



*For Immediate*

*Release:*

Theatre Glendon presents:  
**SGANARELLE OU LE COCU IMAGINAIRE (Sganarelle or the imaginary cuckold)**  
A Comedy by Molière  
Directed by Guillaume Bernardi  
**PREVIEW: March 20, 2005: 8pm**  
**SHOW: March 21 – 23, 2005: 8pm and March 24, 2005: 5:30pm**  
Glendon College, York Hall, 2275 Bayview Ave @ Lawrence, Toronto, Ontario  
[www.glendon.yorku.ca/theatre](http://www.glendon.yorku.ca/theatre)  
Tickets: 10.00/ 5.00 Student Discount  
Reservations: 416-487-6822

On May 28th 1660 Molière staged a comedy in acts and verse: Sganarelle and the Imaginary Cuckold, which became a great success. This little play would be performed thirty times before the end of that year, and would become the most performed play during the life of its author. The story is quite simple, a spoof! And also complex:

A portrait falls from the hands of a young girl, which consequently **unleash a comic sequence of misunderstandings**. Sganarelle, a bourgeois from Paris, thinks his wife is cheating on him, and she thinks he is unfaithful. As well, Lélie, a young charming man is made believe that his lover Célie has married off to someone else without respecting their oath, and Célie is convinced that Lélie no longer loves her!! The moment Sganarelle, who believes he has been cheated by Lélie – is caught between the desire of duelling this “challenger” – who is has made Sganarelle wear horns! and the fear of losing his life, Célie’s servant, deity of organisation, clarifies all, and Sganarelle, the “Imaginary Cuckold”, draws the lesson:

"Even if you should see everything, never believe anything"

Even though the other characters of the comedy, – Gorgibus, Gros-René, Villebrequin, Lélie and Célie –, have names and styles that are almost traditional to commedia dell’ arte, the main character is Molière’s own invention. Virtuoso actor Molière created a character for himself that will not cease to enrich and diversify during the other six plays where the character appears. The first Sganarelle, close to the typical traditional comedies, old, egotistical, naïve, fearful, is in fact the archetype of the adulterated husband – imaginary or not. This bourgeois Sganarelle, conformist and outrageous is the hero of three comedies: *Sganarelle ou le Cocu imaginaire* (1660), *l’École des maris* (1661) and *le Mariage forcé* (1664). Always bourgeois, Sganarelle is the father of a family duped by an clever girl in the ballet-comedy *l’Amour médecin* (1665) Then he changes social positions as a naïve servant in *Dom Juan* (1665) or a clever one belonging to Léandre in the spoof *Médecin Volant*, before finally finishing off his career in the very flesh of the familiar impostor in *Médecin malgré lui* (1666), deceiving, alcoholic, and shameless.

In our version of this very amusing play, we have recreated the atmosphere of a place of the classical epic in which bohemian actors arrive to perform a comedy. With music, masks we shall entertain, while allowing you to enjoy the beautiful language of Molière!!

Cast: Eve Picard, Valérie Roy, Olga Kaniak, Marie-Eve Morin, Katharine Matte, Myriam Bourbonnais, Esther Wolf

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Source: Olga Kaniak, Publicity Manager  
Glendon College, York University • 2275, avenue Bayview • Toronto, Ontario. M4N 3M6  
416-833-8057, olgakaniak@hotmail.com