

## TARTUFFE

TARTUFFE was first presented, in a three-act form, on May 12, 1664, as a part of a sumptuous festival at Versailles, the King liked it, but, under pressure from the church, forbade Moliere to produce it in public. Then for five years Moliere strove to bring his play to life, revising and rewriting, presenting appeals to authority, pulling every string. At length, for reasons not entirely clear, Louis revoked his ban. TARTUFFE was publicly performed on February 5, 1669. Its success was sensational and lasting. Over the centuries it has totaled more performances than any other Moliere play.

It is classified as a comedy of character, in that its interest is concentrated on the picture of a religious hypocrite. It contains elements of the thesis play, showing the social danger of the perversion of faith; of the comedy of manners; and of course of farce.

The import of TARTUFFE has been endlessly discussed. Was Moliere really attacking professional confidence men, who use religion as a cloak? Was he mocking the practice of Catholicism, of all religion?

Certainly every spokesman for the Church in the seventeenth century condemned the play as dangerous to true religion. Certainly today's playgoer, seeing the practice of religion represented by a hypocrite, a dupe, and a fool, and hearing the laughter at the actors' burlesques of piety, is likely to agree. One difficulty resides in the nature of hypocrisy. The more competent a hypocrite is, the less can his visible behavior be distinguished from the real thing. And is Tartuffe really a hypocrite? No words of his own, even to the play's end, reveal his hypocrisy. To the spectator he looks like a bigoted, a voracious sensualist — which is a very different thing from a hypocrite.

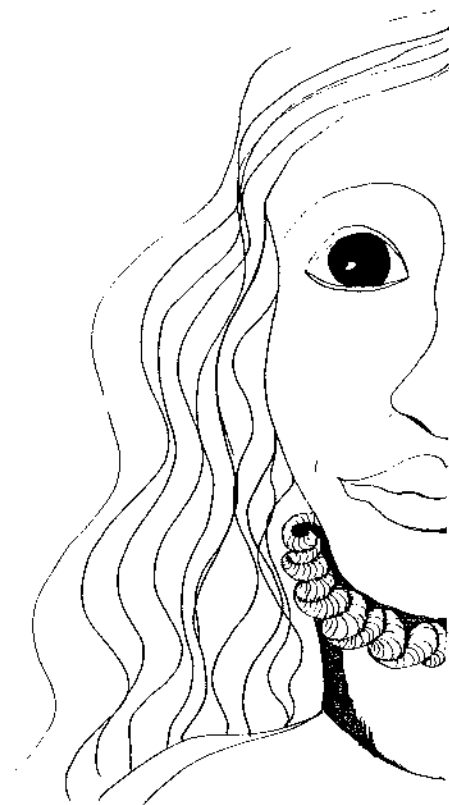
Some modern critics beg the whole question by saying that there is no problem. The character Tartuffe is just an actor's part; the moment he leaves the stage he ceases to exist. The play is just a play, a super-farce, designed to make an audience laugh. But it seems strange that Moliere would have worked so hard, risking the most savage reprisals, in order to produce a meaningless play.

# THEATRE

presents

Moliere's

# TARTUFFE



March 14, 15, and 16, 1974

McNair Auditorium

8:00 p.m.

moliere's

**TARTUFFE**

madame pernelle . . . . . judy gaddy  
 elmire . . . . . susan graham  
 dorine . . . . . susan kaney  
 damis . . . . . bryan hill  
 mariane . . . . . debbie hatchell  
 cleante . . . . . david weaver  
 flipote . . . . . susan robertson  
 monsieur orgon . . . . . john jebaily  
 valere . . . . . bill camlin  
 tartuffe . . . . . scott thomas  
 loyale . . . . . phyllis youmans  
 officer . . . . . terry allen  
 sergeant . . . . . gary hard  
 sergeant . . . . . jack elliot

**scene synopsis**

the prologue - the stage of mcnair auditorium, 1974  
 the play - the house of monsieur orgon, paris, 1663

**act i**

scene 1 - early afternoon of an indian summer day  
 scene 2 - mid-afternoon the same day  
 scene 3 - moments later  
 10 min. intermission

**act ii**

scene 1 - later the same day  
 scene 2 - early evening

*the college theatre requests that no photographs be taken during  
 the performance.*

**production staff**

director . . . . . d. c. sanderson  
 technical director & scenic designer . . . . . d. s. campbell  
 costume designer . . . . . c. a. sanderson  
 lighting control . . . . . jay richardson  
 wardrobe mistress . . . . . susan robertson  
 set construction . . . . . terry allen, jack elliot, gary hard,  
 phyllis youmans, debbie smith, susan robertson  
 costume construction . . . . . claire holland, judy gaddy,  
 susan robertson, elise holland, phyllis youmans, john jebaily  
 publicity . . . . . j. robert ward, chris camlin,  
 scott thomas, frank crow, phyllis youmans  
 tickets & ushers . . . . . alpha zeta tau

TARTUFFE is presented by special  
 arrangement with

samuel french, inc.  
 25 west 45th st.  
 new york, n. y. 10036

the college theatre expresses a special thanks to  
 mrs. w. e. bates                      mr. carter byrd  
 mr. donald moore                      mr. rupert gaddy  
 miss prissy fulp                      miss lea lackey  
 miss ella davies