

School Plays 1960-64

1960 Tom Sawyer



After last year's highly successful production of a serious play (The Queen and the Rebels) this year's light-hearted double was a refreshing change. The junior members of the school gave a delightful performance of a Musical Comedy - Tom Sawyer. The story is simply one of two discontented schoolboys who run away to an island and meet Huckleberry Finn. The boys return to find that a memorial service is being held for them in the village church, and rejoicing follows as two of them are reconciled with their friends.

There was a great variety of scenes and Mr Burnell must be congratulated on his effective settings. The music was directed by Miss Evans and she too is to be congratulated on the high standard achieved in this musical venture. Peter Marsh played the mischievous Tom Sawyer, and full of self-confidence, he delighted the audience, especially with his typical schoolboy expressions and accent of the deep south. He was aided and abetted in his mischief by David Orange (Huckleberry Finn) and Stephen Moody (Joe Harper). The impishness of these characters, together with their colourful costumes, helped to make the production go with a swing. The fight between Tom and Willie Mufferson, the new boy (Richard Baxendale), was perfectly timed and the absence of bruised eyes was remarkable. Tom was well supported by his friends from the village who were played by Paul Orange, John Heyes, Keith Shelley, Colin Yoxall, Geoffrey Wright, Stephen Ellis, H. Brook, Susan Ash, Christine Longfield, Susan Taylor, Kathleen Brown, Janice Hanwell

and Margaret Beaumont. The voice of Susan Ashmole (Aunt Polly) was sweet, pleasing and clear, and with Jean Bentley (Miss Harper) she was angry and sorrowful as the occasion demanded. The schoolmaster and the minister were played well by Linda Deacon and Raymond Dyson. Jacqueline Scott, Celia Brunt, Margaret Wigham, Ruth Horn, Susan Holder, Kathleen Appleton, Rita Sykes, Kathleen Lowe and Denise Sell played the village women and choristers.



The future for school productions appears to be very bright, for these promising actors and actresses are in the junior school and many were appearing on the stage for the first time.

1960 The Man Who Married a Dumb Wife



Produced by Mr. Kennedy (photo)

The seniors lived up to their reputation with a really humorous play excellently performed. The production was a presentation of a medieval French farce by Anatole France, which had been adapted by Ashley Dukes. It is the tale of a judge who married a dumb wife. After hiring a physician to loosen her tongue he quails at the torrent of words when she is able to speak and in order to find peace again, he has himself deafened. The humour of the play is obvious and the actors made the most of the dialogue. As Botal the judge, Peter Kaye gave a remarkable performance. He played for the laughs and even when he was silent his gestures and expressions (and his orange tights) got them for him. He really got inside his part and showed what an accomplished actor he is. He was

well supported by his wife Catherine (Theresa Cosgrove) and her torrent of words in Act II. Her portrayal of the wife, though a difficult part, was brilliant. Alan Lascelles was excellent in another difficult part as Master Adam Fumée, the scheming barrister, who hopes to marry Mademoiselle de la Grandiere, an orphan, who was played by Patricia Snow. Colline the physician (Peter Dickens); Maugier, the surgeon (Terence Donohue) and Dulaurier (Wray Vamplew) comprise a sinister trio who, in addition to restoring speech, can ensure deafness. Good performances were also given by Keith Twigg (Boiscourtier, the secretary to the judge) and Vivienne Toft (Alizon, a maidservant). The whole performance was very polished.



