

**SWEET LAVENDER: A  
DOMESTIC DRAMA  
IN THREE ACTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649392766

Sweet Lavender: a domestic drama in three acts by Arthur W. Pinero

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Cover @ 2017

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**ARTHUR W. PINERO**

**SWEET LAVENDER: A  
DOMESTIC DRAMA  
IN THREE ACTS**



*SWEET LAVENDER*

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# *SWEET LAVENDER*

*A DOMESTIC DRAMA*

*In Three Acts*

By ARTHUR W. PINERO

LONDON: WILLIAM HEINEMANN

MCMIII

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*Entered at the Library of Congress,  
Washington, U.S.A.*

FIRST IMPRESSION: *September 1893*

NEW IMPRESSIONS: *October 1895, November 1896, August 1898,  
June 1899, October 1900, March 1902, October 1903*



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

"SWEET LAVENDER" must be regarded as one of the most successful stage-plays of modern times, and there can be no question that it has proved so far the most popular of Mr. Pinero's works. Its representations may be counted by the thousand, and its popularity has extended over many latitudes. The reason of this is not far to seek; it proclaims itself in the gentle humanity and genial humour of the play, and the lovable creation of the golden-hearted, weak-natured, down-at-heel Dick Phenyl. The very simplicity and unpretentiousness of this domestic comedy have apparently disarmed any antagonistic criticism which might have been expected from those critics of cynical temper and pessimistic mood who are wont to look for the stern realities of life even in the most purposely genial of theatrical entertainments. And if these, in view of the preponderance of kindly human nature in the play, elect to regard "Sweet Lavender" as a sort of modern fairy-tale rather than an actual and realistic study of life, certainly no one would be more ready to agree with them

than Mr. Pinero himself. He avowedly designed the piece as a pleasant entertainment, and the proof that he accomplished his purpose is the fact of the phenomenally successful career of the work all over the world. Had Mr. Pinero in the early months of 1888 written a play of the order of "The Second Mrs. Tanqueray" for Terry's Theatre, the result would in all probability have been disaster.

"Sweet Lavender" was produced on Wednesday evening, March 21st, 1888, and was from the first received with so much enthusiasm that at once the playgoing public began to flock to Terry's Theatre. Mr. Pinero's comedy, in fact, drew the town, Mr. Edward Terry's Dick Phenyl became almost a household word, and the play held its place in the programme continuously until January 25th, 1890, by which date it had been performed as many as 683 times. But this was not the end of its career at Terry's Theatre, for, after Mr. Edward Terry's holiday trip to India, the actor-manager signalled his return by a revival of "Sweet Lavender" on October 4th, 1890, and between that date and November 26th of the same year, 54 performances were given, bringing the number of representations at this house up to 737.

The following copy of the first night programme of the original production at Terry's will be interesting for future reference :—

## TERRY'S THEATRE,

105 &amp; 106 STRAND.

SOLE LESSEE AND MANAGER, MR. EDWARD TERRY.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1888,

FOR THE FIRST TIME,

An Original Domestic Drama, in Three Acts, entitled

## SWEET LAVENDER,

BY

A. W. PINERO.

MR. GEOFFREY WEDDERBURN (of Wedderburn, Green & Hoskett, Bankers, Barnchester) . . .	Mr. BRANDON THOMAS.
CLEMENT HALE (his adopted Son, studying for the Bar) . . .	Mr. BERNARD GOULD.
Dr. DELANEY (a fashionable Phy- sician) . . . . .	Mr. ALFRED BISHOP.
DICK PHENYL (a Barrister) . . .	Mr. EDWARD TERRY.
HORACE BREAM (a young American)	Mr. F. KERR.
MR. MAW (a Solicitor) . . . .	Mr. SANT MATTHEWS
MR. BULGER (Hairdresser and Wig- maker) . . . . .	Mr. T. C. VALENTINE.
MRS. GILFILLIAN (a Widow—Mr. Wedderburn's Sister) . . . .	Miss M. A. VICTOR.
MINNIE (her Daughter) . . . .	Miss MAUDE MILLETT.
RUTH ROLT (Housekeeper and Laundress at 3 Brain Court, Temple) . . . . .	Miss CARLOTTA ADDISON.
LAVENDER (her Daughter) . . .	Miss NORREYS.