

"Gainsborough's Duchess"

Opening Speech.

I am the Narrator. Explain Dramatic line. Describe Scenery.  
Your own imaginations. Introduce characters. Begin Story.....

Scene 1 Gainsborough's living room.

2. Action in London. 18th, Century. Reign of George III. About Duchess' & Gainsborough's relationship. Gainsborough's love for Music, etc.,. Forbids Fischer the house. Comes in, sneezing Scene. Duchess has been canvassing for Fox. Discovers Fischer. Decides to help them. Invites them to Ranelagh. Gets the Prince to approve the marriage. Gainsborough submits.

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3. Duchess finds Foyle. Furious. Duchess sits for her portrait but wants to play. Resents Gainsborough having kept her waiting and then resents finding Gainsborough kiss Foyle. Sitting a complete failure. "Epigram!" "Landscape!". Smear on the Portrait. repeat epigram & exit.

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Act II. At Ranelagh. Scene 1.

4. Molly and Fischer Duet. Foyle woman. Duchess comes on. Molly says, forgive Father. Exit. Duchess sings "Nightingale" song. Scene pure poetry.

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5. Foyle angry with Gainsborough. Decides to get even. Tells Beechmaster & Aspen. They tell everybody about the Scandal of the spoilt portrait.

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6. Duchess & Gainsborough meet in Garden. Scene of sheer delight and beauty. Gainsborough drives Beechmaster away. Asks Duchess to remain and sings "Most glorious Goddess".

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7. Crowd sing "May Song" & "God Bless our Noble Prince"

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Act III Still at Ranelagh.

8. Duchess hears intrigue. For a moment believes it. Confronts Gainsborough. Suspects him of spreading the scandal. Says he should be horse-whipped. The Prince is intrigued, wants to see the Portrait. Gainsborough agrees. Duchess is puzzled. Pretends no interest in the Picture and recommends Reynolds as the Painter of Portraits. Sweeps out giving Gainsborough a withering look. "Gone is Winter Gloom" by Peggy. Betrothal Scene.

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Duchess' Boudoir

9. Duke enters. Talks of the Scandal and intends to go and see the Spoilt Portrait, with the Prince.

In the Opera the Boudoir Scene actually comes after this Scene, which is the Ranelagh Scene.

10.

Officers and guests carousing. Gainsborough listens to their Toasts. They see him and Beechmaster and Aspen make a Toast to Fine ladies. He won't drink and proposes a toast to "The Serving Maids"...A duel ensues. Beechmaster is forced to drink to the "Serving Maids" but Gainsborough is also injured in the right arm. (painting arm). People discuss his situation, ~~but on arrival of the Prince...~~when the Prince should see the portrait...

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Gainsborough's Studio

11.

"Lady Disdain". Gainsborough speculates on the insult given him by the Duchess. Tries to sketch her look of disdain, as she snubbed him at Ranelagh the night before. Sings about it and says he cannot leave the blackened Portrait for all to see. decides to clean the portrait, which he has only smeared with some Lamp-black, and simply takes a wet rag to remove the black... at this moment the Duchess enters, having decided to save Gainsborough, she comes in the costume and hat, in which he has painted her Portrait, hoping he will be able to do something about the Portrait before the Prince and the Court, should see it. The crowd enters with the Prince. The remarks. Gainsborough takes the Prince to the Portrait. Crowd breathless. The Prince says..."I see you have introduced Black" etc.. "But you have used it with masterly effect, you must paint me". Duchess overjoyed. Crowd exits. The Duchess and Gainsborough are alone together....The Prince takes the arm of the Duke.

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