Special mention must be made of Mr. C. Owen and his assistants, Messrs. K. Sale, G. Knox, W.J. Leonard, Mrs Bistis, Mrs. Whittaker and Miss Musgrave for the make-up which transformed familiar schoolfriends into scheming old rogues. The performances ran smoothly in the capable hands of the stage managers Messrs. Gregory and Atack, assisted by Messrs. Booth and Parkinson (lighting), Michael Taylor, Alan Brooke, Jeffrey Richards, Kenneth Marsh, Brian Stead, Alfred Walshaw, Kenneth Kidd, John Brailsford and David Haigh (stage assistants), Mr. R.M. Whittaker and Miss K. Ward (properties), Margaret Bromley, Ingrid Beresford and Michael Harrison (property assistants), Gordon Bond, Roger Toft and Michael Cuthbert (prompters), Miss E. Tate (wardrobe), Enid Ford, Ellen Toulson, Pat Lockett, Jean Merrington, Frances Harrison and Margaret Curran (wardrobe assistants). Thanks must also be extended to Mr. Hassall for being a most conscientious business manager.



Above all, Mr. Kennedy deserves our congratulations for producing two highly successful performances, and our thanks for the many hours of work which he devoted to providing our entertainment in a production of which the school can be proud.

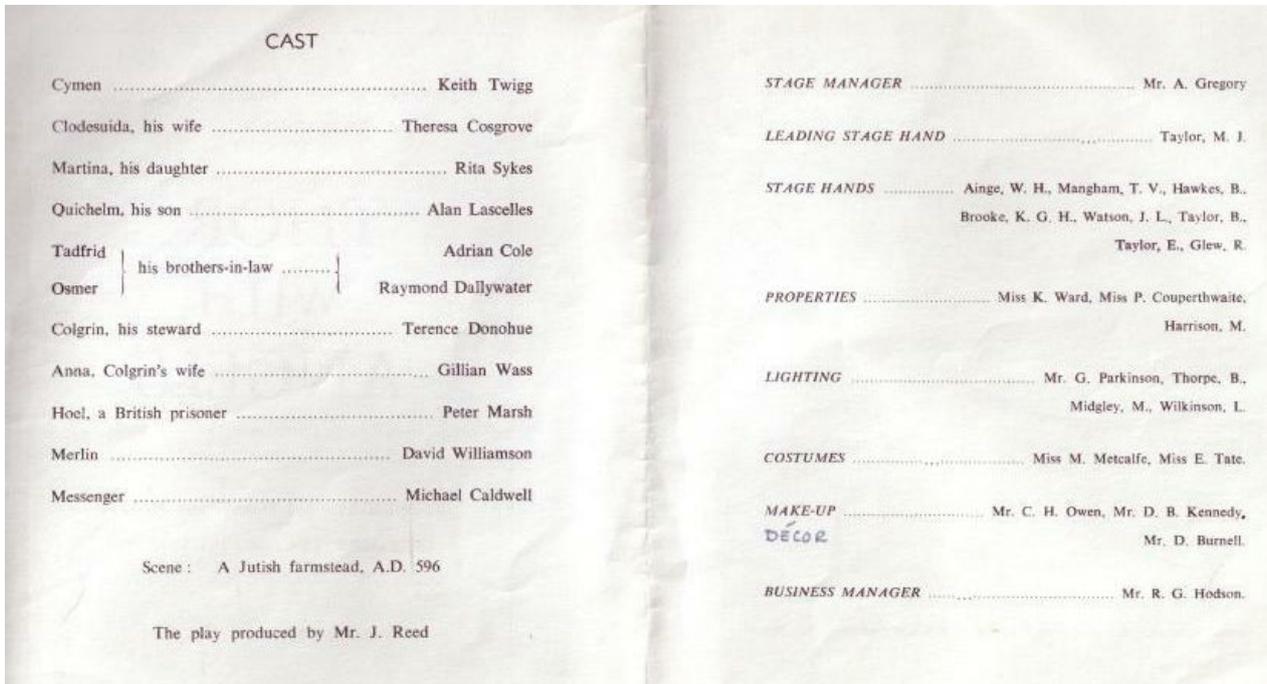
Patricia Cockburn L6A

1961 Thor, with Angels by Christopher Fry
 December 13th, 14th and 15th 1961



Producer Mr. Reed (photo)

This year's production of Christopher Fry's 'Thor, with Angels' was rather an unusual choice for a school play, and presented a challenge to both producer and actors. The story is about a Jutish chief who, to the horror of his family, returns home from battle with a prisoner. His brother-in-law and son urge him to kill the Briton to enable them to return to favour with their gods. Cymen, unable to explain his unwillingness to do so, finds the solution when he is introduced to the idea of Christianity, but he is too late to prevent the members of his family 'sacrificing' the prisoner.



