

MERLIN'S ISLAND

THE STORY

Pierrot and **Scapin** have been shipwrecked on the desert island of the magician **Merlin**, where they are happy to discover a table covered with sumptuous dishes! They wish only for the company of charming women to make their lives complete, and they are rewarded by the appearance of Merlin's nieces **Argentine** and **Diamantine**.

As they flirt with the women, Pierrot and Scapin learn that on this island, fickle men are immediately thrown in prison. This is the first inkling that things here are quite different from what they are accustomed to. In this surprising society, wealth is an undesirable quality; therefore, the nieces are particularly charmed to have found indigent suitors.

The men are visited by a series of citizens from this upside down world. A philosopher explains that all wisdom is found in laughter, there are no criminals, court cases are decided on the basis of common sense, and all businesses are honest. A member of the judiciary explains that court costs are borne by the lawyers themselves and that lovers never quarrel. A physician tells them that medicine follows the rules of nature, and a knight reports that love on the island always leads to lifelong faithfulness.

Argentine and Diamantine return, anxiously reporting that Pierrot and Scapin have rivals who want to challenge them to a duel for their hands. Fortunately, the laws of Merlin's Island prohibit violence, so they agree to a roll of dice to determine which men shall win. Pierrot and Scapin

lose, but Merlin intervenes, transforming them into men worthy of his nieces, and uniting them in marriage.