

houses the previous winter. *Actors and Actresses*: Aickin, Bannister, Brown-smith, Casey, Castle, Davis, Mrs Davis, Miss Edwards, Foote, Gardner, Mrs Gardner, Graham, Mrs Graham, Miss Groce, Hamilton, Jackson, Mrs Jackson, Miss Jackson, Jacobs, Keen, Lee, Lings, Lloyd, Loveman, Mahoon, Miell, Morgan, Miss Ogilvie, Pearce, Mrs Pitt, Mrs Saunders, Sowdon, Strange, Vandermere, Walker, Weston, and Mrs White. *Dancers*: Duquesney and Miss Street. *Musician*: Barthelemon (violin).

## September 1767\*

Saturday 12  
DL

THE CLANDESTINE MARRIAGE. Lord Ogleby – King; Sterling – Love; Sir John Melvil – Holland; Canton – Baddeley; Brush – Palmer; Serjant Flower – Bransby; Traverse – Hurst; Lovewell – Cautherley; Trueman – Aickin; Miss Sterling – Miss Pope; Fanny – Mrs Palmer; Betty – Miss Reynolds; Chambermaid – Mrs Lee; Mrs Heidelberg – Mrs Clive. Also DAPHNE AND AMINTOR. Amintor – Vernon; Daphne – Mrs Arne; Mindora – Miss Young; With *Dances* by Sg and Sga Giorgi, Tassoni, Mrs King, Miss Tetley and Miss Rogers.

COMMENT. Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. Gallery 2s. Upper Gallery 1s. No money taken at Stage Door. No money returned after Curtain is drawn up. [Customary note on subsequent bills.] Yates and Mrs Yates not engag'd. They went to Covent Garden Theatre. Mr Barry and Mrs Dancer engag'd (Winston MS 10).

Monday 14  
CG

THE REHEARSAL. Bayes – Shuter; Smith – Clarke; Johnson – Dyer; Others: Dunstall, Gibson, Perry, Davis, Dibdin, DuBellamy, Gardner, Bennet, Morgan, Barrington, R. Smith, Holtom, Cushing, Legg, Redman, Wignell, Baker, Mrs DuBellamy, Miss Pearce, Miss Mills, Miss Ford. With additional reinforcements of Mr Bayes's New Rais'd Troops, and a *NEW OCCASIONAL PROLOGUE*. Also THE MOCK DOCTOR. Doctor – Dunstall; Sir Jasper – Massey, 1st appearance that stage; Leander – R. Smith; James – Quick; Harry – Holtom; Charlotte – Miss Helme; Dorcas – Mrs Green.

COMMENT. Mainpiece: Not acted these 12 years. [See 24 Jan. 1758.] *Prologue* written by Paul Whitehead. Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. First Gallery 2s. Upper Gallery 1s. Places for the Boxes to be taken of Mr Sarjant (only) at the Stage-Door. No persons can be admitted behind scenes, nor any Money returned after curtain is drawn up. To begin exactly at 6 o'clock. [Customary note in succeeding bills.] Receipts: £190 14s. (Account Book).

### *The New Occasional Prologue*

*As when the merchant to increase bis store  
For Dubious seas, advent'rous quits the shore;  
Still anxious for bis freight, be trembling sees  
Rocks in each buoy, and tempest in each breeze  
The curling wave to mountain billow swells,  
And every cloud a fancied storm fortells:  
Thus rashly launch'd on this Theatric main,  
Our All on board, each phantom gives us pain;  
The Catcall's note seems thunder in our ears,  
And every Hiss a burricane appears;  
In Journal Squibs we lightning's blast espy,  
And meteors blaze in every Critic's eye.*

\* For performances at HAY and MARLY, 12-21 September, see close of Season 1766-1767, pp. 1264-65.

*Spite of these terrors, still some hopes we view,  
 Hopes, ne'er can fail us—since they're plac'd—in you.  
 Your breath the gale, our voyage is secure,  
 And safe the venture which your smiles insure;  
 Though weak his skill, th'adventurer must succeed,  
 Where Candour takes th'endeavor for the deed.  
 For Brentford's state, two kings could once suffice;  
 In ours, behold! four kings of Brentford rise;  
 All smelling to one nosegay's od'rous savor  
 The balmy nosegay of—the Public favor.  
 From hence alone, our royal funds we draw,  
 Your pleasure our support, your will our law.  
 While such our government, we hope you'll own us;  
 But should we ever Tyrant prove—detrone us.  
 Like Brother Monarchs, who, to coax the nation  
 Began their reign, with some fair proclamation,  
 We too should talk at least—of reformation;  
 Declare that during our imperial sway,  
 No bard shall mourn his long-neglected Play;  
 But then the play must have some wit, some spirit,  
 And We allow'd sole umpires of its merit.*

Monday 14  
 CG

*For those deep sages of the judging pit,  
 Whose taste is too refin'd for modern wit,  
 From Rome's great Theatre we'll cull the piece,  
 And plant on Britain's stage the flow'rs of Greece.*

*If some there are, our British Bards can please,  
 Who taste the ancient wit of ancient days,  
 Be our's to save, from Time's devouring womb,  
 Their works, and snatch their laurels from the tomb.*

*For you, ye Fair, who sprightlier scenes may chuse,  
 Where Music decks in all her airs the Muse,  
 Gay Opera shall all its charms dispense,  
 Yet boast no tuneful triumph over sense;  
 The nobler Bard shall still assert his right,  
 Nor Handel rob a Shakespeare of his night,*

*To greet the mortal brethren of our skies [upper galleries]  
 Here all the Gods of Pantomime shall rise:  
 Yet 'midst the pomp and magic of machines,  
 Some plot may mark the meaning of our scenes;  
 Scenes which were held, in good King Rich's days,  
 By sages, no bad epilogues to plays.*

*If terms like these your suffrage can engage,  
 To fix our mimic empire of the stage;  
 Confirm our title in your fair opinions,  
 And crowd each night to people our dominions.*

—(*Poems and Miscellaneous Compositions*, Ed. Capt. Edward Thompson, 1777)

Covent Garden opened with the *Rehearsal* with alterations. I was in the Pit. Powell, from Drury Lane, one of the new managers who have bought the patent from Rich's heirs, spoke an occasional *Prologue*. Shuter did Bayes pretty much to my liking, adding many crochets of his own. . . . Entertainment *The Mock Doctor*, . . . Young Jasper pretty well by one Massey, being his first appearance on that stage (Neville MS Diary).