

Director’s Note—A Year of Companion Performances

Carlo Goldoni’s efforts between the 1730s and 1760s to formalize or expand on the travelling company traditions of *Commedia dell’Arte* brought scripted work to a largely improvisatory art form, dating back in Italy to the previous century. Moving away from this masked style, Goldoni found significant inspiration too in Molière; he would eventually move to Paris, receive a position in the French court, and take charge of the *Théâtre-Italien*. The French loved the new hybrid: fast-paced, heartfelt, and enormous emotions (arguably less filthy than older *Commedia* traditions). Under Goldoni’s guidance, the company would later perform in both languages.

Like their earlier Renaissance counterparts, this group did not have a building to call their own. Producers today often recreate this feeling of a travelling troupe: the look of a temporary platform, erected with a canvas backdrop, with footlights across the front, giving a feel for the peripatetic life of the original. However, it is reasonably clear that those earlier artists embraced having a theatre of their own, and so the *Servant* you will see tonight is built on this idea, combining the French and Italian, creating a kind of Cirque/Commedia home theatre here in the Decio. Imagine that you have joined us on the night (or afternoon) the company plays its signature comedy, *The Servant of Two Masters*.

In fact, in this very building later this month, you can see a production **in French** of Molière’s *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*, produced by the Department of Romance Languages (synopses provided!), and, in February, an example in more of the *Théâtre-Italien* style, when the L.A.-based Actor’s Gang visits with a darkly physical commedia version of Molière’s *Tartuffe*. They are ideal companion pieces to *Servant*, and you can see all three only here, at the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center.

Of course, there is one other fun connection between the playwright, the French, and our University – the special statue in Goldoni’s honor outside a certain Parisian cathedral also named in honor of Our Lady.

Finally, a personal note. I am particularly indebted to Gulshirin Dubash, who brought us a weekend intensive workshop on Commedia, and grateful for this cast, which has worked so hard to create tonight’s performance. For a newcomer to feel so embraced by artists, audiences, students, alumni, and the entire community under the Dome has been nothing short of wonderful.

Thank you, and do join us back for *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme* and *Tartuffe*. Look too, for offerings from my two favorite programs in the Shakespeare at Notre Dame world, Actors from the London Stage and the Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival. You can learn more at shakespeare.nd.edu.

Thank you and enjoy the show!

Grant Mudge
Ryan Producing Artistic Director
Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival

Cast

In order of appearance

Pantalone dei Bisognosi	Bryce Wood*
Clarice	Katie Mullins*
Doctor Lombardi	Gabriel Orlet
Silvio Lombardi	David Díaz*
Beatrice Rasponi	Gabrielle Muzzarelli*
Florindo Aretusi	Chris Brandt*
Brighella	John Corr*
Smeraldina	Clara Ritger*
Truffaldino	Joseph Doyle*
Ensemble	Abigail Hebert*
	Skyler Hughes
	Logan Lally
	Andrew Kiss

Artistic Staff

Director	Grant Mudge
Producer	Kevin Dreyer
Scenic Designer	Marcus Stephens
Costume Designer	Richard E. Donnelly
Lighting Designer	Kevin Dreyer
Scenic Artist	Jacee Rohlck
Technical Director	C. Kenneth Cole
Costume Shop Manager	Lynn Holbrook
Assistant to the Costume Designer (NYC)	Margie Hannum
Assistant to the Lighting Designer	Patrick Fagan
Stage Manager	Melissa Flynn*
Assistant Director	Kimberly Gaughan
Commedia Consultant	Gulshirin Dubash

Production Staff

Assistant Stage Managers	Kimberly Springstead*
	Kyle Aggarwal
Light Board Operator	Ernesto Aveledo
Sound Board Operator	Hunter Monaghan
Sound Engineering	Kimberly Springstead*
Propmaster	Caleb Cobbin
	Emily Nash
Stage hands	Clarissa Schwab
	Luke Shadley
Wardrobe Run Crew	Regina Gilmour
	Veronica Feliz
Makeup Crew	Guillermo Alonso*
	Amber Kearse
Fight Captain	Chris Brandt*
Music Captains	John Corr*
	Katie Mullins*

Scene Shop Assistants

Guillermo Alonso*, Dasuni Baptist, Alexander Bogucki-Baran, Michael Burns, Melissa Flynn*, Samantha Schubert*, Kimberly Springstead*, Brendan Sullivan, John Yost

Scenery, Props, Lighting, and Costume Crew

Guillermo Alonso*, Ernesto Aveledo, Caitlin Crommett*, David Díaz*, Katherine Dudas*, Abigail Hebert*, Skyler Hughes, Mayra Martinez, Hunter Monaghan, Kathleen Mullins*, John O’Neill, Kimberly Springstead*, Brock Switzer*, Sarah Voigt, Sarah Yim

Stitchers

Michele Jackson
Kathleen Werner

Costume Shop Assistants

Kelly Francis
Regina Gilmour
Abigail Hebert*
Beatrice Park
Samantha Schubert*
Elizabeth Sullivan

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Shakespeare at Notre Dame:
Peter Holland
Scott Jackson
Debra Gasper
Charles Gessert

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*Denotes FTT major