT Sept 29 — Oct 2, 2016

Mockingbird

By Julie Jensen
Directed by Andi Chapman
MT Sept 29 — Oct 2, 2016

A Midsummer Night's Dream

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Jeanette Harrison
BT Oct 6-9, 2016

Escape from Happiness

By George F. Walker
Directed by Christopher Shaw
SDT Oct 20-23, 2016

Side Show

Book and Lyrics by Bill Russell
Music and Lyrics by Henry Krieger
Directed by VP Boyle
MT Oct 27-30, 2016

Romeo and Juliet

By William Shakespeare
Directed by Kelly Ward
BT Nov 3-6, 2016

Magnolia

By Regina Taylor
Directed by Khanisha Foster
MT Nov 17-20, 2016

Middletown

By Will Eno
Directed by Andrei Belgrader
SDT Nov 17-20, 2016

MFA Acting Repertory

SDT Feb 3-Mar 5, 2017

Uncle Vanya

By Anton Chekhov
Translated by Sharon Marie Carnicke
Directed by Gregg T. Daniel

Angels in America, Part One: Millennium Approaches

By Tony Kushner
Directed by John Rubinstein

Antigone X

By Paula Cizmar
Based on the play by Sophocles
Directed by Anita Dashiell-Sparks

The Rivals

By Richard Brinsley Sheridan
Directed by Andy Robinson
BT Feb 23-26, 2017

The Kentucky Cycle

By Robert Schenkkan
Directed by Stephanie Shroyer
MT Mar 2-7, 2017

Facing Our Truth: Ten Minute Plays on Trayvon, Race and Privilege

By A. Rey Pamatmat, Dan O'Brien, Dominique Morisseau, Mona Mansour, Winter Miller, Marcus Gardley, Tala Manassah, Quetzal Flores
Directed by Shirley Jo Finney
SDT March 30-April 2, 2017

Evita

Lyrics by Tim Rice
Music by Andrew Lloyd Webber
Directed by Tim Dang
BT March 30- April 9, 2017

Mr. Burns, a post-electric play

By Anne Washburn
Score by Michael Friedman
Lyrics by Anne Washburn
Directed by John DeMita
SDT April 20-23, 2017

Spring Awakening

By Frank Wedekind
Translated by Edward Bond
Directed by Laura Flanagan
MT April 20-23, 2017

New Works Festivals

YEAR 1

New Play Readings

Parkside International Residential College, Room 1016 | May 1, 2017

YEAR 2

Playwrights Workshop

Massman Theatre
Apr 7-23, 2017

YEAR 3

Play Project

Carrie Hamilton Theatre at The Pasadena Playhouse
May 19-20, 2017

KEY: **SDT** = Scene Dock Theatre **BT** = Bing Theatre **MT** = McClintock Theatre

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General \$10, Seniors or Faculty/Staff \$8, Students \$5

MUSICALS: General \$15, Seniors or Faculty/Staff \$10, Students \$6

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