

- 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,