

# Sheridan Comedies Casebook

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this book is a systematic attempt to establish sheridan as a major figure in the history of english comedy leading scholars address sheridan s role not only as an outstanding playwright but also as the manager of drury lane theatre and his subsequent career as a member of parliament the essays examine the theatrical world in which sheridan worked discuss his major plays and include a modern director s observations on the production of his work today this is combined with an important re evaluation of sheridan s achievements as a master of rhetoric in the political arena to provide a much needed contemporary assessment of this multifaceted man and his work

both sheridan and goldsmith lamented the popularity of sentimental comedy in the later eighteenth century and wrote their witty and satirical plays though never lascivious in the manner of restoration comedies to counteract the sentimental mode the rivals 1775 was a

qualified success the suave young officer who is forced by his father to marry the very girl to whom he is secretly engaged must always please but first audiences were as uncertain as later critics about how to evaluate his neurotic friend faulkland who invents a series of caveats for his marriage to the earnest julia a country squire who becomes alarmingly foppish in town an impetuous irishman and the linguistically challenged mrs malaprop complete the cast this edition includes the original preface and several prologues in an appendix it lists all the fashionable books and songs to which the characters allude

each generation needs to be introduced to the culture and great works of the past and to reinterpret them in its own ways this series re examines the important english dramatists of earlier centuries in the light of new information ew interests and new attitudes the books will be relevant to those interested in literature theatre and cultural history and to theatre goers and general readers who want an up to date view of these dramatists and their plays with the emphasis on performance and relevant culture history this book explores the reasons for the deep and lasting appeal of sheridan s and goldsmith s comedies showing how they operate at the profound imaginative level and draw on their author s experience as irish wits in an english scene their subtle dramatic techniques are examined in relation to physical features of the eighteenth century stage a chapter on sentimental comedy relates to plays such as hugh kelly s false delicacy to the balance of irony and sentiment in goldsmith s *the good natural man* and sheridan s *a trip to scarborough* the continuing freshness of the comedy of mistakes masks and harlequin like role playing which the two playwrights draw from the operatic and theatrical conventions of their day is illustrated from modern productions these have helped to illuminate the psychological truth and social awareness underlying the sparkling surfaces of sheridan s and goldsmith s classic comedies

tragedy walks the streets challenges the conventional understanding that the evolution of european drama effectively came to a halt during france s revolutionary era in this interdisciplinary history on the emergence of modern drama in european culture matthew s buckley contends that the political theatricality of the revolution tested and forced the evolution of dramatic forms supplanting the theater itself as the primary stage of formal development drawing on a wide range of texts and images he demonstrates how the social and political enlistment of dramatic theatricality inflected rising social and political tensions in pre revolutionary france shaped french revolutionary political culture conditioned british political and cultural responses to the revolution and served as the impetus for büchner s radical formal innovations of the 1830s setting aside traditional boundaries of literary scholarship buckley pursues instead a history of dramatic form that encompasses the full range of dramatic activity

in the changing cultural life of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century including art architecture journalism political performance and social behavior surveying this expanded field of inquiry buckley weaves together a coherent formal genealogy of the drama during this period and offers a new more continuous generic history of modern drama in its first and most turbulent phase of development

the longman anthology of british literatureis the most comprehensive and thoughtfully arranged book on the market approaching literature from a broad cultural perspective the anthology offers a rich selection of fiction drama and poetry by major british authors the second edition of the longman anthology of british literatureincludes key major additions of important works an expanded illustration program and new translation of beowulf fresh and up to date introductions and notes are written by an editorial team whose members are all actively engaged in teaching and in current scholarship and one hundred illustrations show both artistic and cultural developments from the medieval period through the 18th century perspectives sections shed light on individual periods but are also positioned to link with surrounding works companion readings provide additional context for and special insight into key readings for avid readers of british literature

v 1 a chi v 2 chu fra v 3 fri jam v 4 jon mil v 5 mor sha v 6 sha z v 7 essays index

surveys the rise and development of the gothick tale of mystery and horror from the mid 18th century to the eve of the victorian period particular attention is given to walpole s castle of otranto beckford s vathek lewis s the monk ann radcliffe s mysteries of udolpho and mary shelley s frankenstein

a world list of books in the english language

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