

- THE COUNTRY LASSES; or, Custom of the Manor. *Cast not listed.* Also COLUMBINE COURTEZAN. Harlequin – Adams, with the Escapes of Harlequin into a quart bottle. *Monday 13*
SOU
COMMENT. At the Old Theatre, Bowling Green, Southwark. A concert, etc. Benefit for Adams and Daniel. Prices: 2s. 6d., 1s. 6d., 1s., 6d.
- MAHOMET AND IRENE. As 7 Feb. *Tuesday 14*
DL
COMMENT. Benefit for y^e Author (Cross). [Tickets as of 9 Feb., with the additional note that they could be obtained of Mrs Payne at the White Hart in Paternoster Lane.] Receipts: £140 (Cross); house charges, £63 (Powel).
- THE DISTREST MOTHER. As 28 Jan. Also APOLLO AND DAPHNE. *CG*
As 26 Jan.
COMMENT. Smollett to Carlyle: I have wrote a sort of Tragedy on the story of *Alceste*, which will (without fail) be acted at Covent Garden next season, and appear with such magnificence of Scenery as was never exhibited in Britain before.—Knapp, *Smollett*, p. 85. [See also CG, 1 March 1750.]
- IL GIRAMONDO. *Cast not listed.* *King's*
DANCING. Between the Acts.
COMMENT. A New Comic Opera.
- [No Performance.] *Wednesday 15*
DL
COMMENT. Tomorrow will be publish'd, at 1s. 6d. *Irene*. A Tragedy, acted at the Theatre Royal Drury Lane, by Mr Samuel Johnson, Printed for R. Dodsley in Pall Mall, and sold by M. Cooper in Paternoster Row. [In 1749 was published an *Essay on Tragedy, with a Critical Examen of Mabomet and Irene* (T. P. Barton Collection, Boston Public Library).]
- SUSANNA. As 10 Feb. Also a Concerto. *CG*
- MAHOMET AND IRENE. As 7 Feb. Also THE ANATOMIST. As 17 Jan. *Thursday 16*
DL
DANCING. *The Scotch Dance*, as 18 Jan.
COMMENT. Afterpiece: By Desire. Receipts: £120 (Cross); £105 5s. 6d. (Powel).
- THE DISTREST MOTHER. As 28 Jan. Also APOLLO AND DAPHNE. *CG*
As 26 Jan.
- SUSANNA. As 10 Feb. Also CONCERTO. *Friday 17*
CG
- MAHOMET AND IRENE. As 7 Feb. Also THE LYING VALET. As 22 Dec. *Saturday 18*
DL
1748.
DANCING. *Scotch Dance*, as 18 Jan.
COMMENT. Afterpiece: By Desire. [A full column, front-page letter to the Author of the *General Advertiser* from one purporting to live many miles from London, but whose curiosity about the New Tragedy *Irene* brought him to see it, details his experience in the theatre the night of Tues. 14 Feb. Seems to be an ill-concealed “puff.” The writer listens to three critics in the pit decry the performance, then after seeing it himself concludes: “It was receiv'd with universal approbation . . . Upon the whole I dare affirm that the Judgment of Posterity will concur with me in distinguishing *Irene* as the best tragedy which this age has produced, for Sublimity of thought, Harmony of numbers, strength of expression, a scrupulous observation of Dramatic Rules, the sudden Turn of events, the tender and generous distress, the unexpected catastrophe, and the extensive and important moral.” He inquires why the play has not been so favorably received as others, and con-

- Saturday 18*
DL cludes it is too finely and artistically conceived to please the masses. He closes by complimenting the Ladies of Great Britain for he "scarce ever saw so shining an assembly in the Boxes. Their early approbation of a Tragedy in which not only the words but the ideas are entirely chaste; a tragedy filled with noble sentiment and poetic beauty is at once a proof of their delicacy and penetration." Receipts: £100 (Cross); £101 (Powel).
- CG THE PROVOK'D WIFE. As 11 Oct. 1748, but Lady Fanciful – Miss Bellamy; Belinda – Mrs Hale. Also APOLLO AND DAPHNE. As 26 Jan.
- King's IL GIRAMONDO. *Cast not listed.*
DANCING. Between the Acts.
COMMENT. A Pasticcio (Burney, II, 848). A Dr Crosa is the promoter of the Italian company here (*Daily Advertiser*).
- HAY AUCTION OF PICTURES. With a *New Prologue*.
COMMENT. Benefit for a performer. Tickets for the 11th will be taken. Being the last time of performing it this Season.
- Monday 20*
DL MAHOMET AND IRENE. As 7 Feb. Also THE VIRGIN UNMASK'D. As 23 Nov. 1748, only Lucy – Mrs Clive listed.
DANCING. *The Savoyards*, as 20 Sept. 1748.
COMMENT. Benefit for the Author. Tickets to be had as 9 and 14 Feb. [*The Gentleman's Magazine* this month gave a nine-column article to the "*Plan and Specimens of Irene* a Tragedy by Mr Samuel Johnsin acted at Drury Lane from 6–20 February inclusive." In its plot was first retold, then excerpts from speeches were given which illustrated the beautiful expression of the moral values contained in the play: "To instance every moral which is inculcated in this performance, would be to transcribe the whole; but, however difficult I shall select a few." No comments are made upon the stage presentation, all is presented upon the basis of examination of the text. William Shenstone thought not much of it as a play. See Letter to Lady Luxborough 22 March.] Receipts: £110 (Cross); house charges, £63 (Powel).
- CG THE PROVOK'D WIFE. As 18 Feb. Also APOLLO AND DAPHNE. As 26 Jan.
COMMENT. Mainpiece: By Desire.
- SOU JANE SHORE. *Cast not listed.* Also THE BOTTLE CONJURER OUTDONE; or, The Power of Magick, and the Escape of Harlequin into a Quart Bottle. Harlequin – Morgan.
COMMENT. At the Great Tiled Booth, Bowling Green, Southwark. A concert, etc. Benefit for Morgan.
- Tuesday 21*
DL THE MISER. As 25 Jan., but Clerimont, James, Furnish, List, Mrs Wisely, Wheedle omitted. Also THE TRIUMPH OF PEACE. Mars – Cooke; his followers – Blakes, Vaughan, Marr, Adams, Shawford, Harvey, Yates, Harrison; War – Winstone; Power – Lee; Ambition – Palmer; Peace – Mrs Mills; Justice – Mrs LaFont; Liberty – Mrs Ansley; Shepherds – Havard, Beard, Reinhold, King, and Master Maddox; Shepherdesses – Mrs Clive, Miss Cole, Miss Medina; Britannia – Anne Auretti; Hungarians – Cooke and Janeton Auretti; French – Mathews and Mrs Addison; Dutchman – Pelling; Spaniard – Shawford; concluded with a view of the Temple of Peace.
COMMENT. [Afterpicce]: A *Masque* by Mr Dodsley. Went off Toll (Cross). New Dresses, Scenes, Decorations, &c. Music compos'd by Mr Arne. Nothing under Full prices will be taken. [Customary note for all subsequent performances this season. Will not be repeated.] Receipts: £170 (Cross); £161 19s. (Powel).