

## John O'Keefe

John O'Keefe was born in Abbey Street, Dublin, on the 24th June 1747. As a child he studied at various establishments in Dublin and found inspiration, at a very early age, in the works of Shakespeare, Ben Johnson, Congreve and Farquar. At the age of 16 he left Ireland to live with relatives in London where, having spent some time enjoying all that the city had to offer, including its many fine theatres, O'Keefe wrote his first play, "The Generous Lovers". Alas, the play remains unstaged to this day, a situation not unrelated to the fact that the manuscript was lost! His second play, written on returning to Dublin, was more successful. "The She Gallant" was produced by the tragedian Henry Mossop, whose company O'Keefe joined as an actor.

O'Keefe married Mary Heaphy in 1774, the product of the union being three children, one of whom died in infancy. He resolved to support his family by writing plays, though in the same year his eyesight began to deteriorate. He sent "Tony Lumpkin in Town", a sequel to Goldsmiths "She Stoops to Conquer", to George Colman, who was Patentee of the Theatre Royal, Haymarket in London. Colman was enthusiastic about the play and it was produced with some success in 1778.

A stream of popular plays and operas followed this debut including "The Son in Law", "Dead Alive", "The Agreeable Surprise", "The Castle of Andalusia" and many others. At his peak, O'Keefe was writing as many as four major works per year and "Wild Oats" was written and produced whilst he was at the height of his popularity, in 1791.

O'Keefe became totally blind in 1798. He continued to write plays but they were not performed and he was soon in difficult financial circumstances. He finally retired to Chichester in 1815 and was granted a pension by George IV.

His last home was at Bedford Cottage, Southampton, where he died on 4th February 1833 aged 85.

*the maskers theatre company*

*present*

# WILD OATS

*by*

*John O'Keefe*

DIRECTOR : MOLLIE MANNIS

## Cast

John Dory  
Sir George Thunder  
Ephraim Smooth  
Lady Amaranth  
Zachariah  
Midge (Muz)  
Harry Thunder  
Rover  
Farmer Gammon  
Sim  
Jane  
Banks  
Twitch  
Maids  
  
Landlady  
Trap  
Lamp  
Amelia  
Ruffians  
  
Coachman

KEN HOWARTH  
KENNETH SPENCER  
KEN HANN  
LYNDA EDWARDS  
TONY LAWTHOR  
ROBERT SMITH  
GRAHAM CROSBY  
JIM SMITH  
DAVID PIKE  
BRIAN STANSBRIDGE  
HAZEL BURROWS  
BRIAN WHITAKER  
JOHN BURROWS  
VALERIE BARWELL  
MERI LAWTHOR  
SHEILA CLARK  
DEREK SEALY  
DAVID FREEMANTLE  
ANN ARCHER  
TONY LAWTHOR  
DEREK SEALY  
PETER SYVRET  
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The Play is set in and around Hampshire and is in two Acts with one interval of approximately 20 minutes, during which the fully licensed Theatre Bar will be open.

Coffee, soft drinks, chocolate and ice cream are also available.

## NUFFIELD THEATRE

licensee: A. de R. Davis

JEAN ADAMS	secretary
MARION CLARKE	box office
BILL DUNN	stage door keeper
PHYLLIS EDEN	box office
GREG HEAD	electrician
JANET HUMBY	box office
DEREK JONES	chief electrician
GERDA KELLNER	box office
ROGER McCANN	administrator
BETTY RIGGS	box office
STANLEY RIXON	technical manager
JOHN C. SMITH	chairman
RALPH STEVENS	house manager
MOLLY WILSON	box office
SUE WILSON	fellow in theatre

The Nuffield Theatre would like to thank the ushers for giving their services voluntarily.

The Nuffield Theatre acknowledges financial assistance from the Southern Arts Association and the Leisure Committee of the City of Southampton towards the cost of maintaining this theatre.

In accordance with the requirements of the licensing authority:

- 1 The audience may leave at the end of the performance by all exit doors.
- 2 All gangways, corridors, staircases and passageways which afford a means of exit shall be kept entirely free from obstruction.
- 3 Person shall not be permitted to stand or sit in any of the gangways except in positions authorised by the licensing authority and in the numbers indicated in the notices exhibited in those positions.
- 4 The safety curtain shall be lowered and raised at each performance in the presence of the audience.

The management reserves the right to refuse admission, also to make any alteration in the cast which may be rendered necessary by illness or other unavoidable causes.

The use of cameras or tape recorders in the theatre is forbidden.

## FOR THE MASKERS THEATRE COMPANY

Stage Manager	KEITH HOOPER
Stage Assistants	CHRIS JONES ROGER LOCKETT IVAN WHITE
Lighting Design	DEREK JONES RON TILLYER
Lighting Operator	CLIVE WEEKS
Sound	MIKE McDERMID
Set Design	KENNETH SPENCER
Set Painting	KENNETH SPENCER
Set Construction	HAZEL BURROWS JOHN RIGGS JOHN BURROWS JOHN CARRINGTON
Wardrobe	MIKE JOHNSON BILL PARKES LILLIAN GUNSTONE AUDREY WHITAKER
Properties	HAZEL BURROWS JOY WINGFIELD VALERIE BARWELL JOAN JOHNSON MERI LAWTHOR SUSAN PARKES
Business Management and Publicity	GRAHAM BUCHANAN BRIAN STANSBRIDGE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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