



# SCAPIN

By Molière

A new adaptation by Stephen Wrentmore

Directed by Stephen Wrentmore

Sept. 16 - Oct. 1, 2022

*Runtime: 90 minutes which includes a  
15-minute intermission*

## SPOTLIGHT STUDY GUIDE

For Teachers and Students



Pioneer Theatre Company's Student Matinee Program is made possible through the support of Salt Lake County's Zoo, Arts and Parks Program, The Simmons Family Foundation, and The Meldrum Foundation Endowment Fund.

# SCAPIN

*Scapin* first premiered May 24, 1671, at the Palais Royal, 'Les Fourberies de Scapin had great success. It is a farce taken partly from classical, partly from Italian or from French sources. Molière acted the part of Scapin.

## FARCE

*A farce is a broad satire or comedy, though now it's used to describe something that is supposed to be serious but has turned ridiculous. If a defendant is not treated fairly, their lawyer might say that the trial is a farce.*

As a type of comedy, a farce uses improbable situations, physical humor and silliness to entertain. Spoof films such as *Spaceballs*, a comedy based on the *Star Wars* movies, are farces. If a real-life event or situation is a farce, it feels this ridiculous. An election is a farce, if the outcome has been determined before the voting begins. And class can feel like a farce if your substitute teacher knows less about the subject than you do.

Farce - Definition, Meaning & Synonyms |  
Vocabulary.com

## ADAPTATIONS

In a theatrical adaptation, material from another artistic medium, such as a novel or a film is re-written according to the needs and requirements of the theatre and turned into a play or musical. It is always interesting to see a favorite book, film,

or even board game come to life before your eyes onstage. On top of that, you can put many different spins on an adaptation. Some adaptations are modernized, some are set in a different location, and some are turned completely on their head!

There are many different types of adaptations. Some are direct "page-to-stage" adaptations of famous stories such as *Alice in Wonderland*, *Anne of Green Gables*, *The Wizard of Oz*, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and more. There are also adaptations that put an interesting spin on the source material... The Broadway musical *Mean Girls* is an adaptation of the movie starring Lindsay Lohan, which itself was adapted by Tina Fey from a nonfiction self-help book called *Queen Bees and Wannabes* by Rosalind Wiseman.  
theatrefolk.com

## STEPHEN WRENTMORE

PTC's current version of *Scapin* has a contemporary twist. The new adaptation is written and directed by Stephen Wrentmore.

Set in vibrant 1960s Naples, Italy, Wrentmore's take on the 17th-century classic puts women at the forefront by changing the trouble-making servant Scapin into a female character—who is now assisting two very chic and meddling mothers (fathers in the original telling) in their quest to see their respective sons married to suitable brides.

Stephen Wrentmore is an award-winning British theatre director, and writer. He teaches at the University of Kentucky.



## Les Fourberies de Scapin Molière

texte intégral



# THE PLAYWRIGHT:

## Molière

### The life and work of the French dramatist.

Molière, orig. Jean-Baptiste Poquelin, (baptized Jan. 15, 1622, Paris, France—died Feb. 17, 1673, Paris), French playwright, actor, and director. The son of a prosperous upholsterer, he left home to become an actor in 1643, joining forces with the Béjart family. He co-founded the troupe known as the Illustre Théâtre and toured the French provinces (1645–58), writing plays and acting in them. After his troupe was established in a permanent theatre in Paris under the patronage of Louis XIV, he won acclaim in the court and among bourgeois audiences for his comedy *The Affected Young Ladies* (1659). His other major plays include *The School for Wives* (1662), *Tartuffe* (1664; initially banned by religious authorities), *The Misanthrope* (1666), *The Miser* (1669), *The Bourgeois Gentleman* (1670), *Psyché* and *Les Fourberies de Scapin* (The Cheats of Scapin) in 1671, and *The Imaginary Invalid* (1673). His plays compose a portrait of all levels of 17th-century French society and are marked by their good-humoured and intelligent mockery of human vices, vanities, and follies. Despite his success, he never ceased to act and direct. Taken ill during a performance, he died of a hemorrhage within a day. He is considered the greatest French dramatist and the father of modern French comedy.



### How did Molière begin his career in theatre?

Molière founded his own theatre company in his early 20s. His company toured the French provinces for several years and eventually secured the patronage of King Louis XIV's brother in 1658 at a performance given at the Louvre. With the advantage of royal patronage, Molière's company began to grow in prestige.

