ABOUT THE PLAY . . .

The Way of the World deals with a typical family situation—a fight for the control of an estate. Presiding over the family at the beginning of the play is the absurd Lady Wishfort, who holds her daughter Mrs. Fainall and her niece Millamant in a "Cabal," a gossip club. She controls all of Mrs. Fainall's estate and part of Millamant's as well. As the plot thickens, a contest develops as to who shall get these estates from Lady Wishfort: Mr. Fainall or Millamant's lover, Mirabell.

In Act I we learn that Mirabell has made advances to Lady Wishfort to cover his wooing of Millamant. Mrs. Marwood, another member of the cabal, has betrayed him to the old lady, who, naturally enough, despises him now. Act II tells us that Mirabell had been Mrs. Fainall's lover when she was a widow, and, when she seemed pregnant, he married her off to Fainall. We learn, too, that Mrs. Marwood is now Fainall's mistress but yearns for Mirabell.

At the beginning of the play, Mirabell is trying to set up a power situation. He has married his servant Waitwell to Lady Wishfort's maid Foible and plans to have Waitwell disguise himself as a nobleman, court, and marry Lady Wishfort. Then Mirabell plans to reveal the disguise, show Lady Wishfort that she has married a servant, and offer to release her if she will let him marry Millamant and secure her estate. Unfortunately, Mrs. Marwood discovers the plan and tells Lady Wishfort. Mrs. Marwood also tells Fainall of his wife's former affair with Mirabell. Fainall threatens to publish it to the world unless Lady Wishfort signs over to him not only his wife's but also Millamant's estate, and even the reversion after her death of Lady Wishfort's own estate. Mrs. Fainall then ineffectually reveals that she knows Mrs. Marwood is having an affair with her husband. Finally, however, Mirabell wins the contest. He produces a deed signed by Mrs. Fainall conveying all her estate to him as her trustee; she made it when she was a widow, and it therefore pre-dates any deed Fainall could now obtain. Freed from the threat of scandal, Lady Wishfort gives her permission for Mirabell to marry Millamant.
The Department of Oral Communication—Baylor University presents

THE WAY OF THE WORLD

by WILLIAM CONGREVE

Directed by PATRICIA COOK

Costumes Designed by JAMES W. SWAIN

Setting Designed by BOB GUTHRIE

Lighting Designed by CHRISTOPHER M. PAUL

Music Written by DAVID RAINES

Choreography by RUTH BELEW

CAST

Mirabell  Randy Hoffmeyer
Millamant  Cynthia Dotier
Fainall  Connie Gravette
Mrs. Fainall  Genie Babb
Marwood  Tony M. Foster
Waitwell  Roe Leer
Whitlow  Ski Austin
Foible  Celia Braswell
Lady Wishfort  Nancy Parrish
Mincing  Jennifer Calvert
Peg  Karen Fuller
Betty  Peggy Pharr
Petulant  George Odum
Witwood  Jeff Kilgore
Singer  Deborah Little
Coshothan  Perry Guezi
Wilfil's Messenger  Brad Erickson
Mirabel's Boy  Brian Carr
John, Lady Wishfort's Footman  Danny Ball
Old Man  Paul Duke
Gentlemen  Alan Malloy

SYNOPSIS OF SCENES

The entire action takes place in London on a day at the turn of the eighteenth century.

Act I—A London Chocolate house, around noon.
Act II—The Mall in St. James's Park, about 1:00.
Act III—A Salon in Lady Wishfort's London mansion, one hour later.
Act IV—The Same, after dinner.
Act V—The Same, approximately 4:00.

PRODUCTION STAFF

Stage Manager  Terry Davis
Set Master  Dean Goodlett
Prop Mistress  Amy Neely
Make-Up Mistress  Teresa Dunlap
Light Mistress  Pamela Enkis
Costume Mistress  Sherry Willis
House Master  Tony Henson
Sound Master  Lonnie Johnson

CREWS

Set—Drew Davis, Tom Johns, Karen Little, Kass Prince, Paul Taylor, Jim Turman, Doug Tow, Judy Wardlaw
Prop—Tim Anderson, Teresa Cook, Carolyne Gresser, Ben Rodriguez
Make-Up—Missi Miller, Katie Walsh
Light—Joseph Ciccone, Suzanne Cranfill, Geoff Dawe, Stephani Hardy, Jeff Humphrey, Marx Martin
Costume—Lynette Basset, Becky Bates, Diane Leitch, Elisabeth Rase, Emily Riddle, Tom Simmons, Elizabeth Ward
House—Tammy Gilbert, Sandra Hoffland

MUSICIANS

Debbie Hall and Alice Ham (harpischord), Christy Wadzech (flute), and Spring Bates (oboe)

Performances on March 23, 24, 25, 26,* 28, 29, 30, 31, April 1.
*Afternoon and evening performances.

There will be two ten-minute intermissions.
A FAMILY TREE

Sir Jonathan Wishfort = Lady Wishfort

Sister (dec.)

Sister (dec.) = Sir Witwoud = Second Wife

Languish (dec.) = Arabella = Fainall (Mrs. Fainall)

Millamant

Sir Willful Witwoud

Anthony Witwoud