

## The Country Wife – Audition Pieces

### Horner, Harcourt, Sparkish and Dorilant

*Harcourt:* What, my dear friend! A rogue that is fond of me, only I think for abusing him.

*Dorilant:* No, he can no more think the men laugh at him than that women jilt him, his opinion of himself is so good.

*Harcourt:* One that, by being in the company of men of sense, would pass for one.

*Dorilant:* And to pass for a wit in town, shows himself a fool every night to us, that are guilty of the plot.

*Horner:* Such wits as he are, to a company of reasonable men, like rooks to the gamesters, who only fill a room at the table, but are so far from contributing to the play that they only serve to spoil the fancy of those that do. For your noisy, pert rogue of a wit is the greatest fop, dullest ass, and worst company, as you shall see. For here he comes.

*(Enter Sparkish)*

*Sparkish:* How is it, Sparks, how is it? Well faith, Harry, I must railly thee a little, ha, ha, ha! Upon the report in Town of thee, ha, ha, ha! I can't hold in Faith. Shall I speak?

*Horner:* Yes, but you'll be so bitter then.

*Sparkish:* Honest Dick and Frank here shall answer for me, I will not be extreme bitter, by the Universe.

*Harcourt:* We will be bound in ten thousand pound bond, he shall not be bitter at all.

*Dorilant:* Nor sharp nor sweet.

*Horner:* What, not downright insipid?

*Sparkish:* Nay then, since you are so brisk and provoke me, take what follows. You must know I was discoursing and rallying with some ladies yesterday, and they happened to talk of the fine new signs in town.

*Horner:* Very fine ladies, I believe.

*Sparkish:* Said I, 'I know where the best new sign is'. 'Where?' says one of the Ladies. 'In Covent-Garden', I replied. Said another, 'In what street?' 'In Russell Street', answered I. 'Lord', says another, 'I'm sure there was ne'er a fine new sign there yesterday'. 'Yes, but there was', said I again, 'and it came out of France, and has been there a fortnight.'

*Dorilant:* A Pox! I can hear no more, prithee.