

- ISABELLA. As 23 Feb. Also WHO'S THE DUPE? As 3 May. Thursday 11  
 SINGING. As 23 Feb. DL  
 COMMENT. Benefit for Mr and Mrs Brereton. Part of the Pit will be laid into the Boxes. To prevent Confusion Ladies are desired to send their Servants by half past Four o'Clock. *Morning Chronicle*, 21 Apr.: Tickets to be had of Mr and Mrs Brereton, No. 10, Charles-street, Covent Garden. Receipts: £317 6s. 6d. (121/17/0; 7/11/6; 1/6/0; tickets: 186/12/0) (charge: £106 2s.).
- THE BIRD IN A CAGE. As 24 Apr., but omitted: Guards, Mardona, Fidelia. CG  
*Epilogue* as 24 Apr. Also SMALL TALK; or, The Westminster Boy. Principal Parts by Quick, Booth, Palmer, Brown, Wewitzer, Fearon, Davies, Edwin // Mrs Webb, Miss Brangin, Mrs Wells. *Cast not known*. *Prologue* spoken by Holman.  
 DANCING. In Act III of mainpiece a *Grand Dance*, as 24 Apr.; End of Act I of after-piece *Leap Year*, as 27 Feb.  
 COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Wells. Afterpiece [1st time; F 2, by Edward Topham, with incidental music by Shield. MS not in Larpent; not published. *Prologue* by George Colman, the younger (*European Magazine*, May 1786, p. 370)]. "An old and established rule among the youth of Westminster [School will] not permit any exhibition on the stage reflecting upon their body . . . In the second act Mrs Wells made her appearance in the dress of a Westminster scholar, when a general uproar [instigated by the scholars] took place, and the [rest of the] piece was prevented from being heard" (*Town and Country Magazine*, May 1786, p. 235). *Public Advertiser*, 8 May: Tickets to be had of Mrs Wells, No. 188, Oxford-street. Receipts: £282 17s. (166/0/6; 21/19/6; tickets: 94/17/0) (charge: £105).
- THE HEIRESS. As 16 Jan. Also THE ROMP. As 21 Nov. 1785. Friday 12  
 COMMENT. Receipts: £225 2s. 6d. (203/2/0; 21/8/0; 0/12/6). DL
- WERTER. As 14 Mar. Also ROSINA. As 2 May. CG  
 DANCING. As 12 Nov. 1785.  
 SINGING. As 25 Mar.  
 COMMENT. Receipts: £190 3s. (178/15/6; 11/7/6).
- THE BEGGAR'S OPERA. *Cast not listed*. Also Other Entertainments. *Not specified*. HAY  
 COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Pinto (formerly Miss Brett). [And see 26 Apr. 1785.]
- THE MERCHANT OF VENICE. As 20 Apr. Also DAPHNE AND AMINTOR. Saturday 13  
 As 24 Apr. DL  
 DANCING. As 29 Apr. throughout.  
 COMMENT. Receipts: £154 11s. 6d. (133/13/0; 20/16/0; 0/2/6).
- TIMON OF ATHENS. Timon – Holman; Alcibiades – Farren; Lucullus – Quick; CG  
 Lucius – Wewitzer; Sempronius – Davies; Ventidius – Palmer; Old Athenian – Fearon; Flavius – Hull; Cephis – Kennedy; Painter – Stevens; Poet – Booth; Jeweller – Gardner; Apemantus – Wroughton // Melissa – Mrs Inchbald; Phryne – Miss Stuart; Evandra – A Young Lady (1st appearance on any stage [Mrs Duill]). Also TOM THUMB. As 21 Nov. 1785.  
 DANCING. In Act II of mainpiece a Banquet and *Masquerade Dance* [*performers not listed*]; End of mainpiece *Leap Year*, as 10 Oct. 1785.  
 COMMENT. Benefit for Hull. Mainpiece: A New Alteration [by Thomas Hull], from Shakespeare and Shadwell. With characteristic Habits, Scenes and Decorations. [Mrs Duill is identified in Lyons, *Collectanea*.] *Public Advertiser*, 2 May: Tickets to be had of Hull, Duke's Court, near Dean's-yard, Westminster. Receipts: £80 10s. (77/5; 3/5; tickets: none listed) (charge: £105).

