

SCENE III. A Sham Battle. They divide; when the mode of attack and defence in street-firing, so necessary to be practised and known at this critical period, will be exactly represented. To conclude with *God save the King* [singers not listed]. Also THE FOLLIES OF A DAY. Count Almaviva – Lewis; Figaro – Farley; Antonio – Munden; Bazil – Powel; Page (with a *song*) – Mrs Martyr // Countess – Miss Chapman; Susan – Mrs Abington.

Wednesday 16
CG

DANCING. End of 2nd piece a *Minuet* by Mr and Miss Betterton.

COMMENT. Benefit for Miss Betterton, 2nd piece [1st time; ENT1]. *Times*, 26 Apr.: Tickets to be had of Miss Betterton, No. 47, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Receipts: £184 8s. 6d. (87/0/0; 8/17/6; tickets: 88/11/0).

THE STRANGER. As 12 May. Also BLUE-BEARD. As 14 May.

Thursday 17
DL

COMMENT. On account of the Indisposition of a principal performer the new Comedy of SHE'S ELOPED! [advertised on playbill of 16 May] is obliged to be deferred till Saturday next. Receipts: £266 (192/11; 68/5; 5/4).

LOVE IN A VILLAGE. As 15 Nov. 1797, but Justice Woodcock – Munden; added to Rosetta: With new *songs*. Also BOTHERATION. As 8 May, but Knight's name listed in playbill. Also VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. As 12 May, but Irishman – Waddy; omitted: Hawker.

CG

DANCING. End of Act I of 1st piece *The Statute Dance* [performers not listed].

SINGING. In 2nd piece *Mr O'Blarney's Description of London*, as 8 May.

COMMENT. Receipts: £113 19s. 6d. (108/12/0; 5/7/6).

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. As 19 Sept. 1797, but Charles Surface – Smith (who performed the Character originally [on 8 May 1777]; being positively his only appearance); Snake – Caulfield // Lady Sneerwell – Mrs Sparks; omitted: Trip. Also SYLVESTER DAGGERWOOD. As 13 Nov. 1797. Also THE SON-IN-LAW. As 7 May.

Friday 18
DL

SINGING. In Act III of 1st piece a *song* by Dignum.

COMMENT. Benefit for King. [This was Smith's last appearance on the stage, from which he had officially retired on 9 June 1788.] Broadside in Kemble playbills announcing this benefit: Mr King most respectfully informs the Public that his Night is fixed for Friday the 18th of May, when will be presented THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. Mr King has the pleasure to add that Mr Smith, who was so long and so worthily applauded by the Public, and was the original performer of Charles Surface in the above, distinguished Comedy, at the particular request of Mr King, backed by a strong assurance from many admirers and encouragers of the Drama that it will not only add to Mr King's emolument but highly gratify the Town, has kindly consented to return to the Theatre for one night, and resume his favourite Character.

"We had been told that Smith portrayed the manners of a finished gentleman with more delicacy and characteristic propriety than any actor of his day; but this did not appear to us to be his particular excellence; he stands too wide to be graceful, and his deportment gains no advantage from a perpetual application of his hand to the lower part of the waist. These habits are far from elegant. His Charles, however, is a favourable specimen of that sort of acting which commonly falls under the denomination of the *old school*: light, airy, and natural; which excites applause without any anxious endeavour to produce it; which suffers the points to tell of *themselves*, and does not place them as so many traps to ensnare the injudicious part of the audience" (*Monthly Mirror*, May 1798, p. 299). "He was received with the most heart-felt gratulations by an audience who did not expect any *apology* for such acting, though he saw fit to deliver one at the conclusion of the play" (*Monthly Visitor*, May 1798, p. 72).

Times, 4 May: Tickets to be had of King at his house, New Store-street, Bedford-square. Receipts: £674 6s. (388/0/6; 55/17/6; 2/0/0); tickets: 228/8/0 (charge: £212 5s. 6d.).

