

Richard Brinsley Sheridan



1751-1816

Sentimental Comedy

Playwright, Theatre Manager, Politician

- ❖ father- actor/playwright, novelist
- ❖ born in Ireland- raised in London
- ❖ eloped with the daughter of a famous singer/composer
- ❖ *The Rivals*- 1st performance- failure at Covent Garden (1775)- revised- made it a success
- ❖ Next work- *The Duenna*- a ballad opera

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- ❖ most promising new playwright in London (at that time)
- ❖ David Garrick- persuaded Sheridan and his father to become partners at Drury Lane Theatre
- ❖ *The School for Scandal* was written for Drury Lane

The School For Scandal (1777)

- ❖ considered the best comedy of manners (since the Restoration)-
- ❖ *The Critic* (1779)- a literary burlesque- also contributed to his success
- ❖ *The School for Scandal* - “witty ridicule of the follies of society” (Wilson 296)- without the amorality - e.g. *The Country Wife* (Wycherly 1675)