
ENGLISH
TOURING
OPERA

AUTUMN 2010



THE DUENNA

a comic opera by

RICHARD
BRINSLEY
SHERIDAN

music by

THOMAS LINLEY

The Duenna

Few operas can be said to have created theatrical history, yet this is perhaps the most pertinent description of *The Duenna*. In its first 25 years, the opera's success and popularity was unprecedented. Among its achievements, the box-office takings made the fortunes of the Covent Garden Theatre. Byron declared it to be the "best opera ever written", with Dr. Johnson calling it "one of the two best comedies of the age".

The creation of this exuberant comedy was surrounded by scandal. **Richard Brinsley Sheridan**, Irish playwright and parliamentarian, had eloped with the daughter of composer, **Thomas Linley**. Just months later, Sheridan was writing an opera about a society elopement, with Linley commissioned to write the arias, one-by-one, unaware of the play's real subject. Frustrated, Thomas assigned much of the composition to his prodigious 19-year-old son, also called Thomas, an admired friend and fellow student of Mozart. Young Thomas wrote beautiful songs for this opera before he drowned aged 22, depriving England of a great musical talent.

For this rare performance, ETO has assembled a strong cast featuring artists of both the opera and theatre stages, including **Richard Suart**, **Adrian Thompson** and **Nuala Willis**, accompanied by a period orchestra. Sheridan's only opera will be directed by **Michael Barker-Caven**, best known for his award-winning stage work in Dublin and Wexford.

For more information, please visit englishtouringopera.org.uk or call 020 7833 2555

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THE LIGHTHOUSE POOLE, 1, 2 Oct at 7.30pm
Box Office 0844 406 8666
www.lighthousepoole.co.uk

LINBURY STUDIO THEATRE/ROYAL OPERA HOUSE/COVENT GARDEN
LONDON, 13, 15 Oct at 7.00pm, 16 Oct at 1.00pm
Box Office 020 7304 4000
www.roh.org.uk

THEATRE ROYAL BATH, 18, 19 Oct at 7.30pm
Box Office 01225 448844
www.theatroyal.org.uk

MALVERN THEATRES, 22 Oct at 7.30pm
Box Office 01684 892277
www.malvern-theatres.co.uk

DE LA WARR PAVILION, BEXHILL, 27 Oct at 7.30pm
Box Office 01424 229111
www.dlwp.com

EXETER NORTHCOTT, 30 Oct at 7.30pm
Box Office 01392 493 493
www.exeternorthcott.co.uk

CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE, 4, 5 Nov at 7.30pm
Box Office 01223 503333
www.cambridgeartstheatre.com

HARROGATE THEATRE, 8 Nov at 7.30pm
Box Office 01423 502 116
www.harrogatetheatre.co.uk

SNAPE MALTINGS CONCERT HALL, 27 Nov at 7.30pm
Box Office 01728 687 110
www.aldeburgh.co.uk

For ticket prices and special offers please contact the box offices.