*Saturday 13*  
King's  
VIRGINIA. *Announced, but not performed.* "On Saturday night the opera was that scene of confusion and distress that no serious opera, with all its cantabile faintings, rapes, battles and murders ever produced. On the drawing up of the curtain it was not a Roman legion in marshal array that caught the eye. No, it was a corps of the sons of the feather and fashion—British bucks—British beaus . . . *Off! Off!* was the cry from every part of the house. To this admonishing shout they were all Atlases . . . By no efforts could the opera be put in train. The manager and his friends exerted themselves in vain to appease the fury . . . This scene of tumult and disorder continued for upwards of three hours and a half, when the audience retreated, some discontented, and others more pleased than ever they were at a regular entertainment" (*Morning Herald*, 15 May).

*Monday 15*  
DL  
HAMLET. As 17 Nov. 1785, but Ophelia (for this night only) – Mrs Siddons. Also COMUS. Comus – Palmer; Bacchanals – Bannister, Williams; Spirit – Barrymore; Brothers – Bannister Jun., R. Palmer // Euphrosyne (with *Sweet Echo*, accompanied by Parke) – Mrs Wroughten; Pastoral Nymph – Mrs Crouch; Sabrina – Mrs Forster; Principal Bacchant – Miss George; The Lady (for this night only) – Mrs Siddons.

COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Siddons. Part of the Pit will be laid into the Boxes. To prevent Confusion Ladies are desired to send their Servants by half past Four o'Clock. *Morning Herald*, 1 May: Tickets to be had of Mrs Siddons, Gower-street, Bedford-square.

"In the apparent assumption of madness [and] the express'd weakness and *melancholy* of the character Kemble is not equalled by any of his predecessors . . . Till [Mrs Siddons] there never was, in sensible discrimination, as there ought to be, the real madness of Ophelia from the feigned distraction of Hamlet. Till then the dignity, the love, even the pathos of the part [were] but poorly, if at all administered" (*Public Advertiser*, 17 May). Receipts: £326 14s. 6d. (137/3/0; 7/3/6; 0/4/0; tickets: 182/4/0) (charge: £109 16s.).

CG  
ALEXANDER THE GREAT. Alexander – Pope (1st appearance in that character); Lysimachus – Farren; Hephestion – Davies; Cassander – Fearon; Polyperchon – Cubitt; Thessalus – Palmer; Aristander – Gardner; Perdiccas – Thompson; Clytus – Aickin // Roxana – Mrs Bates; Sysigambis – Miss Platt; Parisatis – Mrs Rivers; Statira – Mrs Wells (1st appearance in that character). Also ANNETTE AND LUBIN. As 9 May, but added: Lord – Helme; Bailiff – Booth. Also PIETY IN PATTENS. Butler – Edwin; Squire – Fearon // Mrs Candy – Mrs Davenett; Polly Pattens (with *songs*) – Mrs Martyr.  
DANCING. As 26 Apr.

COMMENT. Benefit for Booth. 1st piece: In Act II the Grand Triumphal Entry of Alexander into Babylon. 3rd piece: Never performed there. *Morning Chronicle*, 2 May: Tickets to be had of Booth, No. 18, Broad Court, Long Acre. Receipts: £105 12s. 6d. (99/8/6; 6/4/0; tickets: none listed) (charge: £105).

*Tuesday 16*  
DL  
THE STRANGERS AT HOME. As 4 Feb. Also THE ROMP. As 21 Nov. 1785.  
COMMENT. Receipts: £163 14s. (127/19; 33/1; 2/14).

CG  
THE DUENNA. As 7 Mar. Also OMAI. As 1 May.  
SINGING. As 2 May throughout.  
COMMENT. Receipts: £142 14s. (140/16; 1/18).

King's  
LA SCUOLA DE GELOSI. As 11 Mar.  
DANCING. As 29 Apr. throughout. [The playbill includes the *Sequidilla*, as 27 Apr.]  
COMMENT. [Opera in place of VIRGINIA, announced in *Public Advertiser*, 15 May.]