

# MOLIÈRE'S THE MISER

Nov 6-8, 12-14 1981

Presented by  
Drama Club & Dept.  
of Speech & Theatre

KUTZTOWN STATE COLLEGE  
Kutztown, Pennsylvania

**THE MISER**  
**(L'Avare)**  
by  
**Molière**

Translation by Wallace Fowlie

**CHARACTERS**

Harpagon, father of Elise and Cleante	Joseph A. Ashcroft
Cleante, son of Harpagon	Mark Lacava
Elise, daughter of Harpagon	Theresa M. Angst
Valere, son of Anselme, "masked" as steward to Harpagon	John Tone
Mariane, daughter of Anselm	Beth Appel
Anselme, father to Valere and Mariane	R. Charles Rager
Frosine, adventuress	Lori A. Bishop
La Flèche valet to Cleante	Mark I. Branche
Master Jacques, cook and coachman to Harpagon	Jeffrey A. Kamm
Master Simon, usurer	R. Charles Rager
Dame Claude, housekeeper to Harpagon	Yvonne B. Ward
Brindavoine, servant	Jonathon Bream
La Merluiche, servant	Joseph R. Gestl
Officer	John Danatzko
Clerk	Jeffery Brown

The scene is in Paris, 1660, in Harpagon's house.

We will have one 15 minute intermission.

No Smoking or Taking Pictures in The Little Theatre.

Director	Annette Mazzaferri
Assistants	Linda Pretti, Ann Bement, Carole Bené, Jonathon Bream
Scene Design	R. E. Reinecke
Costume Design	Gwen Walters
Stage Manager	Vicki Hughes
Program Design	Tom Kelchner
Choreographer	Jeffery Brown
Research	Michael Lo Cicero
House Manager	Lynn Richardson
Lobby Display	Steve Berardelli

**FUTURE PRODUCTION**

Drama Club Variety Show	November 20
Sunshine Players	December 3-5
<b>The Little Match Girl</b> <b>Adventures of Edam Stilton</b> <b>Christmas Tea</b>	
Finian's Rainbow	March 4-6, 1982
The Little Foxes	April 22-25, 1982

**MOLIERE**

Many sources on Molière contain the story in which Louis XIV asked Boileau, official literary critic of the day, to name a living French writer the future would best remember. "Molière, Sire," was the answer.

As a young man, Jean-Baptiste Poquelin left his studies at the Collège de Clermont in Paris and broke from his family background to tour the provinces as an itinerant actor. Fifteen years later, he returned to the capital, as Molière, a successful actor, manager, and playwright. Gaining the patronage of the King's brother, Molière secured a rather solid base for his own acting company.

Molière based his early plays primarily on the farcical plots and characters of the Commedia del'Arte. In these we find the jealous husband, braggart soldier, and mischievous servant. Once Molière became established, he created characters in keeping with the social climate of Paris. Since he admired the sensible man who made his way through life with sane moderation, he wrote characters who seem absurd because of their excesses. In their self-centeredness, they live in their own world, at odds with the world of common sense: the pseudo-educated, the newly-rich, and the pseudo-religious are among his major characterizations.

**L'Avare** was written in 1668, at the height of Molière's career. Harpagon is a seventeenth-century King Midas. He is incapable of natural affection, having devoted himself entirely to amassing a fortune. The resulting neglect of family brings the plot nearly to tragedy. However, by turning Harpagon inside out, by revealing him to be absurd, Molière ridicules the vice of avarice through laughter.

**CLASSIC THEATRE FOR EVERYONE**

Sometimes the general public, including students at Kutztown State College, are afraid of plays by classical writers. People fear that the characters in these plays are removed from our time and frame of reference.

Michal Schonberg, Literary Manager of the Stratford (Ontario) Festival, believes that the classical play takes us on a fantastic journey, away from the uncomfortable present of our lives. We meet characters "capable of inconceivable cruelty, infinite love, immense dullness and insensitivity, incredible wit and perception, and amazing, unpredictable reactions." Perhaps we will meet ourselves, or parts of ourselves.

## CREWS

### LIGHTING

\*Edwin Swisher  
Mariskia Bogle  
Randy Bumsted  
David D. Falcone  
Lynn Richardson

### COSTUME

\*Sally Hutchinson  
Chris Bell  
Alisyn Blake  
Gwen Dudginski  
David D. Falcone  
Kate Keenan  
Charles Nealis  
Lynn Richardson  
Gwen Walters

### MAKE-UP

\*R. Charles Rager  
Sue Mearkle

### PROPS

\*Victoria B. Scott  
Terri Johnson  
Lynn Puterbaugh

### SOUND

David D. Falcone

### SCENERY

\*Sue Mearkle  
Steve Berardelli  
Mariskia Bogle  
Dave Falcone  
Lynn Puterbaugh  
Edwin Swisher

\*Denotes Crew Head

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Consultants ..... John Callahan  
David Dunn, Allida McKinley, Anthony Mazzaferri, Sheldon Meyer,  
Charles Scanzello and Laree Trollinger

The play is produced with the permission of Barron's Educational Series,  
Inc.

Supervisory Staff ..... Gwen Walters, Costume;  
Joe Cusimano, Electrical; Bruce Albury, Scenery; R.E. Reinecke,  
Technical Director; Lincoln Miller, Custodian