



THE
TRAGEDY
OF
TRAGEDIES;
OR THE
LIFE *and* DEATH
OF
TOM THUMB *the Great.*

ACTED AT THE HUT
by the
ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

March 16, 17, 19, 21.

MCMLI.

PRODUCER'S NOTE

Henry Fielding (1707-1754), as well as being a great novelist, was undoubtedly the liveliest dramatist of his time, using his theatre for satire and burlesque of politics, manners and drama under the Whig oligarchy. We choose for revival his best play, a literary burlesque produced at the age of 23 and enlarged to its present form in the following year, when it was published with voluminous, mock-learned annotations.

A performance of "Tom Thumb" needs no apology; the general tone of condescension adopted by scholars can be ignored when we see this "extravaganza of nonsense and high spirits" on the stage, its proper place.

Stock situations, fantastic passions, inflated figurative speech and bloody deaths, all the paraphernalia of heroic tragedy, are used to contrive a brilliant piece of salty fun, which is not without relevance to the present day theatre.

The following are some of the ironical annotations done by Fielding in the guise of a learned critic, H. Scriblerus Secundus:—

The Town hath seldom been more divided in its Opinion, than concerning the Merit of the following Scenes. Whilst some publicly affirmed, That no Author could produce so fine a Piece but Mr. Pope, others have with as much Vehemence insisted, That no one could write any thing so bad, but Mr. Fielding.

There have not been wanting some who have represented these Scenes in a ludicrous Light.

But, notwithstanding that Applause which it receiv'd from all the best Judges, it was as severely censured by some few bad ones, and I believe, rather maliciously than ignorantly, reported to have been intended a Burlesque on the loftiest Parts of Tragedy, and designed to banish what we generally call Fine Things, from the Stage.

I shall wave at present, what hath caused such Feuds in the learned World, Whether this Piece was originally written by Shakespear, tho' certainly That, were it true, must add a considerable Share to its Merit; especially, with such who are so generous as to buy and to commend what they never read, from an implicit Faith in the Author only: A Faith! which our Age abounds in as much, as it can be called deficient in any other.

Nor is the Moral of this excellent Tragedy less noble than the Fable; it teaches these two instructive Lessons, viz. That Human Happiness is exceeding transient, and, That Death is the certain End of all Men; the former whereof is inculcated by the fatal End of Tom Thumb; the latter, by that of all the other Personages.

What can be so proper for Tragedy as a Set of big sounding Words, so contrived together, as to convey no Meaning.



Production	- - - - -	ROY LEANEY
Sets	- - - - -	ROSS LUCK
Costumes	- - - - -	PATRICIA HACKETT
Lighting	- - - - -	DESMOND WHITE

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

- King Arthur*, a passionate sort of King, Husband to Queen Dollalolla, of whom he stands a little in fear; Father to Huncamunca, whom he is very fond of; and in love with Glumdalca. } MR. JOHN COUSINS
- Tom Thumb the Great*, a little hero with a great soul, something violent in his temper, which is a little abated by his love for Huncamunca. } YOUNG LYNDON MURRAY
- Ghost of Gaffer Thumb*, a whimsical sort of Ghost. } MR. CLEM O'DONOGHUE
- Lord Grizzle*, extremely zealous for the liberty of the subject, very choleric in his temper and in love with Huncamunca. } MR. GRAHAM NERLICH
- Merlin*, a Conjuror, and in some sort Father to Tom Thumb. } MR. ROY LEANEY
- Noodle* } Courtiers in Place, and consequently } MR. JOHN TAYLOR
Doodle } of that party that is uppermost. } MR. NEIL LOVETT
- Foodle*, a Courtier that is out of Place, and consequently of that party which is undermost. } MR. O'DELL CROWTHER
- Bailiff*, and } of the party of the Plaintiff. } MR. CLEM O'DONOGHUE
Follower } } MR. DONALD ROSIE
- Parson*, of the side of the Church. MR. DONALD ROSIE
- Dancer*. - - - - - YOUNG IAN DEEBLE
- Queen Dollalolla*, Wife to King Arthur, and Mother to Huncamunca, a Woman entirely faultless, saving that she is a little given to drink; a little too much of a Virago towards her Husband, and in love with Tom Thumb. } MRS. IRIS THOMAS
- The Princess Huncamunca*, Daughter to their Majesties, King Arthur and Queen Dollalolla, of a very sweet, gentle, and amorous disposition, equally in love with Lord Grizzle and Tom Thumb, and desirous to be married to both. } MISS GLENYS WEMYSS
- Glumdalca*, of the Giants, a Captive Queen, beloved by the King, but in love with Tom Thumb. } MRS. MARGARET WARD
- Cleora*, } Maids of Honour, } Noodle } MRS. LILA EBERHARD
Mustacha } in Love with } Doodle } MRS. CLAUDIA MATHER

Drums, Trumpets, Thunder and Lightning.

SCENE the Court of King Arthur and a Plain Thereabouts.

UNIVERSITY THEATRE GUILD

Patrons

Dr. T. D. Campbell Professor J. G. Cornell
Professor John Bishop Dr. C. E. Fenner
Mr. Frank S. Johnston

Committee

Miss T. Baulderstone Mr. Roy Leaney
Mr. B. Elliott Mr. H. W. Piper
Miss Patricia Hackett Mrs. I. Thomas
Mr. H. Kollosche Miss G. D. Walsh
Miss E. Lewis Miss H. Jones
Mr. B. Bergin.

* * *

Mr. Desmond White (Theatre Guild Stage Manager)

* * *

NOTICES

Enquiries regarding Membership and Subscriptions may be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. Wedd, Harvard Chambers, North Terrace (W 3065) or care of the University.