

## The Country Wife – Audition Pieces

### Quack and Horner

*(Enter Horner, and Quack following him at a distance.)*

*Horner:* A quack is as fit for a pimp as a midwife for a bawd; they are still but in their way both helps of nature. - Well, my dear Doctor, hast thou done what I desired?

*Quack:* I have undone you forever with the women, and reported you throughout the whole town as an eunuch, with as much trouble as if I had made you one in earnest.

*Horner:* But have you told all the midwives you know, the orange wenches at the playhouses, the city husbands, and old fumbling keepers of this end of town? For they'll be the readiest to report it.

*Quack:* I have told all the chambermaids, waiting-women, tire-women, and old women of my acquaintance; nay, and whispered it as a secret to 'em, and to the whisperers of Whitehall so that you need not doubt 'twill spread, and you will be as odious to the handsome young women as ..

*Horner:* As the smallpox. Well –

*Quack:* And to the married women of this end of the town as -

*Horner:* As the great ones; nay their own husbands. I am only afraid 'twill not be believed. You told them 'twas by an English-French disaster and an English-French surgeon, who has given me at once not only a cure, but an antidote for the future against that damned malady, and that even worse distemper, love, and all the other women's evils?

*Quack:* Your late journey into France has made it the more credible, and your being here a fortnight before you appeared in public looks as if you apprehended the shame, which I wonder you do not. Well, I have been hired by young gallants to belie 'em t'other way; but you are the first would be thought a man unfit for women.

*Horner:* Dear Mr. Doctor, let vain rogues be contented to be thought abler men than they are, generally 'tis all the pleasure they have, but mine lies another way.