### What did Molière write?

Molière wrote comedies for the stage. He is the author of enduring plays such as *Tartuffe* and *Le Misanthrope*. Many of his plays contained scandalous material. They were met with public

outray and were suppressed by the Roman Catholic Church.

### What is Molière's legacy?

Molière created a new kind of comedy. In his plays, the comic is based on a double vision that holds together opposing ideas, such as wisdom and folly or right and wrong. He was controversial during his day, but he is now viewed as an icon of French culture.

Molière | Biography & Facts | Britannica

### Playwriting Exercise: Exploring Adaptation

This production is a brand-new adaptation written for this production by the director, Stephen Wrentmore. It uses Molière's original 1671 play but is changed and updated for further modern effect. Not only is the setting changed so that the action takes place in 1960, but the roles of Scapin and the two fathers, traditionally male roles, have been rewritten for actresses to portray.

**ACTIVITY QUESTION:** Can you think of some examples of movie adaptations or remakes? What same stories have been retold with different actors or even movie titles? Example: *West Side Story* (2021) & (1961).

theatrefolk.com



# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT NAPLES, ITALY

## (that you probably didn't know!)

Naples is the 3rd largest city in Italy, located in southern Italy.

But did you know...

Naples means “New City.” It comes from ancient Greek Νεάπολις, or Neapolis.

Naples is the 3rd largest city in Italy with a total area of 119 km<sup>2</sup> (46 square miles).

The famous Margherita Pizza was named in Naples after Queen Margherita in 1889 when pizzamaker Raffaele Esposito was asked to make a pizza for the Italian King Umberto I and his wife.

Naples is famous for its seven castles, and it was named “the city of the seven castles” in the past. The castles remain to this day, and you can visit most of them. Here’s the list:

- Castel dell’Ovo
- Castel Nuovo (also known as Maschio Angioino)
- Castel Capuano
- Castel Sant’Elmo
- Forte di Vigliena
- Castello del Carmine
- Castello di Nisida

You can see the infamous Mount Vesuvius from Naples, which is located right next to it. The volcano erupted in 79 AD and destroyed the city of Pompeii. Naples still remains under constant threat from the super volcano, but it isn’t the only volcano threatening the city. Not far from Naples is the Campi Flegrei, an extinct super volcano.

Campi Flegrei is actually made of 24 craters, and the eruption could be an absolute disaster. For comparison, the eruption of Mount Vesuvius was a level 5 on the Volcanic Explosivity Index, while Campi Flegrei scores an all high 7.

And finally, this is the last of our Naples facts.

Do you know the “O Sole Mio” song? It’s an internationally-known song, written in Naples in 1898. It was mostly made famous by Luciano Pavarotti, who recorded the song in 1980.

(kevmrc.com)



# SCAPIN CHARACTER

## ARGANTA

Mother of OCTAVE and ZERBINETTE

## GÉRONTA

Mother of LÉANDRE and HYACINTHA

## OCTAVE

Son to ARGANTA, in love with HYACINTHA, in love with the idea of love

## LÉANDRE

Son of GÉRONTA, in love with ZERBINETTE, a lover not a fighter

## ZERBINETTE

Daughter of ARGANTA, lead singer with the GYPSIES, the hardest rocking band south of Milan

## HYACINTHA

Daughter of GÉRONTA, in love with OCTAVE, a free spirit

## SCAPIN

A rogue. Unwilling servant of LÉANDRE

## SILVESTRE

A fool. Willing servant of OCTAVE

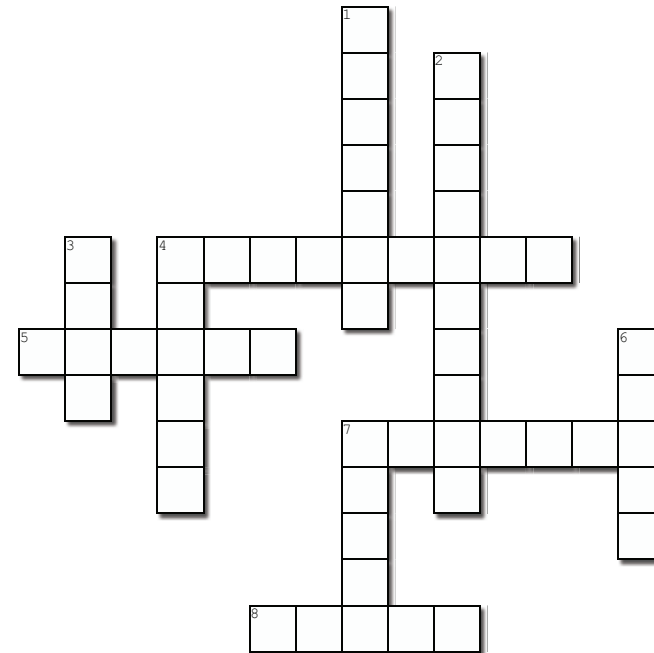
## NÉRINE

Nurse and confidante of HYACINTHA

**CARLE** A crook

**TWO PORTERS**

# SCAPIN CROSSWORD ACTIVITY



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

## Across

4. Scapin's other servant friend
5. Son to Arganta
7. Name of this theatre company
8. The country of this production's setting