The parts of Quichelm, Tadfrid and Osmer were well played by Alan Lascelles, Adrian Cole and Raymond Dallywater respectively, and all gave the impression of fierce Jutish warriors who ardently believed in their heathen gods. Peter Marsh gave a good performance as Hoel, the prisoner, and showed that he is able to play a serious role as well as he played a light-hearted one last year. Martine, the daughter, was excellently played by Rita Sykes, who shows great promise as an actress. The centuries-old Merlin was played by David Williamson, whose unusually melodious voice made a large contribution to his splendid performance of a difficult part. Colgrin, the doddering old servant (Terence Donohue), and Anna, his nagging wife (Gillian Wass) provided some delightful comedy which helped to relieve the tension.



However good the acting, much of the effect would have been lost had not the costume, make-up, scenery and lighting come up to the same high standard. Messrs. Owen, Kennedy, Burnell and Parkinson must be complemented on their work here, as well as Miss Tate and Miss Metcalfe. All put in many hours of hard work and thought which does not go unappreciated. We are also indebted to Miss Ward, Miss Couperthwaite and Mick Harrison for their handling of the properties and to Mr. Hodson for being a most efficient business manager. Above all, we must thank Mr. Reed for his hard work, patience and understanding during the rehearsals, which served to make this a most successful and memorable performance.

Nova Websdale 5A



Departing from the traditional practice of presenting a straight play, this year the school put on a highly successful variety show, containing such contrasting items as choral harmony and jazz. This transformation was mainly due to the long-nourished ideas and tireless work of **Mr. Kennedy** (photo left), **the show's producer-cum-choreographer-cum-songwriter**. His success, indeed the show's success, is shown in the fact that although performances were given on four nights, instead of the usual three, all tickets were sold.

As the school was searched for talent and ideas, and rehearsals began, it soon became apparent that the show would be a mammoth production. It was - involving one-hundred and four actual stage performers, twenty members of staff for make-up, scenery and so on, and twenty off-stage workers. Rehearsals were strenuous but the advice and ebullience of Mr. Kennedy were a spur to all, and for weeks before the actual performances, the school vibrated with enthusiastic activity. Mr. Burnell, in co-operation with Messrs. Williams and Gregory, producing colourful scenery, Misses Metcalfe and Tate procuring, or actually making, costumes and Miss Ward protecting her properties, to give a few examples.

Programme

1. "GOOD EVENING"

Senior Choir: Susan Ash, Wendy Armitage, Christine Arrowsmith, Susan Ashmole, Jean Bentley, Veronica Brett, Maureen Dearden, Helen Evans, Angela Deighton, Joyce Greenfield, Gillian Hawcroft, Elizabeth Horsfield, Lynne Jukes, Edna Jacobs, Christine Kenyon, Susan Knapton, Joan Lawley, Angela Sharpe, Patricia Snookes, Jennifer Swift, Heather Tolley, Valerie Townend, Jacqueline Thorley, Janet Wilkinson.
Music and Lyrics by Mr. D. Kennedy.

2. Commère ... RITA SYKES

3. PROFESSOR RON NEWITT AND HIS TROUBADOURS

Raymond Dallywater—Triangle	Trevor Roberts—Trombone
Adrian Cole—Triangle	Mr. J. T. Smith—Trombone
Andrew Hudson—Trumpet	Geoffrey Thompson—Clarinet
David Clarke—Trumpet	Janet Turton—Dancer
Neil Pead—Drums	Carol Fletcher—Singer and Dancer
Reginald Bancroft—Piano	Jean Bentley—Singer and Dancer
Alan Bray—Euphonium	

Band numbers directed by Mr. J. T. Smith.

