

“The Prologue [the first 30 lines and the concluding couplet of which were used by Sheridan as the Prologue to PIZARRO (see DL, 24 May 1799)] was so much admired that at the request of the Duchess of Devonshire and several other of the nobility it was respoken after the piece; but as King was absent from the theatre, it was delivered by Palmer” (*Town and Country Magazine*, May 1780, p. 230.) “The chief singularity was that [Lady Craven] went to it herself the second night, in form; sat in the middle of the front row of the stage-box, much dressed, with a profusion of white bugles and plumes, to receive the public homage due to her sex and loveliness. The Duchess of Richmond, Lady Harcourt, . . . Mrs Damer, Lord Craven, . . . and I were with her. It was amazing to see so young a woman entirely possess herself—but there is such an integrity and frankness in her consciousness of her own beauty and talents, that she speaks of them with a *naivete* as if she had no property in them, but only wore them as gifts of the gods. Lord Craven on the contrary was quite agitated by his fondness for her and with impatience at the bad performance of the actors, which was wretched indeed, yet the address of the plot, which is the chief merit of the piece, and some lively pencilling carried it off very well, though Parsons murdered the Scotch lord, and Mrs Robinson (who is supposed to be the favourite of the Prince of Wales) thought on nothing but her own charms, or him. There is a very good though endless prologue written by Sheridan and spoken in perfection by King, which was encored (an entire novelty) the first night: and an epilogue that I liked still better and which was full as well delivered by Mrs Abington, written by Mr Jekyl. The audience, though very civil, missed a fair opportunity of being gallant, for in one of those —logues, I forget which, the noble authoress was mentioned, and they did not applaud as they ought to have done, especially when she condescended to avow her pretty child and was there looking so very pretty . . . Yet Lady Craven’s tranquillity had nothing displeasing; . . . and it was tempered by her infinite good nature, which made her make excuses for the actors instead of being provoked at them” (Walpole [28 May 1780], XI, 178–80).

Wednesday 24
DL

Public Advertiser, 14 July 1781: This Day at Noon will be published THE MINIATURE PICTURE (price not listed). Receipts: £144 9s. (94/9; 48/3; 1/17).

THE STRATAGEM. Archer – Lewis; Aimwell – Wroughton; Boniface – Booth; Sullen – Clarke; Gibbet – Fearon; Foigard – Egan; Sir Charles Freeman – Robson; Scrub – Quick // Dorinda – Miss Ambrose; Lady Bountiful – Mrs Poussin; Cherry – Mrs Lewis; Mrs Sullen – Mrs Bulkley. Also THE DEAF LOVER. As 3 Feb.

CG

DANCING. End of Act IV of mainpiece *The Humours of New-Market*, as 18 May.

COMMENT. Benefit for T. Ansell, Pilfold, Marks & Furkins. Tickets delivered by Clarridge, Doe, Wells, Roberts, Walker, Whittington, Abbot, Sarjant, R. Ledger and Seymour will be admitted this Evening. Receipts: £248 9s. 6d. (22/9/0; 1/3/6; tickets: 224/17/0).

EVERY MAN IN HIS HUMOUR. As 24 Nov. 1779, but Justice Clement – Waldron. Also HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS. As 8 Dec. 1779, but Lady Charlotte – Mrs Davies; Lady Bab – Mrs Colles; added: Philip – Waldron.

Thursday 25
DL

DANCING. End of mainpiece, as 22 Nov. 1779; In Act II of afterpiece, as 8 Dec. 1779.

COMMENT. Benefit for Wood, Percy, Shade & Cameron. Tickets delivered by Gardner, Gibson, Morris and Leslie will be taken. Receipts: £15 6s. 6d. (12/19/0; 2/7/6; 0/0/0; tickets: none listed) (charge: £105).

LOVE IN A VILLAGE. As 11 May, but Sir William Meadows – Thompson // Margery – Mrs Wilson. Also COMUS. As 11 Mar., but Sabrina – Mrs Willems; Pastoral Nymph – Mrs Morton; omitted: 2nd Spirit, 3rd Bacchant.

