

- Tuesday 18* EUGENIA. As 17 Feb.
DL COMMENT. Went off very dull, & great hissing &c. when over (Cross).
Receipts: £160 (Cross).
- CG THE RECRUITING OFFICER. As 23 Sept. 1751, but Constable – Stoppelaer.
Also HARLEQUIN SORCERER. *Cast not listed*, but see 11 Feb.
- CT THE OLD WOMAN'S ORATORY. Cast as 11 Feb., but *Prologue* omitted.
COMMENT. At the Desire of Several Persons of Distinction. The Thirteenth Day. The Ladies are particularly desired to come early. Yesterday Orders were sent from the Lord Mayor to the Managers of the Entertainmant last Night, exhibited at the Castle Tavern, Paternoster Row, to discontinue that part of it call'd The Old Woman's Oratory, the above being an unlicensed Place (*Daily Advertiser*, 19 Feb.).
- Wednesday 19* JOSHUA. As 14 Feb.
CG
- Thursday 20* EUGENIA. As 17 Feb. N.B. The Author's benefit which was to have been this day is deferr'd till Saturday, when his tickets will be taken (playbill). This shoul'd have been the Author's Benefit but their being a great Assembly on this Night, he deferr'd till Sat. next (Cross).
DL COMMENT. Mr Francis has successfully avoided the common fault of a buskin'd expression, and left the plain language of nature to be supported by the dignity of the sentiment: He has I think, not above one or two similies, and scarce one unnecessary or purely ornamental epithet. In this he has judiciously imitated the simplicity of the antients, and of our Milton's *Samson Agonistes*, as he has also done in the contrivance of the fable, by preserving the unities . . . 'Twould be idle in me to observe that this play is a true tragedy, tho' nobody dies in it, as it has so large a share in exciting the only objects, terror and pity. There is one excellency, which I cannot help pointing out, as it is almost universally overlook'd by all dramatic writers: I mean the MORAL without which there is no perfect drama. (*Have at you All: Or The Drury Lane Journal*, 20 Feb. 1752).
Receipts: £170 (Cross).
- CG THE ROYAL MERCHANT. As 14 Nov. 1751. Also HARLEQUIN SORCERER.
Cast not listed, but see 11 Feb.
COMMENT. [The theatres this night met competition from (1) an Assembly at the King's Theatre in the Haymarket, tickets 26s. each, to admit one Gentleman and two ladies. (2) another Assembly at the Five Bells Tavern, behind the New Church, in the Strand, where was opened the TEMPLE OF TASTE, where will be exhibited a grand concert of Music. Also an attempt towards the Introduction of a new rational entertainment, consisting of an *Occasional Prologue* by a Gentleman; a panegyric on the Utility of Public Speaking, in which the Design is particularly illustrated; Propositions made from a Gentleman in the Chair, to be debated by the company, such as the Gay and Polite may be supposed to understand, and speak upon with success; to conclude with an *Original Epilogue*; the whole interspers'd with several grand concertos, Overtures, and Full pieces of Musick.
This design, which has for its object the interest of Knowledge, Eloquence and Politeness, needs no Apology, and can be opposed by those, with whom to be at variance, is Virtue. No subject of so Sacred Nature as Religion, will be there canvass'd nor anything that can give Occasion to Indecency, or unmannerly reflection on any Undertaking or Party.—In this attempt all Men of Taste are interested, as they will have an opportunity not only of being pleased, but giving pleasure by considering every subject with candour, and reasoning upon it, with Eloquence and propriety. To this entertainment, the Ladies are likewise invited,

- who have an unexceptionable right to be present at all Attempts, calculated for the promotion of knowledge, and as their appearance will naturally secure polite behavior, so they may reap some advantage from the Circulation of ideas, which in such an Assembly must necessarily take place.
- The price of entrance—half a crown each. To begin precisely at seven. The room which is very commodious, will be elegantly illuminated. The SUBJECT for the first Night's Debate will be, "If the Custom of Portioning Daughters was entirely suppress'd, would it not be a good Expedient towards the promotion of Matrimony and the felicity of that state." It continued on four Wednesday nights. [Then seems to have died.]
- THE GENTLE SHEPHERD.** *Cast not listed.* Thursday 20
CG
- HERCULES.** *Cast not listed, but see 24 Feb. 49.* Friday 21
CG
- EUGENIA.** As 17 Feb. Saturday 22
DL
- COMMENT. Benefit for y^e Author (Cross). Tickets to be had of the Author at his lodgings the *Angel* in King's Street, Covent Garden; A Millar, over-against Catharine Street, in the Strand; and at the Stage Door of the theatre, where places may be taken (playbill). We hear Mr Ross is to perform the part of Romeo in the Play *Romeo and Juliet* for his benefit, which is to be on Thursday, the 31st of March (*General Advertiser*). Receipts: £200 (Cross).
- THE COUNTRY LASSES.** As 14 Dec. 1751, but with no mention of the *Sheep Shearing Song*. Also **HARLEQUIN SORCERER.** *Cast not listed, but see 11 Feb.* CG
- COMMENT. Both pieces By Command of his Majesty. [The Assembly at the Temple of Taste in the Five Bell's tavern (see 20 Feb.) received a puff this day: "On Thursday Night there was a brilliant appearance of Ladies and Gentlemen, at the opening of the Temple of Taste, who express'd much Satisfaction at the entertainment they met with, which was not only instructive, but extremely polite and pleasing; if any Complaint was made, it was that (notwithstanding is lasted full three hours) instead of being tir'd with the Performance, as at many Publick exhibitions, they seem'd to think they had too little of it; As we are always glad to embrace any Opportunity of shewing our zeal for the Service of the Publick, we can but applaud an Undertaking than which nothing appears more rational and better calculated for the general good" (*General Advertiser*).]
- THE OLD WOMAN'S ORATORY.** As 18 Feb. HAY
- COMMENT. The Fourteenth Day. At the Desire of Several Persons of Quality.
- EUGENIA.** As 17 Feb. Monday 24
DL
- DANCING. II:** By Desire will be perform'd the *Grand Provincial Dance*, as 4 Feb.
- COMMENT. Very dull (Cross). Receipts: £160 (Cross).
- THE DRUMMER.** As 11 Nov. 1751. Also **HARLEQUIN SORCERER.** *Cast not listed, but see 11 Feb.* CG
- COMMENT. Mainpiece: By Command of his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. [The second meeting at the Temple of Taste advertised for the following Wednesday in the *General Advertiser*.]
- EUGENIA.** As 17 Feb. Also **THE ANATOMIST.** As 10 Sept. 1751. Tuesday 25
DL
- DANCING. II:** *Grand Provincial Dance*, as 4 Feb.
- COMMENT. Benefit for y^e Author (Cross). Afterpiece: By Desire. [Tickets see 22 Feb.] Receipts: £87 (Cross).
- THE CONFEDERACY.** As 13 Nov. 1751, but Corinna not listed. Also **HARLEQUIN SORCERER.** *Cast not listed, but see 11 Feb.* CG