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The Imaginary Invalid (1986)

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The Imaginary Invalid Press Release

John Garrity

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The Blackfriars Theatre

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE IMAGINARY INVALID by Moliere
Directed by Guest Artist Michael Grando
Friday - Sunday, January 31 - February 2, 7-9, 1986

An Evening of Comic Gaiety at Blackfriars

Laughter is in store for those attending the second production of the Blackfriars Theatre 1985-86 Season. Beginning January 31, The Imaginary Invalid will delight and amuse its audience with the farcial antics of a hypochondriac and his family.

Written by Moliere over three hundred years ago, the play centers around Argan, a self-proclaimed invalid. In his desire to reduce the medical bills caused by his supposed sickness, Argan arranges to marry his eldest daughter, Angelique, to the ninny son of the prominent Doctor Diafoirus. Angelique, on the other hand, is deeply in love with Cleante, and hopes to marry him. At the same time, Argan's wife, conniving Beline, is scheming with her lawyer to swindle Argan's riches away from him. All this is overseen by the impertinant maid, Toinette, who tries to open the hypochondriac's eyes to the reality of his situation. In the end, all is set right when Argan's sensible brother, Beralde, appears to bring the play to its hilarious conclusion.

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on the campus of Providence College — Providence, R.I. 02918 — 865-2327

The Imaginary Invalid has continued to delight audiences through the years, as fresh and lively as it was at the beginning. The last of Molier's 27 plays, it is significantly concerned with a man who believes himself to be in bad health, for Moliere was ill at the time he was writing the play. However, this illness turned out to be very real for, during the fourth performance of the play in which Moliere portrayed Argan, he was seized with a convulsion and died a few hours later.

Guest director Michael Grando creates a lively evening of entertaining comedy and burlesque with this play. Grando is a celebrated Mime, having performed world-wide including stage and television, and is a student of the famous Marcel Marceau. Set designer and technical director for this production is Bill Jacobson. Costumes are designed by David Cabral.

Reservations for The Imaginary Invalid may be made by calling the Blackfriars Box Office at 865-2218. The Box Office is located off the rotunda in Harkins Hall, Providence College, at the corner of River Avenue and Eaton Street in Providence. For those who wish to purchase tickets in advance, the Box Office will be open Monday through Friday, from 3:00 - 4:40 p.m. beginning January 20, 1986.

Performances will be presented Friday through Sunday, January 31 - February 2, 7-9, 1986. Curtain time is at 8 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Sunday. Ticket prices are \$4.00 regular admission and \$2.00 students/senior citizens. The Box Office will open an hour and one-half prior to curtain on the days of performances. Group rates are available.