

Saturday 12
DL

“[Smith] has a good figure, is gentlemanlike, and decent in everything he undertakes. When we allow that, we have said all; he wants both feeling to be affected, and powers to convey his feelings, if he had them. In fine, in spite of all the partiality of his friends, or the ignorant prejudices of those who never judge but at second hand, his performance of Richard was little more than a strong union of judgement and industry, *unaided* by nature. He should woo genteel Comedy oftener; and not that coy sister of hers, who certainly holds Smith at the point of her lance” (*London Magazine*, Oct. 1776, p. 511). Receipts: £186 18s. 6d.

Monday 14
CG

ROMEO AND JULIET. As 7 Oct. Also COMUS. As 7 Oct.
COMMENT. Receipts: £281 15s. (281/6/6; 0/8/6).

CHR

THE MOURNING BRIDE. Osmyn – A Young Gentleman (Pupil to Newton; 1st appearance on any stage [unidentified]); Gonzalez – Lloyd; Garcia – Garland of Deptford; Selim – Johnson; Perez – Kenny; Alonzo – Dancer; Heli – Smith; King – Comerford // Zara – A Young Lady [unidentified]; Leonora – Miss C. Newton; Almeria (the Mourning Bride) – Miss Reynolds. Also THE LIFE AND DEATH OF HARLEQUIN. Harlequin (for that night only) – Loutherbrough; Pantaloon – Russell; Frenchman – Smith; Clown – Newton; Colombine – Miss Reynolds. Also THE CITIZEN. Old Philpot – Ware of Deptford; Young Wilding – Sparks; Old Wilding – Taylor of Deptford; Dapper – Dancer; Quildrive – Smith; Beaufort – Johnson; Young Philpot – Garland // Maria (with *Theatrical Imitations*) – Miss Reynolds.

SINGING. As 25 Sept.

MONOLOGUE. End of 3rd piece *Bucks have at ye all* by Master Russell.

COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Newton, box-keeper. As Newton superintends the whole Performance of the Play, Farce and Interlude, the greatest care will be taken to gratify the taste of a most generous Public. Tickets to be had of Mrs Newton at the Seven Houses.

Tuesday 15
DL

THE COMMITTEE; or, The Faithful Irishman. Teague (with *songs*) – Moody; Col. Careless – Jefferson; Col. Blunt – Aickin; Lieut. Story – Fawcett; Mr Day – Baddeley; Obadiah – Parsons; Abel – Burton; Committee-Men – Waldron, &c. // Mrs Day – Mrs Bradshaw; Arabella – Miss Jarratt; Ruth – Miss Pope. [Edition of 1792 (John Bell) adds: Tavern-boy – Everard; Bailiff – Griffiths; Soldier – Blanchard; Chairman – Heath; Gaol-keeper – Kear; Bookseller – Carpenter; Porter – Wrihten // Mrs Chat – Mrs Cartwright.] Also THE WATERMAN. As 5 Oct.

COMMENT. [As afterpiece *Public Advertiser* announces THE RIVAL CANDIDATES, but see Hopkins Diary, 12 Oct.]

The Managers met again to-day, but nothing settled. Hamlet was given out. I saw Mr Sheridan, he told me that Mr Lacy and he had agreed that no Play should be given out, nor any Bills put up, till they had settled this Affair, which was to be done to-morrow at Mr Wallis's (the Attorney's) where they were all to dine. I waited on Mr Lacy, who agreed to the same, and no Bills or Paragraph were sent to the Papers. All the Business of the Theatre is at a Stand, and no Rehearsal called. *Wed. 16th*—Mr Sheridan, Dr Ford and Mr Linley dined today by Appointment with Mr Wallis where Mr Lacy was to have met them; about four o'clock he sent a verbal Message that he could not come to Dinner, but would wait upon them in the Evening, and about nine o'clock he came, and everything was settled to the Satisfaction (of them all) and a Paragraph sent to the Papers, and the Hypocrite and Christmas Tale was advertised for Friday, but no Play was to be done on Thursday—Covent Garden did not play on Friday (Hopkins Diary).

