

Saturday 2
CG

[This was Sga Sestini's 1st appearance on the English-speaking stage. For several preceding seasons she had been a member of the Italian opera company performing at the King's.] "Sestini . . . was handsome, sprightly, and a good actress, if great exuberance of gesticulation, activity of motion, and affected Italian *smorfie* could make her one; but her voice was gritty and sharp (something like singing through a comb), and she was nothing of a singer, except for lively comic airs. Yet she was . . . long a favourite with the mass of the public, though not with the *connoisseurs*" (Mount-Edgcumbe, p. 33).

Account-Book, 30 June 1783: Paid O'Keeffe in full for *The Castle of Andalusia* £368 18s. 6d. Receipts: £166 2s. 6d. (165/9/0; 0/13/6).

King's

IL CONVITO. Principal Characters by Viganoni, Morigi, Bartolini (1st appearance in this country), Schinotti (1st appearance in this country) // Sga Gherardi (1st appearance in this country), Sga Pollone, Sga Allegranti. [Cast from libretto (H. Reynell, 1782): Il Cavalier del Lampo - Viganoni; Don Massimo - Morigi; Il Conte Polidoro - Bartolini; Checco - Schinotti // Giacomina - Sga Gherardi; Lisetta - Sga Pollone; Alfonsina - Sga Allegranti.]

DANCING. End of Act 1 a *New Divertisement*, composed by Simonet [for title, see 5 Nov.], by Slingsby, Zuchelli, Henry, Sga Sala, Mlle Theodore; End of Opera *Apelles and Campaspe* by Lepicq, Simonet, Mlle Theodore, Mme Simonet.

COMMENT. A new Comic Opera [1st time; COM 2, by Filippo Livigni, with alterations by Antonio Andrei]: The Music entirely new by Bertoni. [Bartolini was from the Opera, Milan.]

The Music and Orchestra under the direction of Giardini. New Scenes and Decorations by Novosielski. Entirely new dresses by Lupino. Pit 10s. 6d. 1st Gallery 5s. 2nd Gallery 3s. By Command of Their Majesties no Persons to be admitted behind the Scenes. The Doors to be opened at 6:00. To begin exactly at 7:00 [same throughout season]. To prevent inconvenience to the Nobility and Gentry in getting to their carriages, they are most respectfully intreated to give positive orders to their servants to set down and take up with their horses' heads towards Pall-mall. The Door in Market-lane for Chairs only. Subscription tickets will be admitted every Opera Night (Benefits excepted) during the Season.

Monday 4
DL

THE GRECIAN DAUGHTER. AS 1 Nov. Also ROBINSON CRUSOE; or, Harlequin Friday. Principal Characters by Wright, Grimaldi, Delpini, Suett, R. Palmer, Spencer, Phillimore, Williames, Waldron, Fawcett, Alfred, Chaplin // Miss Collett. *Cast not known.*

DANCING. AS 21 Sept.

COMMENT. [For afterpiece see also 20 Sept.] The Doors to be opened at 5:15. To begin at 6:15 [see 3 May 1783]. Receipts: £246 8s. (213/19/0; 31/9/6; 0/19/6).

CG

THE CASTLE OF ANDALUSIA. AS 2 Nov. Also ALL THE WORLD'S A STAGE. Diggory - Edwin; Charles Stanley - Whitfield; Harry Stukeley - Davies; Sir Gilbert Pumpkin - Booth; Cymon - Stevens // Kitty Sprightly - Mrs Wilson; Miss Bridget Pumpkin - Mrs Webb.

COMMENT. "Among other Obligations that the Town has to the new Opera is that it has, for this year, delivered the Play-goer from his periodical Endurance of Rowe's *Tamerlane*" (*Public Advertiser*, 6 Nov.). The reference is to the long-established custom of performing TAMERLANE either on 4 Nov. (the date of William III's birth) or 5 Nov. (the date of his landing in England). In the play the virtuous Tamerlane was held to be the portrait of an upright monarch, and the vicious Bajazet [i.e. Louis XIV] as that monarch's enemy. At DL TAMERLANE was acted on either or both of these nights uninterruptedly from 1716 to 1777; at LIF and CG, with the exception of five seasons, from 1721 to 1784.

The Doors to be opened at 5:15. To begin at 6:15 [see 1 May 1783]. Receipts: £155 2s. 6d. (153/4/0; 1/18/6).