## Down

1. The first name of Director Wrentmore
2. A movie, television drama, or stage play that has been modernized or updated from another written work
3. The actress playing Zerbinette
4. The role Molière acted in the original 1671 production of Scapin
6. A broad satire or comedy
7. The food invented in Naples

# OUR EQUITY CAST



ADRIAN BAIDOO\* (Léandre) Broadway: *The Inheritance*. Off-Broadway: *Separate And Equal* (59E59); *Rocco, Chelsea, Adriana... (Here)*; *Pirra* (West End Theater); *On Striver's Row* (Metropolitan Playhouse). Broadway First National Tour: *Cinderella*. TV: "Royal Pains." BFA University of Michigan and Moscow Art Theatre School Graduate.



CELESTE CIULLA\* (Arganta) PTC: *The Lion In Winter*, *Clybourne Park*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Macbeth*. Some favorites have included: Laura in *Tea & Sympathy*, Jane in *THIS*, Costanza in *Enchanted April*, Tamora in *Titus Andronicus* and Gertrude in *Hamlet*. Graduate of Northwestern and Harvard Universities.



SOFIA JEAN GOMEZ\* (Geronta) NY credits: *Angels in America*: Part 1&2 (Signature Theatre Company), *Call and Response* (Public Theatre), *Page 73 Productions*, New World Stages, Manhattan Theatre Club, New Georges, and Lake Lucille Chekhov Project. Yale School of Drama. Intimacy Coordinators of Color Captain Certification.



LUCY LAVELLY\* (Zerbinette) Favorite credits include the world premiere of *Possessing Harriet* where Lavelly portrayed Elizabeth Cady Stanton at Syracuse Stage, *Macbeth* (Orlando Shakes & Theater at Monmouth), *One Man Two Guvnors* (PTC), *The White Snake* (Baltimore Center Stage), *Other Desert Cities* (Asolo Repertory Theatre), *The Taming* (Shakespeare & Co.) Graduate of the University of Notre Dame (BA) & FSU/Asolo Conservatory (MFA).



KATE MIDDLETON\* (Scapin) PTC: *A Few Good Men*, *Alabama Story*, and *Oslo*. Broadway/Off-Broadway: *Music City*, *Women Without Men*, *Shear Madness*, *The Other Place* (MTC) and more. Select Regional: *Roe* at The Goodman (Chicago) and *The Fountain* (LA). TV: "Chicago Fire," "Elementary," "Blacklist," "FBI: Most Wanted," "Orange is the New Black," "Blue Bloods," "Mercy," "Law & Order."



ANDREA MORALES\* (Hyacintha) last seen at PTC in the Play-by-Play reading of *The Anatomy of Love*. Off-Broadway: *Chains* (Mint Theatre) Regional: *Buried Child*, *Three Musketeers* (Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey), *Pinkolandia* (Two River Theatre), *In A Million Years* (Ancram Opera House). TV Credits include "Prodigal Son" (FOX), "The Blacklist" (NBC), "Bull" (CBS).



XAVIER REYES\* (Sylvestre) Credits include: *Kinky Boots* Broadway National Tour, *Night at the Museum*, *Anna in the Tropics* (Barrington), *Trading Places* (Alliance Theatre), *Fun Home*, *Hair*, *In The Heights*, *Rent*, *West Side Story* and my favorite: Lynn Nottage's *Sweat*, here at PTC! Alum of Ithaca College.



ALEX WALTON\* (Octave) Recent credits include Andrew in *I Hate Hamlet* (Maltz Jupiter Theatre), Henry in *Next To Normal* (Fulton Theatre), Claude in *Hair* (Forestburgh Playhouse), and Alex in *Hit The Wall* at the NYC's infamous landmark, The Stonewall Inn. TV/Film credits include "FBI:Most Wanted" and David in the feature film *Extra Innings* (Amazon Prime).