

**THE HISTORY OF THE
THEATRES OF LONDON,
FROM THE YEAR 1760
TO THE PRESENT TIME**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649016310

The history of the theatres of London, from the year 1760 to the present time by Benjamin Victor

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Cover @ 2017

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BENJAMIN VICTOR

**THE HISTORY OF THE
THEATRES OF LONDON,
FROM THE YEAR 1760
TO THE PRESENT TIME**

R. L. Johnson

THE
H I S T O R Y
OF THE
THEATRES OF LONDON,
From the Year 1760 to the present Time.

BEING
A Continuation of the ANNUAL
REGISTER of all the new Tra-
gedies, Comedies, Farces, Pantomimes,
&c. that have been performed within that
Period.

WITH
Occasional NOTES and ANECDOTES.

By MR. V I C T O R,
AUTHOR of the two former VOLUMES.

L O N D O N :
Printed for T. BECKET, in the Strand.
MDCCLXXI.

4895

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V66

TO
MRS. BOOTH.

MADAM,

TO whom can this third Volume of the *History of the Theatres* be address'd, with more Propriety, than to one who so early in Life (above half a Century ago) made so agreeable a Figure there! And yet I know you had rather pass your remaining Days forgotten as an Actress, than to have your Youth recollected in the most favourable Light: But I hope you will excuse the Liberty I take, in commemorating the Delight which the Public received

from your Performances, while you was an Ornament to the Theatre! for the Proof of which I can turn to Records more considerable than my own, and find in Mr. Colley Cibber's Apology for his Life, the following remarkable Passage, (Page 347.)

“ But during the Trial of *Sa-*
 “ *cheverel* our Audiences were
 “ extremely weakened by the
 “ better Rank of people's at-
 “ tending it; while, at the
 “ same time, the lower Sort as
 “ eagerly crouded into *Drury-*
 “ *lane* Theatre, to a new Co-
 “ medy called the *Fair Quaker*
 “ *of Deal*. This Play having
 “ some

“ some low Strokes of natural
 “ Humour, was rightly calcu-
 “ lated for the Capacity of the
 “ Actors who play’d in it; but
 “ the most happy Incident in
 “ its Fortune was the Charm
 “ of the *Fair Quaker*, which
 “ was acted by MISS SANT-
 “ LOW (afterwards Mrs. *Booth*)
 “ whose Person was then in the
 “ full Bloom of what Beauty
 “ she could pretend to : Before
 “ this she had only been ad-
 “ mired as the most excellent
 “ Dancer; which, perhaps,
 “ might not a little contribute
 “ to the favourable Reception
 “ she met with as an Actress

“ in this Character, which so
 “ happily suited her Figure and
 “ Capacity :—The gentle Soft-
 “ ness of her Voice—the com-
 “ posed Innocence of her Af-
 “ pect—the Modesty of her
 “ Dress—the reserved Decency
 “ of her Gesture, and the Sim-
 “ plicity of the Sentiments
 “ that naturally fell from her—
 “ made her seem the amiable
 “ Maid she represented : In a
 “ Word, not the enthusiastick
 “ Maid of *Orleans* was more
 “ serviceable of old to the
 “ *French* Army, when the
 “ *English* had distress’d them,
 “ than this *Fair Quaker* was,
 “ at the Head of that Dramatic
 “ Attempt,

“ Attempt, upon which the
 “ Support of their weak So-
 “ ciety depended.”

Thus, Madam, by this Account, your Powers began to break forth at first, in no small Degree of Lustre as an Actress! having some Years before charm'd the admiring Public as the most elegant Dancer! It was therefore no Wonder that Mr. Booth, the most considerable Man in the Theatre, should become a Lover! which soon appear'd in the following inspired Ode written by him on your Dancing.

- “ She comes ! the God of Love asserts his Reign,
 “ Resistless o'er the gazing Throng !
 “ Alone she fills the spacious Scene !
 “ The Charm of ev'ry Eye ! the Praise of ev'ry
 “ Tongue !

 “ Order and Grace together join'd,
 “ Sweetness with Majesty combin'd,
 “ To make the beauteous Form compleat,
 “ On ev'ry Step and Motion wait.

 “ Now, to a slow and melting Air she moves !
 “ Her Eyes their Softness steal from *Venus'*
 “ Doves !
 “ So like in Shape, in Air, and Mien,
 “ She passes for the *Paphian* Queen !
 “ The Graces all around her play ;
 “ The wond'ring Gazers die away.

 “ But now, the flying Fingers strike the Lyre !
 “ The sprightlier Notes the Nymph inspire !
 “ She whirls around ! she bounds ! she springs !
 “ As if *Jove's* Messenger had lent her Wings !
 “ Such