[Template:Other uses](/wiki/Template:Other_uses" \o "Template:Other uses) [Template:Refimprove](/wiki/Template:Refimprove) [200px|thumb|Scaramuccia in 1860](/wiki/File:SAND_Maurice_Masques_et_bouffons_07.jpg) *For the song by Queen, see* [*Bohemian Rhapsody*](/wiki/Bohemian_Rhapsody).

**Scaramuccia** (literally "little skirmisher"), also known as **Scaramouche** or **Scaramouch**, is a [stock](/wiki/Stock_character) clown character of the [Italian](/wiki/Italian_literature) [commedia dell'arte](/wiki/Commedia_dell'arte). The role combined characteristics of the [*zanni*](/wiki/Zanni) (servant) and the [Capitano](/wiki/Il_Capitano). Usually attired in black Spanish dress and [burlesquing](/wiki/Burlesque) a [don](/wiki/Don_(honorific)), he was often beaten by [Harlequin](/wiki/Harlequin) for his boasting and cowardice.

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## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

Although [Tiberio Fiorillo](/wiki/Tiberio_Fiorillo) (1608–1694) was not the first to play the role, he greatly developed and popularized it. He removed the mask, used white powder on his face, and employed grimaces. He had a small beard, long mustache, and wore a predominantly black costume with a white ruff. In France he became known as Scaramouche.[[1]](#cite_note-1)[thumb|300px|*Portrait of Tiberio Fiorilli as Scaramouche* by](/wiki/File:Pietro_Paolini_-_Portrait_of_Tiberio_Fiorilli_as_Scaramouche.jpg) [Pietro Paolini](/wiki/Pietro_Paolini) In the 19th century the English actor [Joseph Grimaldi](/wiki/Joseph_Grimaldi) and his son [J. S. Grimaldi](/wiki/J._S._Grimaldi) made numerous appearances as Scaramouche.

## Character[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

Scaramouche entertains the audience by his "grimaces and affected language". Salvator Rosa says that Coviello (like Scaramouche) is "sly, adroit, supple, and conceited". In Molière's [*The Bourgeois Gentleman*](/wiki/Le_Bourgeois_gentilhomme), Coviello disguises his master as a Turk and pretends to speak Turkish. Both Scaramouche and Coviello can be clever or stupid—as the actor sees fit to portray him.

## In puppetry[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

Scaramouche is one of the iconic characters in the [Punch and Judy](/wiki/Punch_and_Judy) puppet shows (a performative art with roots in [commedia dell'arte](/wiki/Commedia_dell'arte)). In some scenarios, he is the owner of The Dog, another stock character. During performances, Punch frequently strikes Scaramouche, causing his head to come off his shoulders. Because of this, the term *scaramouche* has become associated with a class of puppets with extendable necks.

## Scaramouche in popular culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|upright|](/wiki/File:J.S._Grimaldi_(as_Scaramouch).jpg)[J. S. Grimaldi](/wiki/J._S._Grimaldi) as Scaramouche, [Template:Circa](/wiki/Template:Circa)

* The hero of [Rafael Sabatini's](/wiki/Rafael_Sabatini) [historical novel](/wiki/Historical_novel) [*Scaramouche*](/wiki/Scaramouche_(novel)), and its film adaptations, is a similar swashbuckling character who goes incognito in the theatrical role of Scaramouche.
* Several films were named Scaramouche, including: *The Scaramouches* (1910), silent movie by Lewin Fitzhamon; *Scaramouche* (1923), silent movie by Rex Ingram; *Scaramouche* directed by George Sidney in 1932; [*Scaramouche*](/wiki/Scaramouche_(1952_film)) (1952), with [Stewart Granger](/wiki/Stewart_Granger) and [Janet Leigh](/wiki/Janet_Leigh); among other past films and TV series.
* *Scaramouche* is the name of a suite by the French composer [Darius Milhaud](/wiki/Darius_Milhaud) for saxophone and cabaret orchestra (also in an arrangement for two pianos). Milhaud first composed the piece for theatre.
* *Scaramouche Jones* (2002) is a [solo play](/wiki/One-person_show) by Justin Butcher, which was premiered in its full form by Peter Postlethwaite. In this 100-minute [monologue](/wiki/Monologue) an aging clown recounts, at the turn of the millennium, the [picaresque](/wiki/Picaresque) story of his life, from his early childhood in Trinidad at the start of the 20th century, the son of a gypsy prostitute and an Englishman, through his harsh misadventures in the slave trade and in wartime Poland, where as a gravedigger he found his vocation as a clown while striving to keep children amused by [parodying](/wiki/Parody) their imminent slaughter.<ref name=Knapper-2007>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref>
* In the opening chapter of the book [*Phule's Company*](/wiki/Phule's_Company) by [Robert Asprin](/wiki/Robert_Asprin), the main character Willard Phule uses Scaramouche as his alias. ("Scaramouche?" Major Joshua said with a frown. "Aside from the obvious reference to the character from the novel".)[[2]](#cite_note-2)\* In [Tom Stoppard's](/wiki/Tom_Stoppard) [*On the Razzle*](/wiki/On_the_Razzle_(play)), Scaramouche is the *nom de plume* used by sales clerk Weinberl in his letters while answering "lonely hearts advertisements".[[3]](#cite_note-3)\* In the 1975 recording "[Bohemian Rhapsody](/wiki/Bohemian_Rhapsody)", by the popular British rock band [Queen](/wiki/Queen_(band)), Scaramouche is instructed to do the [fandango](/wiki/Fandango).
* Inspired by "Bohemian Rhapsody", Scaramouche is the name of the lead female role in the [jukebox musical](/wiki/Jukebox_musical) [*We Will Rock You*](/wiki/We_Will_Rock_You_(musical)).
* In [Arthur Ransome's](/wiki/Arthur_Ransome) children's novel [*Swallowdale*](/wiki/Swallowdale) (1931) the mother of the Amazon Pirates, Nancy and Peggy, calls them scaramouches in the chapter "The Race".

## Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

## Bibliography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

* [Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)
* Hartnoll, Phyllis, editor (1983). *The Oxford Companion to the Theatre* (fourth edition). Oxford: Oxford University Press. ISBN 9780192115461.

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

* [Template:Commons-inline](/wiki/Template:Commons-inline)

[Category:Stock characters](/wiki/Category:Stock_characters) [Category:Clever Zanni class characters](/wiki/Category:Clever_Zanni_class_characters) [Category:Italian fiction](/wiki/Category:Italian_fiction)