CG

- Thursday 25*
CG *DANCING.* As 14 Apr.
 COMMENT. Receipts: £111 14s. (110/8; 1/6).
- King's *LA BUONA FIGLIUOLA.* Principal Characters by Trebbi, Gherardi, Manzoletto, Micheli // Sga Pozzi, Sga Prudom, Sga Salpietro, probably Sga Bernasconi [see 27 June]. [Libretto (T. Cadell, 1777) lists the parts: Il Cavaliere Armidoro, Il Marchese della Conchiglia, Tagliaferro, Mengotto // La Marchesa Lucinda, Paoluccia, Cecchina, Sandrina.]
DANCING. End of Act I *Pastoral Ballet*, as 8 Apr.; End of Act II *New Ballet* by Guiardele, Mme Simonet, Sga Tantini; End of Opera *Serious Ballet*, as 22 Jan.
COMMENT. Benefit for Sga Sestini. Opera: The Music by Piccinni. [Sga Sestini's name is in the playbill, but she did not sing. On 29 May she circulated a card (*Public Advertiser*, etc.) in regard to her Benefit, saying that she "is exceedingly mortified at the Disappointment which prevented her from being able to perform her Part."] Tickets to be had of Sga Sestini, No. 18, Sherrard-street, Golden-square.
- Friday 26*
DI. *THE MISER.* As 7 Oct. 1779. Also *THE MINIATURE PICTURE.* As 24 May.
DANCING. End of Act II of afterpiece, as 20 Dec. 1779.
COMMENT. Receipts: £105 19s. 6d. (59/11/0; 44/16/6; 1/12/0).
- CG *SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER.* As 27 Nov. 1779, but Sir Charles Marlow - Thompson. Also *THE DEAF LOVER.* As 3 Feb., but W. Bates in place of Fearon.
DANCING. As 14 Apr.
COMMENT. Benefit for Brereton, Longley, Colley & Robson, pit-door keeper. Tickets delivered by Stephenson, Robinson, Varley, W. Ansell, Smallwood and Shuter will be admitted this Evening. [This was Mrs Green's last appearance on the stage.] Receipts: £207 3s. 6d. (17/17/6; 1/9/0; tickets: 187/17/0).
- Saturday 27*
DI. *THE MINIATURE PICTURE.* As 24 May. Also *THE CRITIC.* As 18 Jan.
DANCING. As 20 Dec. 1779.
COMMENT. Receipts: £79 9s. (64/2; 14/14; 0/13).
- King's *RINALDO.* As 22 Apr.
DANCING. End of Act I *The Rural Sports*, as 12 May, but omitted: Miss Simonet; End of Act II *La Fête Pastorale*, as 20 May; End of Opera *Serious Ballet*, connected with the Opera, in which a *Grand Chaconne* ([the music] composed by Floquet) by Favre Guiardele, Mme Simonet, Slingsby, Sga Tantini, Mlle Baccelli.
- Monday 29*
CG *THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM.* As 26 Feb. Also *THE SIEGE OF GIBRALTAR.* As 25 Apr.
DANCING. As 17 Apr.
COMMENT. The last Time of performing this Season. [This was Mrs Hartley's last appearance on the stage.] Account-Book, 29 May: Paid Foulis for writing Music £101 17s.; 31 May: Received of Their Majesties for this Season £60, of the Prince of Wales £30; 16 June: Paid Pattinson, tallow chandler, £332 8s. Paid Cooper, printer, £335 11s. Paid Harris, manager, £500. Paid Enderby, oil merchant, £1,061 17s. Paid Hull, salary as Acting Manager £150. Paid Mrs Hartley in lieu of a Benefit £105; 6 July: Received Stage Forfeits this season £42 3s. 6d. Receipts: £63 8s. (61/14/6; 1/13/6).