



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

Lighting Designed by CHRISTOPHER M. PAUL

Setting Designed by BOB GUTHRIE

Music Written by DAVID RAINS

Choreography by RUTH BELEW

CAST

Mirabell	Randy Hoffmeyer
Millamant	Cynthia Dozier
Fainall	Connie Gravitte
Mrs. Fainall	Genie Babb
Marwood	Toni M. Foster
Waitwell	Roe Leer
Wilfull	Ski Austin
Foible	Celia Braswell
Lady Wishfort	Nancy Parrish
Mincing	Jennifer Calvert
Peg	Karen Fuller
Betty	Peggy Pharr
Petulant	George Odom
Witwoud	Jeff Kilgore
Singer	Deborah Little
Coachman	Perry Guzzi
Wilfull's Messenger	Brad Erickson
Mirabell's Boy	Brian Carr
John, Lady Wishfort's Footman	Danny Ball
Old Man	Paul Duke
Gentlemen	Alan Malloy
	Michael Land

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 Elkins
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 Greaser, Ben Rodriguez

Make-Up—Missi Miller, Katie Walsh

Light—Joseph Ciccone, Suzanne Cranfill, Geoff Dawe, Stephani Hardy, Jeff Humphrey, Marx Martin

Costume—Lynette Bassett, Becky Bates, Diane Leitch, Elizabeth Rape, Emily Riddle, Tom Simmons, Elizabeth Ward

House—Tammy Gilbert, Sandra Hofland

MUSICIANS

Debbie Hall and Alice Ham (harpsichord), Christy Wadzeck (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

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

Sister (dec.)

Millamant

Sister (dec.) = Sir Witwoud = Second Wife

Sir Willful Witwoud

Anthony Witwoud