

'The Three Cuckolds' Bawdy Commedia Opens Tonight

Tonight, Wednesday, is the grand opening of "The Three Cuckolds," a merry romp through marital infidelity Italian style. The play will run through Saturday night in Howard Chapel at 8. ACC students faculty and staff will be admitted free. Other adults will be charged \$2; non-ACC students will be charged \$1.

The production, sponsored by Stage and Script, employs the considerable talents of many ACC students and faculty. Jeff Batchelor uses his mime and comedic skills to the fullest in the role of Arlecchino, a scheming con-man who is out to cadge for himself food and drink, and the love of any woman he sees. He manages to complicate the plans of three elderly husbands, each of whom is interested in his neighbor's young wife.

The three husbands, the cuckolds of the title, are played by Scott Robertson, Mac McKee and Frank Silverthorne. The three young wives, who have wandering eyes as well, are played by Beth Forbes, Patti Fahling and Lura Hewitt. Further complicating matters is the young lover Leandro, played by Bob Poole.

Each of the husbands and each of the wives is aided by Arlecchino in schemes to sneak into the neighbor's house while the other husband is not home. With three couples involved, the complications are enormous and hilarious.

Student crews have been working for weeks on building and painting scenery and props, hanging and focusing lights, planning makeup and costumes and organizing a smooth-running show. Those involved are Tripp Campbell, Hugh Johnston, Kevin Rouse, Alan Winstead, Robert Worton, Jeff Mault, Dawn Healy, Pat Smith, Steve Gray, Nancy Hollowell, Valerie Melvin and Robert Wegman.

Curtain is at 8 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday nights, in Howard Chapel.

The Art of Comedy

"The Three Cuckolds" is based on a scenario from 16th century Italy in the *commedia dell'arte* style. *Commedia* developed during that time and was the most popular form of comic theatre for two hundred years. *Commedia* was actor-centered, improvised and adaptable to almost any playing condition.

The actor was the heart and almost the only essential ingredient for *commedia*, the script was merely an outline of the dialogue and developed the complications as the situation seemed to demand.

The same set of stock characters appeared in all the plays performed by a single troupe, and the same actor always played the same character type. While each play was improvised

LIBRARY

SEP 29

ATLANTIC

the ~~CHRISTIAN COLLEGE~~ set of speeches, well-polished comic

the troupe had a number of proven *lazzi* or extended bits of comic business which could be utilized when appropriate.

Commedia actors actors played for all types of audiences and produced a genuinely popular theatre movement. Many were invited to play at the courts, but they were equally at home in the market place or at fairs.

Almost eight hundred *commedia dell'arte* scenarios still exist. Since they outline only the action, however, it is difficult to get a clear picture of the actual quality of the performance, although all accounts testify to the great skill of the actors. The popularity of the troupes for a period of over two hundred years also attests to their genuine audience appeal.



Franceschina sneaks her lover into the house with her husband's help. (Photo by Jeff MacLennan)



The Collegiate

September 30, 1981 Vol. 52 No. 6



Arlecchino is discovered by everyone. (Photo by Jeff MacLennan)

Guards Concert

The first presentation of the current Friends of the College series will be held at 8 p.m., Oct. 9 and 10, in Reynolds Coliseum at North Carolina State University in Raleigh.

Two regiments, the Coldstream Guards and Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, will present their tatoes combining pipes, drums, marching bands and Scottish dancers, into a thrilling experience.

The Concert, Lecture and Convocations Committee has

purchased 30 tickets for the concert which are available free of charge to ACC students. These may be picked up in the music building, but only one ticket will be presented to each student.

Also available, in the same way, are 10 bus seat tickets for the chartered bus which leaves at 6 p.m., Oct. 10, from the Nash and Jackson Street parking lot. Rides back to the dorms can be arranged with faculty who also travel on the bus.

Inside The Collegiate

Movie and Album Review.....	Page 3
Stage and Script.....	Page 4
Photo of the week.....	Page 5
October Calendar.....	Page 7
Sports.....	Page 8