

Avington Park

William Cobbett wrote of Avington that it was "one of the prettiest places in the County" and indeed it is true today. Avington Park, where Charles II and George IV both stayed at various times, is an old house, enlarged in 1670 by the addition of two wings and a classical Portico surmounted by three Statues. The State Rooms on view include the Ballroom with its magnificent ceiling, the Red Drawing Room, Library, etc. Avington Church, one of the most perfect Georgian Churches in Hampshire, is in the grounds close by and may be visited.

Open: 2.30p.m. to 5.30p.m. Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays, May to September. Special openings for coaches with catering if required any time during the year by arrangement.

Admission to House and Grounds: 50p per head 25p under 10 years. Teas available on Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Location: 5 miles East of Winchester in Itchen Valley. Transport: Route 214 bus Winchester - Alton, stop at Plough Inn, Itchen Abbas, then 10 minutes walk; Road B3047, King's Worthy - Alresford. Turn off opposite Plough Inn, Itchen Abbas, turn in the gates on the right after the 'hump' bridge.

The Library is also available for Wedding Receptions, Dinner Parties, Dances, Balls, Conferences, etc. Enquiries to the Secretary, Avington Park, Winchester, Hants. Itchen Abbas 202. STD 0962 78 202.

Acknowledgements

The maskers gratefully acknowledge the assistance of the following :-

KINGSWORTHY FOUNDRY CO. LTD.
for garden furniture

MIKE ANDREWS
for lighting equipment

WILLIAM R. SELWOOD
for lighting towers

GORDON HOLLAND (WINCHESTER) LTD.
for the control tower

MR. P. WILLIAMS - COUNTY DRAMA ADVISOR
for the loan of seating
from Hampshire Drama Centres

THE ST. JOHNS AMBULANCE BRIGADE
who will be in attendance
at each performance

WAITROSE LTD.
for assistance in providing
the wine bar



The
Maskers Theatre Company
in the Open Air
at
Avington Park

Sheridan's
The Rivals

Director
Philippa Taylor

The Players

Sir Anthony Absolute	MR PIKE
Captain Absolute (also known as Ensign Beverley)	MR APPLETON
Faulkland, an unhappy lover	MR PATTERSON
Acres, A Country Squire	MR HANN
Sir Lucius O'Trigger, an impoverished Irish baronet	MR TUFFILL
Fag, servant to Captain Absolute	MR McCOMB
David, servant to Acres	MR BARTER
Mrs Malaprop, a tough old aunt	MRS BAKER
Lydia Languish, her niece	MRS EDWARDS
Julia Melville, her friend	MRS CLARK
Lucy, servant	MISS EVANS
Coachman	MR BARTER

Musicians

ELIZABETH CORNFORD
ESABELLE CARRÉ
HAZEL COMBER
CLARE COWHIG
ROBIN SOLDAN

The Play

The Place - Bath in the late 18th century.

The play is in five acts, with one interval of twenty minutes, during which the Wine Bar will be open in the Orangery.

The Rivals

The Rivals, written in 1775, was Sheridan's first play. It centres around the sentimentally romantic Lydia Languish, who, determined to marry for love and (if possible) poverty, is in love with "Ensign Beverley" who is in fact the aristocratic Captain Jack Absolute. Well understanding the perversity of Lydia's nature, he has wooed her in disguised penury. The two meet and exchange letters despite the watchfulness of Lydia's aunt Mrs Malaprop, who is determined to marry her to Bob Acres, a dull rural squire. When Jack's father Sir Anthony Absolute arrives, he suggests to Mrs Malaprop a match between Jack and Lydia, whereupon Mrs Malaprop immediately drops Acres. Then, when Sir Anthony tells Jack that he has found a wife for him, Jack, unaware of the lady's identity, objects, and they quarrel violently. However, as soon as Jack learns of his father's choice, he plays the penitent and promises to marry Lydia. He proceeds to charm Mrs Malaprop, who introduces him to Lydia as Absolute. Now he must convince Lydia that he, Beverley, must pass himself off as Jack Absolute in order to gain access to her aunt's house. Soon Lydia discovers his true identity and, offended by his deceit and the affront to her romantic illusions, rejects him.

Meanwhile, Acres, whose sense of honour has been inflamed by Sir Lucius O'Trigger, a quixotic Irish knight, sends a challenge to Beverley through his friend Jack. Sir Lucius, who has been corresponding with his beloved "Delia" (whom he takes to be Lydia but really is Mrs Malaprop), challenges Jack. Finally, at the duelling place the relationships are revealed; Lydia accepts Jack, Lucius rejects Mrs Malaprop, and Acres retires in haste from the field. In a subplot Jack's friend Faulkland, a young man who finds in every innocent action of Julia, his steadfast beloved, a reason for doubting her love, is finally united with her.

For The Maskers

DIRECTOR: PHILIPPA TAYLOR

PRODUCTION TEAM

JOY WINGFIELD
IVAN WHITE
CLIVE WEEKS
RON TILLYER
KEN SPENCER
BERYL SMITH
MANDY ROBERTS
MARTIN RANDALL
ANN PENNINGTON LEIGH
SUE PARKES
JULIA PATTERSON
BECKETT PENNINGTON LEIGH
SONIA MORRIS
ROGER LOCKETT
KEITH HOOPER
CHRISTINE EVANS
JOHN DOCHERTY
SHEANA CARRINGTON

WARDROBE BY LIZ ROBINSON

If you would like to know more about the Maskers, please write to :-

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