4. "L'ANGLAIS TEL QU'ON LE PARLE" (English As She Is Spoke)

Scene: A French Hotel.
Synopsis: A Yorkshire father pursues his daughter and her French fiancé to a hotel. He becomes involved with a substitute interpreter who cannot speak English and complications arise.

Cast:

Yvonne (a maid)	Jennifer Brewin
Betty	Elizabeth Jones
Julien	Stephen Moody
Receptionist	Denise Sell
Interpreter	Peter Asquith
Hodgson	Michael Fairclough
Police Inspector	Geoffrey Thompson
Gendarme	David Shaw

Prompter: Kathleen Appleton. Language Adviser: Mr. R. Palmer.
Directed by Mr. J. Reed.

5. "H.G.S. CALYPSO"

Susan Ash, Gillian Barratt, Veronica Brett, Angela Deighton, Christine Evans, Bessie Gibson, Gillian Hawcroft, Elaine Parker, Denise Spaxman, Jacqueline Thorley.
Accordianist: Reginald Bancroft. Drums: Neil Pead.
Lyrics by Mr. D. W. Burnell. Music by Mr. D. B. Kennedy.

INTERVAL

6. "THE THISTLE IN DONKEY FIELD"

A Fantasy by Richard Tydeman

Scene: The Control Room, inside the stem of Thistle Number One, in Donkey Field.

Cast:

Prologue	Evelyn Raine
Maya (telephonist)	Janet Bonds
Buff (clerk)	Jeffrey Rowbotham
Thoru (Minister of Defence and War)	John Covell
Edda (Minister of Pollution)	Dora Middleton
Karl (Minister of Emigration)	David Baxendale
President of Thistle Number One	Louvain Coxall
Minister of Roots	Graham Lockwood

Prompter: Nova Websdale. Directed by Mr. T. Crompton.

7. THREE AMERICAN SONGS: "Springfield Mountain" "The Big Rock Candy Mountain" "Dry Bones"

Singers: Audrey Ashman, John Beaumont, Susan Arrowsmith, Susan Dickenson, Carol Fletcher, Terry Gatley, Ceinwen Hughes, Michael Jones, Ruth Douglas, Valerie Newton, Margaret Nopes, Teresa Riley, Lynn Robinson, Grant Smith, Elizabeth Stansfield, Christopher Stevens, Christine Sellars.

8. "JOLLY WAT" A Christmas Pastoral by Colin Hand.

Wat (a shepherd)	Allan Tingle
Mary	Susan Knapton
Joseph	Adrian Cole

Singers: Christine Arrowsmith, Susan Ash, Susan Ashmole, Veronica Brett, Jean Carr, Helen Evans, Joyce Greenfield, Janice Hanwell, Christine Kenyon, Carol Millthorpe, Patricia Sheard, Jennifer Swift, Jacqueline Thorley, Susan Wren.
Recorders: Angela Deighton, Susan Bristow, Catherine Greasley, Kay Styring, Geoffrey Thompson.
Recorder players trained by Mr. R. Palmer.

9. "P.T. CAPERS"

P.T. Mistress: Raymond Dallywater
Gymnastics: John Beaumont, Keith Beddow, John Bouskill, Stephen Bristow, Raymond Bower, Andrew Coope, David Crow, John Evans, Brian Marston, James Oxley, Alan Parish, Grant Smith.
Directed by Mr. L. M. Tate.
"I am a P.E. Teacher" Lyrics by Mr. D. W. Burnell.

INTERVAL

10. SCOTTISH SONGS AND DANCES

Singer	Susan Ashmole
Dancers	Kathleen Appleton, Susan Bristow, Ruth Horn, Andrew Coope, David Fearnside, Stephen Moody.

Directed by Miss M. Musgrave.

11. "WAITING FOR THE TRAIN" by Mabel Constanduros

Scene: A station waiting room.

