

- Saturday 29*
King's L'ARBORE DI DIANA. Probably as 18 Apr.
DANCING. As 20 Dec. 1796.
COMMENT. [*True Briton* announces NINA, but "The Public are most respectfully acquainted that, on account of Mme Banti's sudden illness, NINA . . . is unavoidably postponed; and the favorite opera of L'ARBORE DI DIANA will be performed in its stead" (printed slip attached to BM playbill, Burney 937.c.15).]

May 1797

- Monday 1*
DL FATAL CURIOSITY. Old Wilmot - Kemble; Young Wilmot - Barrymore; Eustace - Trueman; Randal - C. Kemble // Charlotte - Mrs Powell; Maria (with a *song* in character) - Miss Leak; Agnes - Mrs Siddons. *Prologue* spoken by C. Kemble. Also THE WEDDING DAY. As 2 Nov. 1796, but Sir Adam Contest - Wewitzer; Mr Milden - Maddocks; omitted: John, William. Also THE DEUCE IS IN HIM. Col. Tamper - Palmer; Major Belford - Whitfield; Prattle (1st time) - Bannister Jun. // Emily - Mrs Siddons; Bell - Miss Heard; Florival - Mrs Goodall.
MONOLOGUE. The whole to conclude with a *Short Notice of Farewells*, including her own Farewell for the Present Season, by Mrs Siddons.
COMMENT. Benefit for Mrs Siddons. 1st piece: Never acted in this Theatre. [Prologue by George Colman, the elder. Monologue by Hester Lynch Piozzi (*European Magazine*, May 1797, p. 343).] *True Briton*, 12 Apr.: Tickets to be had of Mrs Siddons, No. 49, Great Marlborough-street.
"The scenery destroyed much of the effect of the tragedy; for the characters are supposed to be 'steeped in poverty to the very lips;' and yet their apartments would have become a family in the meridian of wealth and prosperity. Mrs Siddons was also too well dressed for Mrs Wilmot" (*Montbly Mirror*, May 1797, p. 308). "In the scene in which [Mrs Siddons's] son having put into her hands a casket to keep, and she having touched a spring it opens and she sees jewels, her husband (Kemble) enters, and in despair exclaims, 'Where shall we get bread?' With her eyes fixed on the jewels, she runs to him, knocks the casket against her breast and exclaims, 'Here! Here!' In Mrs Siddons's tone and in her look there was an anticipation of the murder which was to take place" (Robinson, 1, 39).
Receipts: £618 2s. (386/8/6; 43/19/0; 2/4/0; tickets: 185/10/6) (charge: £211 1s.).
- CG ITALIAN VILLAGERS. As 27 Apr. Also RAYMOND AND AGNES. As 27 Apr.
COMMENT. Receipts: £215 17s. (209/2; 6/15).
- Tuesday 2*
DL THE WILL. As 25 Apr., but *Prologue*, *Epilogue* omitted [and thereafter]. Also KATHARINE AND PETRUCHIO. As 24 Apr., but Baptista - Maddocks; added: Gabriel - Cooke; Nathaniel - Webb; Adam - Fisher.
COMMENT. [Afterpiece in place of RICHARD COEUR DE LION, advertised on playbill of 1 May.] Receipts: £186 18s. 6d. (147/19/6; 36/2/0; 2/17/0).
- CG ABROAD AND AT HOME. As 3 Jan., but Johnstone in place of Waddy. Also THE SAILOR'S PRIZE. Characters by Incledon, Johnstone, Munden, Bowden // Mrs Martyr. [Cast from Larpent MS 1076: Sam Surf - Incledon; Teddy O'Shaughnessy - Johnstone; Joey - Munden; Platoon - Bowden // Sally - Mrs Martyr.] Also THE PRISONER AT LARGE. As 17 Sept. 1796, but omitted: Count Fripon, Phelim.