

The Country Wife – Audition Pieces

Lucy and Alithea

Lucy: Well, Madam, now have I dressed you, and set you out with so many ornaments, and spent upon you ounces of essence and pulvilio; and all this for no other purpose but as people adorn and perfume a corpse, for a stinking second-hand-grave; such or as bad I think I think Master Sparkish's bed.

Alithea: Hold your peace.

Lucy: Nay, Madam, I will ask you the reason why you would banish poor Master Harcourt forever from your sight? How could you be so hard-hearted?

Alithea: 'Twas because I was not hard-hearted.

Lucy: No, no; 'twas stark love and kindness, I warrant.

Alithea: I would see him no more, because I love him.

Lucy: Hey-day, a very pretty reason.

Alithea: You do not understand me.

Lucy: I wish you may yourself.

Alithea: I was engaged to marry, you see, another man whom my justice will not suffer me to deceive or injure.

Lucy: Can there be a greater cheat or wrong done to a man than to give him your person without your heart? I should make a conscience of it.

Alithea: I'll retrieve it for him after I am married a while.

Lucy: You will marry him then?

Alithea: Certainly. I have given him already my word, and will my hand too, to make it good, when he comes.

Lucy: Well, I wish I may never stick pin more if he be not an arrant natural to t'other fine gentleman.