Public Advertiser, 16 Oct., summarizes the proprietors' dispute: the Drury Lane patent had been purchased [in 1747] by David Garrick and James Lacy. On his death Lacy had devised his half-share to his son, Willoughby Lacy; on his

retirement from the stage Garrick had sold his half-share to Sheridan, Ford and Linley. The original agreement between Garrick and Lacy, as recited in a document retained by the attorney Albany Wallis was that, in case of the sale of either share of the patent, or any part of either share, the seller was obligated to offer the first refusal to purchase to the other partner, and that this was to be done only when the theatre was closed for the summer. In selling one half of his share to Robert Langford and to Edward Thompson, Willoughby Lacy was—so argued his three partners—acting illegally: he had not offered to them the first refusal, and he was negotiating the sale at a time when the theatre was open. *Public Advertiser*, 17 Oct., prints a statement from Lacy saying that he did not feel himself bound by the original agreement between his father and Garrick, but that, in the interest of the business of the theatre, he had asked Langford and Thompson to withdraw their claim to partnership, to which request they had acceded.

Receipts: £130 9s. 6d.

Tuesday 15
DL

THE BUSY BODY. [Cast from *Morning Chronicle* and *Morning Post*, both 16 Oct.: Marplot – Woodward; Sir Francis Gripe – Quick; Sir George Airy – Lewis; Charles Gripe – Wroughton // Isabinda – Mrs Whitfield; Miranda – Miss Macklin. *Gazetteer*, 16 Oct., also refers to Dunstall, who probably acted Sir Jealous Traffic (see 29 Jan. 1778).] Also THE GOLDEN PIPPIN. Jupiter – Reinhold; Paris – Mattocks; Momus – Quick; Mercury – Mahon // Venus – Mrs Mattocks; Pallas – Miss Dayes; Iris – Miss Valois; Juno – Miss Catley.

DANCING. End of mainpiece *Mirth and Jollity* by Aldridge, Master Langrish, Master Jackson, Miss Besford.

COMMENT. [As mainpiece the playbill announces DOUGLAS, but “Mrs Barry being suddenly taken ill yesterday Morning, *The Busy Body* was substituted for *Douglas* . . . and allowing for the short Notice which the Performers had to prepare for the Representation, we must do them the Justice to say that they acquitted themselves extremely well” (*Morning Chronicle*, 16 Oct.).] Receipts: £234 5s. (233/4; 1/1).

CG

ALL IN THE WRONG. Sir John Restless – Lee Lewes; Sir W. Belmont – L’Estrange; Young Belmont – Whitefield; Mr Blandford – Fearon; Robert – Booth; Brush – Wewitzer; Beverly – Lewis // Lady Restless – Mrs Mattocks; Clarissa – Miss Dayes; Tippet – Mrs Whitefield; Marmalet – Mrs Willems; Tattle – Mrs Pitt; Belinda – Mrs Bulkeley (1st appearance in that character). Also CROSS PURPOSES. As 27 Sept., but Consol – Quick.

DANCING. As 15 Oct.

COMMENT. By Command of Their Majesties. [For Fanny Burney’s pen and ink sketch of the royal box and her written description of it, as it appeared on this evening, see List of illustrations these volumes. Receipts: £261 14s. 6d. (260/14/0; 1/0/6).

Wednesday 16
CG

CATO. Cato – Comerford; Portius – Russell; Marcus – Smith; Lucius – Dancer; Sempronius – Johnson; Juba – Stokes; Decius – Mrs Kenny; Syphax – Lewis // Marcia – Miss Taylor; Lucia – Mrs Wilks. Also THE ELECTION. John – Kenny; Dick – Comerford; Trusty – Russell // Sally – Mrs Davies; Wife – Mrs Wilks. Also HIGH LIFE BELOW STAIRS. Lovel – Russell; Freeman – Johnson; Philip – Lewis; Lord Duke – Comerford; Sir Harry – Smith; Robert – Dancer; Coachman – G. Smith; Tom – Kenny; Kingston (the Black Boy) – Master Russell // Kitty (with a *song*) – Mrs Russell; Lady Charlotte – Miss Taylor; Lady Bab – Mrs Wilks; Cook – Mrs Newby.

SINGING. 2nd piece: With all the original *Songs, Chorusses, &c.*

IMITATIONS. As 30 Sept.

COMMENT. Benefit for Robinson, musician, and Mrs Newby.

CHR