Cast:

Sympathetic Lady	Rita Sykes
Man with adenoids	Peter Asquith
Man from Bradford	Raymond Dallywater
His Wife	Nova Websdale
Boy	Fred Johnson
Mother	Jean Bentley
Porter	Adrian Cole

12. THREE SONGS by the Senior Choir:

"Where The Gentle Avon Flows" "The Blue Danube"
"Look At Me—Oh! Look At Me!"

13. FINALE

When opening night arrived all was as desired. The enterprising formula for the show was a strong musical basis and three short plays, spiced with a dash of slapstick. The senior Girls' Choir, singing with surprising zest and vigour, opened and closed the show. The musical flavour was perpetuated by the "H.G.S. CALYPSO", a well-aired theme put to music by Messrs. Burnell and Kennedy, and three American songs shyly rendered by the first form choir. The producer's influence was manifest in an item of Scottish Dances and Songs, the latter ably sung by Susan Ashmole. The dancers were Ruth Horn, Kathleen Appleton, Susan Bristow, Andrew Coope, David Fearnside, Stephen Moody. The season's influence was apparent in "Jolly Wat", a Christmas Pastoral, featuring the school recorder group, Angela Deighton, Susan Bristow, Catherine Greasley, Kay Styring, Geoffrey Thompson; and a section of the choir. Wat, a shepherd, Alan Tingle; Mary, Susan Knapton; Joseph, Adrian Cole.

Producer..... Mr. D. B. Kennedy.
 Director of Music..... Miss P. E. Evans. Assisted by Mr. D. Coar.
 Sets built by Mr. A. Gregory. Assisted by Mr. B. Williams.
 Sets designed and painted by Mr. D. W. Burnell.
 Stage Managers..... Mr. A. Gregory and Mr. B. Williams.
 Make-up..... Mr. D. W. Burnell
 Make-up Assistants..... Mr. G. Knox, Mr. T. Crompton, Miss P. Evans,
 Miss M. Musgrave, Miss W. Jennings, Mrs. D.
 Bistis, Mr. M. Butler, Janet Davis, Christine
 Nicholson, Christine Longfield, Anne Vamplew,
 Colin Yoxall, Philip Goodall, Eva Thornton.
 Lighting..... Mr. R. G. Parkinson, Brian Thorpe,
 Melvin Midgley.
 Costumes..... Miss M. Metcalf, Miss E. Tate.
 Properties..... Miss K. Ward.
 Properties Assistants..... Susan Holder, Margaret Wigham, Sandra Round
 Stage Crew..... Graham Moxon, Raymond Dyson, Kevin Fox,
 David Oxley, John Hudson, Witali Hryschko.
 Dressing Room Staff..... Christine Doughty, Lyn Griffiths, Carol Lord.
 Business Manager..... Mr. R. G. Hodson.

Of the three plays presented, one was a comedy sketch, one acted entirely in French, and one a fantasy. The comedy sketch was a senior production entitled "Waiting for a Train", in which Jean Bentley excelled herself. Cast: Rita Sykes, Peter Asquith, Raymond Dallywater, Nova Websdale, Fred Johnson, Jean Bentley, Adrian Cole. The French play directed by Mr. Reed and Mr. Palmer was also a senior production in which some new talent was to be seen. Cast: Jennifer Brewin, Elizabeth Jones, Stephen Moody, Denise Sell, Peter Asquith, Michael Fairclough, Geoffrey Thompson, David Shaw. The fantasy, "The Thistle in the Donkey Field", directed by Mr. Crompton, was the junior production. David Baxendale emerged from this play showing great promise for the future. Cast: Evelyn Raine, Janet Bonds, Jeffrey Rowbotham, John Covell, Dora Middleton, David Baxendale, Louvain Coxall, Graham Lockwood.



Photos and names from Susan Bristow. Thank you, Susan.