- Friday 18**
CG THE MERCHANT OF VENICE. As 3 Nov. 1797, but Bassanio – Pope; Lorenzo (with *songs*) – Townsend; Launcelot – Munden. Also THE FARMER. As 22 Sept. 1797, but omitted: Flummery, Waiters.
COMMENT. Account-Book: Tickets delivered by Cresswell, Egan, Dick, Thompson, Leserve, Masters, Hawtin, Hay, Ashwin, Shotter, W. Wilde, Blurton will be admitted. Receipts: £401 16s. (70/2/6; 3/18/0; tickets: 327/15/6).
- Saturday 19**
DL SHE'S ELOPED! Characters by Aickin, Palmer, Suett, Wroughton, Downton, Russell, R. Palmer, Bannister Jun., Maddocks, Webb, Palmer Jun., Chippendale, Fisher, Wentworth // Mrs Powell, Mrs Jordan, Miss Pope, Miss Mellon. [Cast from *London Chronicle*, 21 May: Lord Villeure – Aickin; Sir Charles Hyacinth – Palmer; Major Blenner – Suett; Aylmer – Wroughton; Appesley – Downton; Jerkin – Russell; Joe Clinckum – R. Palmer; Plodden – Bannister Jun. // Mrs Egerton – Mrs Powell; Miss Villeure – Mrs Jordan; Miss Highbury – Miss Pope; Grace – Miss Mellon. Maddocks, Webb, Palmer Jun., Chippendale, Fisher, Wentworth are unassigned.] *Prologue* spoken by Palmer. *Epilogue* spoken by Mrs Jordan. Also THE VIRGIN UNMASK'D. As 9 Nov. 1797.
COMMENT. Mainpiece [1st time; C5, by John O'Keeffe. Prologue by John Taylor; Epilogue by Matthew Gregory Lewis (*London Chronicle*, 21 May). MS: Larpent 1212 (which lists the following unassigned parts: Old Man, Clerk, Countryman, Boy, Postilion, Waiter, Man); not published]. Receipts: £197 13s. (140/18; 55/11; 1/4).
- CG THE BUSY BODY. As 4 Oct. 1797, but Patch – Mrs Davenport; Miranda – Miss Betterton. Also THE POOR SOLDIER. As 27 Sept. 1797, but Bagatelle – Dyke.
COMMENT. Account-Book: Tickets delivered by Roberts, Norton, Loyd, Atkins, Mrs Pitt, Little, Ince, West, Dyke, Bagley, Berecloth, Young, Noble, Thompson, Coombs, Bonsor will be admitted. Receipts: £307 17s. (30/0/6; 5/5/6; tickets: 272/11/0).
- King's ELFRIDA. As 26 Apr.
DANCING. End of Act 1 *Peggy's Love*, as 28 Apr.; End of Opera *Elisa*, as 15 May.
- Monday 21**
DL THE CASTLE-SPECTRE. As 9 Apr., but added: Mrs Powell [the only time her name is in the playbill of this play (and see 14 Dec. 1797)]; omitted: Wentworth, Gibbon. Original *Epilogue* spoken by Mrs Jordan, and (for that night only) a new *Additional Dialogue*, written by M. G. Lewis, Esq., Author of the Play, spoken by Mrs Jordan and Mrs Powell. Also THE ESCAPE. Characters by Palmer, Caulfield, Trueman, Maddocks, Hollingsworth, Roffey, Male. Vocal Parts by Sedgwick, Dignum. Principal Dancer – Sga Bossi del Carò. [Cast not known, except for Sir Sidney Smith – Palmer (*Monthly Mirror*, June 1798, p. 368.)] Also THE SHIP-WRECK. As 8 Jan.
COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Powell. 2nd piece [1st time; M. INT 1, author unknown. MS not in Larpent; not published]: Founded on a recent fortunate Event [the escape of Sir William Sidney Smith from The Temple, Paris, on 24 Apr. 1798 (*European Magazine*, June 1798, p. 395)]. With appropriate Scenery, and Machinery. [3rd piece in place of THE CHILDREN IN THE WOOD, advertised on playbill of 19 May.] *Times*, 15 May: Tickets to be had of Mrs Powell, No. 43, Cravenstreet, Strand. Receipts: £548 17s. (233/4/6; 61/4/6; 0/17/0; tickets: 253/11/0) (charge: £214 12s. 1d.).
- CG THE RAFT. As 9 Apr. Also THE BEGGAR'S OPERA. As 25 Oct. 1797. Also BOTHERATION. As 17 May.
DANCING. In Act III of 2nd piece *Hornpipe*, as 25 Oct. 1797.
SINGING. In 3rd piece *Mr O'Blarney's Description of London*, as 8 May.
COMMENT. Receipts: £113 13s. 6d. (113/2/6; 0/11/0).