

## Recurring Comic Tropes in Western Comedy

The older generation trying to quash the sexual drive of the younger generation, usually a father saying no to his daughter about a boy.

Characters who leave the city or the court and escape to the natural world. This escape is often to a forest, or a magic wood, an island, or a place of festivity. There the characters learn better values than they had in the city, and then they take those new values back to their first homes.

The witty couple who spar and bicker, then realize that they love each other.

An old man who wants a young woman, often for a wife. Sometimes this works out well (*The School for Scandal*), sometimes not (most of Moliere).

Competing brothers: the good and the bad.

The wily, witty servant who seeks freedom and/or solves problems.

Twins.

Mistaken identity.

Cross-dressing.

Disguise.

Confusion, sometimes gender confusion.

Country mice who go to the city for a day of pleasure.

Adultery; cuckoldry.

A braggart soldier who gets his comeuppance.

Things beyond “reality” – ghosts, fairies, exchange of souls, time travel.

The presence of death in the background

The celebrity who comes to town.