L-R: Kath Appleton, Steve Moody, Susan Bristow, Andy Coope, Ruth Horn, Geoff Thompson

The slapstick was provided by Ron Newitt and his Troubadours and in the sketch P.T. Capers. The troubadours were in fact the school jazz group, led by Mr. J. T. Smith, who were featured in two well received numbers. Jazz Group: Raymond Dallywater, Adrian Cole, Andrew Hudson, David Clarke, Neil Pead, Reginald Bancroft, Alan Bray, Trevor Roberts and Geoffrey Thompson. Three dancers, Janet Turton, Jean Bentley, and the effervescent Carol Fletcher, were also featured in this act. In P.T. Capers, Raymond Dallywater took on the unenviable task of being a PT. Mistress, supervising a typical H.G.S. male gym class. Although the essence of the sketch was comedy a fine gymnastic display was given, especially by Oxley, Coope and Beddows, which had the audience on the edge of their seats.



Praise must be given to Rita Sykes who commèred the show, and also acted in the comedy sketch. We are most grateful to Miss Evans and Mr. Coar who not only held the audience's interest during scene changes, by their piano playing but directed the more serious musical items.



To conclude it must be said that the variety show revealed many hitherto untapped sources of talent which contributed enormously to the success of this epic production. Let us hope that these talents will be further nourished in order that they may flourish in the years to come.



Isabel Colpitts, U6A Melvin Midgley, L6S

1963 The Play of the Royal Astrologers



Mr. Reed (Producer)

This year's school play by Willis Hall was in a similar light-hearted vein to the variety show of last year. The story is about a Father Mole-Cricket, one of the two laziest subjects of Indera Maya - the other being his son - who decides to become an astrologer, thinking it an easy way of earning money without any physical strain on his part. His plan backfires however, for he is appointed by the Emperor, followed by his faithful Chancellor, to find his four stolen chests of gold in four days or face the Royal executioner. In search of the gold, Father Mole-Cricket and his son meet with robbers and pirates and even run away to sea but there is the usual happy ending. The gold is retrieved and Master Mole-Cricket marries the Emperor's bad-tempered daughter.

Leading a praiseworthy cast were Geoffrey Thompson who was magnificent as the doddering old Chancellor, and Peter Asquith who gave a convincing performance as the Emperor. Alan Tingle showed himself to be a very accomplished actor in his role of Father Mole-Cricket, the Astrologer, and we expect great things from this young actor in the future. David Biggs, who played his son, also seemed quite at home in his part. Susan Ash gave a quite pleasing performance as the nagging wife of Father Mole-Cricket. The Emperor's daughter was excellently played by Elizabeth Jones who seems to be quite a promising young actress, while Michael Fairclough played a rather forgetful palace messenger.

Comedy was provided exceptionally well by the pirates and thieves. John Covell gave a very convincing performance as the fiery Captain Beanfast, and Raymond Dyson and Graham Lockwood excelled as sailors Fred and Henry. The First Mate was played by Ronald Dyson. Christopher Stephens, Louvain Coxall and John Beaumont played the thieves with Frank Poulton as their leader. Supporting roles were Susan Smith and Lesley Hall as villagers, Kenneth Channer as a wizard, and Roger Poole and Andrew Hudson as palace guards.

The performance ran smoothly in the capable hands of the stage managers Messrs. Gregory and Twigg, assisted by Mr. Parkinson, M. Midgley and B. Thorpe (lighting), T. Bartle, A. Bridgewater, B. Cookman, R. Elsworth, P. H. Hirst, P. Hrychko, P. Smith and J. Tate (stage assistants), Messrs. C. H. Owen, D. B. Kennedy, D. W. Burnell, G. Knox and Miss P. Evans (make-up), Misses M. Metcalfe, E. Tate and Christine Doughty and Carol Savage (costumes), Miss K. Ward, Margaret Wigham and Stephen Moody (properties), Mr. D. W. Burnell (decor and costume design) and Jacqueline Scott (prompter). Thanks must also be extended to Mr. R. Warren for being a most conscientious business manager.



