

# Theatre – The Belles Stratagem, The Lyceum



## The Belles Stratagem

by Hannah Cowley

adapted and directed by Tony Cownie

15 February 2018 to 10 March 2018

***“Vanity, like murder, will out.”***

A witty riposte to Farquhar’s *The Beaux Stratagem*, Hannah Cowley’s rediscovered gem turns the tables on the farcical goings-on and has the women coming out on top.

We find ourselves in Georgian Edinburgh where the elegant New Town is springing up all around, and the newly opened Assembly Rooms are the centre of social life and romantic intrigue. Despite being betrothed to him since birth, Letitia Hardy finds herself out of favour with the charming and arrogant Doricourt upon his return from Europe, as he declares that continental women are so much more sophisticated than ‘dull Scottish lassies’.

Determined not to marry without love, Letitia formulates a hilarious plan to capture his attention: behave so badly that he calls off the wedding, and then seduce him in disguise! Meanwhile, Doricourt’s close friend Sir George, has a beautiful new wife, the country-born Lady Frances. Escaping his overprotective gaze for an afternoon, she draws the attention of the rake, Courtall, who vows to seduce her.

Anticipate Tony Cownie’s adaptation having all the wit, mischief and sumptuous design audiences have come to expect from his ebullient recent productions at The Lyceum, *The*

*Venetian Twins* and *Thon Man* Molière.

<https://lyceum.org.uk/whats-on/production/the-belles-stratagem>