

SCENE III. A Sham Battle. They divide; when the mode of attack and defence in street-firing, so necessary to be practised and known at this critical period, will be exactly represented. To conclude with *God save the King* [singers not listed]. Also THE FOLLIES OF A DAY. Count Almaviva – Lewis; Figaro – Farley; Antonio – Munden; Bazil – Powel; Page (with a *song*) – Mrs Martyr // Countess – Miss Chapman; Susan – Mrs Abington.

Wednesday 16
CG

DANCING. End of 2nd piece a *Minuet* by Mr and Miss Betterton.

COMMENT. Benefit for Miss Betterton, 2nd piece [1st time; ENT1]. *Times*, 26 Apr.: Tickets to be had of Miss Betterton, No. 47, Great Queen-street, Lincoln's Inn Fields. Receipts: £184 8s. 6d. (87/0/0; 8/17/6; tickets: 88/11/0).

THE STRANGER. As 12 May. Also BLUE-BEARD. As 14 May.

Thursday 17
DL

COMMENT. On account of the Indisposition of a principal performer the new Comedy of SHE'S ELOPED! [advertised on playbill of 16 May] is obliged to be deferred till Saturday next. Receipts: £266 (192/11; 68/5; 5/4).

LOVE IN A VILLAGE. As 15 Nov. 1797, but Justice Woodcock – Munden; added to Rosetta: With new *songs*. Also BOTHERATION. As 8 May, but Knight's name listed in playbill. Also VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS. As 12 May, but Irishman – Waddy; omitted: Hawker.

CG

DANCING. End of Act I of 1st piece *The Statute Dance* [performers not listed].

SINGING. In 2nd piece *Mr O'Blarney's Description of London*, as 8 May.

COMMENT. Receipts: £113 19s. 6d. (108/12/0; 5/7/6).

THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. As 19 Sept. 1797, but Charles Surface – Smith (who performed the Character originally [on 8 May 1777]; being positively his only appearance); Snake – Caulfield // Lady Sneerwell – Mrs Sparks; omitted: Trip. Also SYLVESTER DAGGERWOOD. As 13 Nov. 1797. Also THE SON-IN-LAW. As 7 May.

Friday 18
DL

SINGING. In Act III of 1st piece a *song* by Dignum.

COMMENT. Benefit for King. [This was Smith's last appearance on the stage, from which he had officially retired on 9 June 1788.] Broadside in Kemble playbills announcing this benefit: Mr King most respectfully informs the Public that his Night is fixed for Friday the 18th of May, when will be presented THE SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL. Mr King has the pleasure to add that Mr Smith, who was so long and so worthily applauded by the Public, and was the original performer of Charles Surface in the above, distinguished Comedy, at the particular request of Mr King, backed by a strong assurance from many admirers and encouragers of the Drama that it will not only add to Mr King's emolument but highly gratify the Town, has kindly consented to return to the Theatre for one night, and resume his favourite Character.

"We had been told that Smith portrayed the manners of a finished gentleman with more delicacy and characteristic propriety than any actor of his day; but this did not appear to us to be his particular excellence; he stands too wide to be graceful, and his deportment gains no advantage from a perpetual application of his hand to the lower part of the waist. These habits are far from elegant. His Charles, however, is a favourable specimen of that sort of acting which commonly falls under the denomination of the *old school*: light, airy, and natural; which excites applause without any anxious endeavour to produce it; which suffers the points to tell of *themselves*, and does not place them as so many traps to ensnare the injudicious part of the audience" (*Monthly Mirror*, May 1798, p. 299). "He was received with the most heart-felt gratulations by an audience who did not expect any *apology* for such acting, though he saw fit to deliver one at the conclusion of the play" (*Monthly Visitor*, May 1798, p. 72).

Times, 4 May: Tickets to be had of King at his house, New Store-street, Bedford-square. Receipts: £674 6s. (388/0/6; 55/17/6; 2/0/0); tickets: 228/8/0 (charge: £212 5s. 6d.).