Back Row L-R: Susan Ash, Andrew Hudson, Alan Tingle, Geoff Thompson, Ann Jones, Susan Smith, John Covell, 8

Middle Row L-R: Dave Biggs, Louvain Coxall, 3, Peter Asquith, 5, 6, Roger Poole

Front Row L-R: 1, 2, Graham Lockwood, Ron Dyson, Frank Poulton



Above all, Mr. Reed, who has now taken his many talents further afield, deserves our congratulations for producing a highly successful performance and to him we extend our thanks for the many hours of work which he devoted to providing our entertainment in a production of which the school can be proud.

Anne Williamson, L6A

1964 The Silent Woman by Ben Jonson



Producer Mr. Owen (photo)

This year's play was, once again a comedy but the choice was far more ambitious than in previous years. Although this is one of the lesser-known of Jonson's plays, to produce it in school with any degree of success is difficult and the cast must be congratulated on a first rate performance.

The story is centred around Morose, an egotistic bachelor with an insane aversion to noise. He proposes to disinherit his nephew, Sir Dauphine Eugenic, whom he suspects of ridiculing him, and to marry - if he can find one - a silent woman. Cutbeard, his barber, has found such a one in Epicoene. However, immediately after the marriage, Epicoene recovers the vigorous use of her tongue to the dismay of Morose. His dismay is increased by the arrival of his nephew and friends with a party of "Collegiate Ladies" and musicians who intend to celebrate the marriage.

Driven frantic by the hubbub and having in vain consulted a pseudo-divine and a canon-lawyer as to possible grounds for divorce, he accepts his nephew's offer to rid him of Epicoene. Sir Dauphine proposes to do this in return for £500 and the revision of his property. Upon his uncle's agreement, he pulls off Epicoene's peruke and reveals her a boy whom he has trained for the part. Among the characters who contribute to the humour of the play is Captain Otter, who always "speaks under correction" when his wife is present. Sir Amorous La Foole is a braggart and a coward whose character, like all the others, fits exactly to his name. Sir John Daw is a similar braggart knight who pretends to learning and collects the titles of classical writing without knowing the contents.

The part of Morose was taken by Alan Tingle whose performances were excellent and upheld the high standard he set in last year's play. Anthony Abbot as Clerimont and Paul Dyson as Truewit, both friends of Dauphine, gave very good performances. So too did Lesley Hall as Epicoene, despite the disadvantage of being a girl. Susan Ash captured the sharply domineering Mistress Otter, and the Ladies Collegiate, a group of immoral Court ladies, interpreted their parts very well; Lady Haughty, Lady Centaure and Mistress Dod Mavis were played by Kathleen Lowe, Angela Deighton and Lynn Robinson.

The leading roles were supported exceptionally well by Eric Wheater as Sir Dauphine, John Covell as Sir John Daw, Roger Parton as Sir Amorous La Foole, Roger Poole as Thomas Otter, Peter Ryan as Cutbeard, Louvain Coxall as Mute (Morose's servant), Dennis Jordan as Parson, Ken Channer as a page and Susan Smith as a maid called Mistress Trusty. An amusing song from Channer was accompanied by delightful violin playing from Robert Hanley, Spencer Murtagh and Ross Edwards.



Mr. Owen must be congratulated on this competent production, which provided excellent entertainment. Thanks are also due to the many people who enabled the play to be staged: Messrs. Gregory and Smith (stage-managers), Mr. Parkinson (lighting and sound-effects), Mr. Burnell (decor), Miss Metcalfe (wardrobes), Miss Ward (properties), Mr. Knox (make-up), Anne Parkes (prompter), and all the pupils who assisted in the various departments. Thanks must also be extended to Mr. Warren for being a most conscientious business manager, especially since he managed to account a profit despite the cancellation of the first night owing to severe fog, which cancellation was a great disappointment to actors and audience alike.

Christine Longfield U6A