



LITTLE  
THEATRE  
SOUTHPORT

The  
Southport Dramatic  
Club

*presents*

THE WAY  
OF THE WORLD

BY

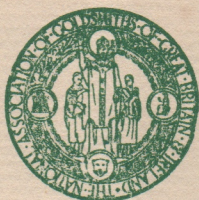
WILLIAM CONGREVE



OCTOBER 12th  
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:: at 7-45 ::



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JOHN S. WOOD, CHAIRMAN.

It gives me the greatest pleasure to extend a warm welcome to the many friends of the Southport Dramatic Club at the beginning of our 31st season.

We hope that "The Way of the World" will prove popular. A great deal of thought and care have gone into its production, and in presenting this play we feel we are starting the season on ambitious lines.

Our five other plays (each of which will begin on a Friday) are being chosen and cast with equal care, and we hope they will make up a varied and balanced programme. Our next production, "The Gioconda Smile" is a thrilling play by Aldous Huxley, and this will be followed by a comedy before Christmas.

I feel that mention should be made of our summer tour of "Fresh Fields." This was presented on nine occasions in June and July to audiences in Lancashire and Cheshire totalling over 1,700, nearly all of whom were hospital patients. We hope these tours will become annual events, for they represent a very practical addition to our contributions for charitable purposes which now total over £6,000.

All in all, the activities of the Club are spreading, and this season the coaching classes for members are being provided on a larger scale than ever before.

We extend a most cordial welcome to our First Nighters, now in their fourth season, and to those who have become Subscribers under our new booking scheme. This support means much to us.

We hope you will enjoy "The Way of the World" and that we shall have the pleasure of seeing you often this season. We, for our part, are determined to see that a consistently high standard of entertainment is provided for you.

JOHN S. WOOD.

# THE WAY OF THE WORLD

## DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Fainall (in love with Mrs. Marwood).....	Mr. ALASTAIR ORMEROD
Mirabell (in love with Mrs. Millamant).....	Mr. GEORGE WAKEFIELD
Betty (a serving wench).....	Mrs. FREDA HOWARD
Footman.....	Mr. ROY HEATH
Waitwell (servant to Mirabell).....	Mr. HAROLD DOBBS
Messenger.....	
Witwoud (follower to Mrs. Millamant) .....	Mr. RONALD DUNCAN
Coachman .....	Mr. COLIN HOWARD
Petulant (follower to Mrs. Millamant).....	Mr. HARRY DAWES
Mrs. Fainall daughter to Lady Wishfort, and wife to Fainall, formerly friend to Mirabell).....	Mrs. AUDREY MEE
Mrs. Marwood (friend to Mr. Fainall, and likes Mirabell)	Mrs. DAWN McCORMICK
Mrs. Millamant (a fine lady, niece to Lady Wishfort and loves Mirabell) .....	Mrs. JOAN DUNCAN
Mincing (woman to Mrs. Millamant).....	Mrs. PEGGY INCE
Foible (woman to Lady Wishfort) .....	Mrs. VIVIEN HORNBY
Peg (a serving wench).....	Mrs. PAT TALBOT
Lady Wishfort (enemy to Mirabell for having falsely pretended to love her).....	Mrs. EDITH LEPINE
Sir Wilful Witwoud (half-brother to Witwoud and nephew to Lady Wishfort).....	Mr. RAY JEFFS
Guests in coffee house.....	Mr. COLIN HOWARD, Mr. ALAN JOYCE

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## SYNOPSIS OF SCENES.

London, 1700.

### ACT I.

Scene 1—A Chocolate House.

Scene 2—St. James' Park.

Scene 3—A room in Lady Wishfort's House.

### INTERVAL

### ACT II.

Scene 1—Another room in Lady Wishfort's House.

Scene 2—Salon in Lady Wishfort's House.

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Scenery designed, constructed and painted by ARTHUR NUGENT

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The Public may leave at the end of the Performance by all exits, and all exit doors will at that time be open.

If the Public leave in an orderly manner THIS THEATRE CAN BE EMPTIED IN THREE MINUTES OR LESS.





PHOTOGRAPH  
BY  
KAY & FOLEY LTD.  
SOUTHPORT

JOSEPH CROSSLEY, PRODUCER  
"THE WAY OF THE WORLD."

This Congreve comedy, one of the classics of the English language, abounds with plot and counterplot. Charles Wibley says of the author "It was Congreve's purpose to design some characters which would appear ridiculous, not so much as through a natural folly (which is incorrigible, and therefore not proper to the stage) as through an affected wit, a wit, which at the same time that it is affected is also false. And so, he set upon the boards a set of men and women of quick brains and cynical humours, who talked with brilliance and rapidity wherewith the finished swordsman fences."

The proud Mirabell is paying court to the brilliant Millamant, who is determined to have him but in her own good time.

Lady Wishfort, that most desperate of creatures, a lady fighting a battle with time, desires above all else to ruin Mirabell and to re-marry.

Mr. Fainall and Mrs. Marwood are the villains of the piece.

Witwoud and Petulant, "followers" of the scintillating Millamant have no real bearing on the plot but you will be titillated or ruffled by their badinage and antics. Either way their object is achieved.

In presenting "The Way of the World," the Club for the first time essays a Restoration classical comedy, and feels sure an audience could not fail to be enchanted by the wit and gaiety of the play, or by the scenes of raillery between Mirabell and Millamant. They are the perfection of comedy, not merely because of their wit, their elegance, their malice and their irony, but because, as in all great comedy, there is an undercurrent of emotion. One is never in doubt that these two are in love, that they desire one another passionately. It is this that gives their scenes their peculiar glitter and excitement.

JOSEPH CROSSLEY.

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