



The Rome Savoyards and Plays in Rome

Present

Charley's Aunt

by **Brandon Thomas**

Directed by **Sandra Provost**

A hugely popular, timelessly funny and delightful comedy

About the Play

Charley's Aunt is a delightful farce, written by Brandon Thomas and first performed at the Theatre Royal, Bury St Edmunds in February 1892. It then opened in London at the Royalty Theatre on 21 December 1892 and quickly transferred to the larger Globe Theatre on 30 January 1893. The production broke the historic record for longest-running play worldwide, running for 1,466 performances. The play was also a success on Broadway and in Paris, where it had further long runs. It has been revived continually to date and adapted for numerous successful films and musicals. Thomas's daughter, Amy Brandon-Thomas played Kitty in numerous revivals. In her later years, she played the role of Donna Lucia. Thomas's son, Jevan Brandon-Thomas played Jack in three London revivals of the play and directed the annual London revivals from 1947 to 1950. A very successful West End revival in 1949, featured dresses and settings designed by Cecil Beaton. *Charley's Aunt* toured internationally and foreign language productions include very successful shows in Germany, Russia, Holland, Denmark, Norway, China and India.

The story revolves around fellow Oxford students and friends Jack Chesney and Charles Wykeham, who use the imminent arrival of Charley's wealthy aunt Donna Lucia as an opportunity to invite for tea the two young ladies they are courting, namely Kitty Verdun and Miss Amy Spettigue. But when Donna Lucia who travels from Brazil "where the nuts come from", cancels her visit at the last minute, she sends the boys into cataclysmic confusion. Determined not to cancel the tea-party, Charles and Jack persuade their fellow student Lord Fancourt to impersonate the Aunt. As "Charley's Aunt", this charming frump is introduced to the ladies, to Jack's father and to Stephen Spettigue, Amy's guardian. When the real aunt turns up, classic comic confusion ensues with hilariously entertaining outcomes!

***Charley's Aunt* is a hugely popular and timelessly funny comedy, presented by The Rome Savoyards in their 12th theater season running at Teatro San Genesio. Not to be missed!**