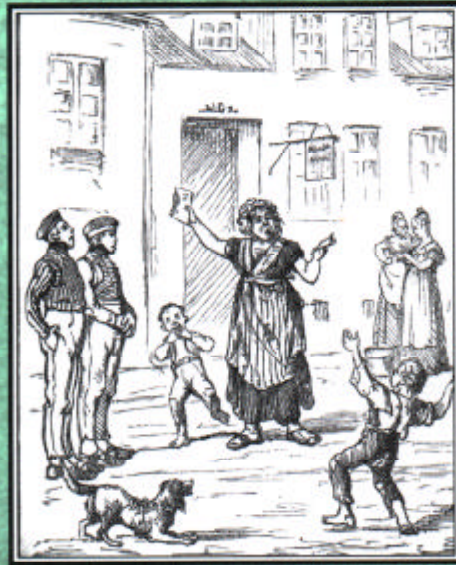


THE APRIL FOOLS
OR
AN INTRIGUE AT SCHOOL



A VAUDEVILLE BY
JOHAN LUDVIG HEIBERG

FIRST PERFORMED 22 APRIL 1826
AT THE ROYAL THEATER,
COPENHAGEN, DENMARK.

TRANSLATION AND AFTERWORD BY
PETER VINTEN-JOHANSEN
LYRICS ADAPTED TO ORIGINAL MELODIES BY
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WITS II, NUMBER 9i
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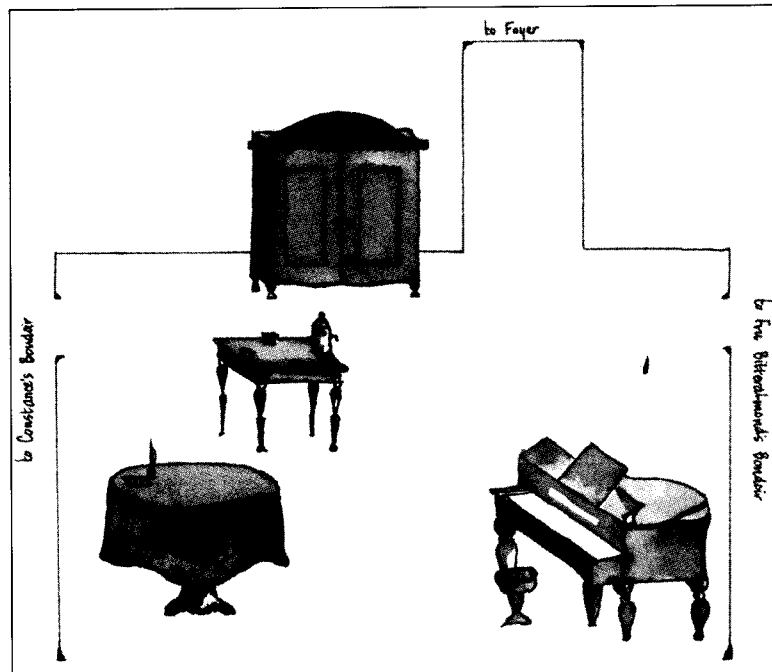
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STAGING

All scenes occur with one stage setting: the parlor in a finishing school for girls. Stage right, a door leads to Fru Bitteralmond's boudoir; stage left, a door leads to Constance's boudoir. In the foreground, a piano stands to the right, a table with tablecloth and writing materials to the left. Stage rear, a door leads to the foyer; to the left of this door stands a large, free-standing wardrobe. Stage center, a table with a coffeemaker and cups.



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FIRST SCENE

(Fru Bitteralmond, Constance, and Trine are standing in the parlor, which generally doubles as a schoolroom, as servants carry benches through the door at the back of the stage.)

FRU BITTERALMOND *(To the servants)*: That's right! Get 'em all out of here,

CONSTANCE: But Aunt Bitteralmond, why carry the benches out of the parlor?

FRU BITTERALMOND: Because I need a convenient place for the guests to mingle when they arrive, and this room is closest to the foyer. The benches will be in the assembly hall, arranged in rows, so the guests will have something to sit on during the concert. After the concert, the guests will come here again, where they can chat while the servants in the assembly hall bring in tables, re-arrange the benches, and set up a late supper. Then the guests will file back for the meal.

TRINE *(Laughing)*: Will the guests be sitting on school benches during supper?¹

FRU BITTERALMOND: Keep quiet, you impudent girl! More than sixty people are coming tonight. They'll have to sit on the benches. Where would I find chairs for that many people?

CONSTANCE: You've got a point there.

FRU BITTERALMOND: Now where was I? Oh yes! When we've finished eating, the guests will return to the parlor while the servants clear the tables and stack the benches here in the parlor so we have room to dance in the assembly hall.

TRINE: Wonderful! Just Wonderful! How I'm looking forward to the party tonight! I wish every day was Fru Bitteralmond's birthday.

FRU BITTERALMOND: I'll bet you do! Then little Miss Smart Aleck would never have to do any reading or sewing.