

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Literary Studies

This series provides a high-quality selection of early printings of literary works, textual editions, anthologies and literary criticism which are of lasting scholarly interest. Ranging from Old English to Shakespeare to early twentieth-century work from around the world, these books offer a valuable resource for scholars in reception history, textual editing, and literary studies.

Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.

The most influential actor of his age, David Garrick (1717–79) shaped the London stage for over three decades as theatre manager at Drury Lane. He popularised a more natural style of acting, and did much to make Shakespeare the most revered English playwright. First published in 1780 and reissued here in the second edition of that year, this two-volume biography was written by Thomas Davies (c.1712–85). Samuel Johnson, a friend of the Garrick family, notably provided Davies with anecdotes and information on Garrick's early life. The work does not dwell on gossip or private life; it offers instead an informed portrait of the stage in Garrick's time. Davies had inhabited this world as a much less successful actor himself, before becoming a bookseller. His work is therefore a direct and valuable witness to theatrical London in the eighteenth century. The second volume covers the years 1763–79.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.

*Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes
of his Theatrical Contemporaries*

VOLUME 2

THOMAS DAVIES



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

University Printing House, Cambridge, CB2 8BS, United Kingdom

Cambridge University Press is part of the University of Cambridge.
It furthers the University's mission by disseminating knowledge in the pursuit of
education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108070676

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2014

This edition first published 1780

This digitally printed version 2014

ISBN 978-1-108-07067-6 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect
the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published
by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with,
or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with
Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

T H E
L I F E
O F
DAVID GARRICK, Esq.
V O L. II.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with
Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

M E M O I R S
 O F T H E
 L I F E
 O F
 D A V I D G A R R I C K, E s q .
 I N T E R S P E R S E D W I T H
 C H A R A C T E R S A N D A N E C D O T E S
 O F
 H I S T H E A T R I C A L C O N T E M P O R A R I E S .
 T H E W H O L E F O R M I N G
 A H I S T O R Y O F T H E S T A G E ,
 W H I C H I N C L U D E S
 A P e r i o d o f T H I R T Y - S I X Y E A R S .

By T H O M A S D A V I E S .

— Quem populus Romanus meliorem virum quam
 histrionem esse arbitratur, qui ita dignissimus est scena propter
 artificium, ut dignissimus sit curia propter abstinentiam.

Cicero pro Q. Roscio Comædo.

A N E W E D I T I O N .

V O L . II.

L O N D O N :

Printed for the A U T H O R, and sold at his Shop in Great
 Russell-Street, Covent-Garden.

M. DCC. LXXX.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with
Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CONTENTS

OF THE

SECOND VOLUME.

CHAP. XXXI.

Account of the riot occasioned by the advanced prices to the Two Gentlemen of Verona, and the tragedy of Elvira — History of the chief agent — Hero of the Fribbleriad, &c. Page 1

CHAP. XXXII.

Author of Elvira — Some account of him — His first poetical production — His acquaintance with Mr. Pope and lord Bolingbroke — Tragedy of Euridice — Alfred, in conjunction with Mr.
A 3 *Thomson*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

Thomson — Anecdote of Thomson — Tragedy of Mustapha — Mallet appointed to write the life of the duke of Marlborough with Mr. Glover — Alfred — The publisher of Bolingbroke's works — Behavicur to a printer — Stratagem to get Elvira acted — Success of it — Mallet's religious principles — A remarkable story — Death.

P. 27

C H A P. XXXIII.

Reflections on the ill success of Drury-lane theatre in 1763 — Mr. Garrick sets out for Italy — Causes of his journey.

P. 61

C H A P. XXXIV.

State of the stage during Mr. Garrick's absence on his tour to the continent — Mr. Powell, a young actor, favoured by Mr. Lacy and Mr. Colman — Greatly applauded and followed — His fondness for the profession of acting — Consequence of a dispute between him and a low comedian — His merit rewarded.

P. 67

C H A P. XXXV.

*Mr. Garrick's entertainment in France and Italy —
The*

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

The baths of Padua serviceable to Mrs. Garrick — The duke of Parma invites Mr. Garrick to give him some proof of his theatrical talents — His friendly contest with La Clairon — Surprising effect of his skill in dumb exhibition — His partiality to La Clairon — His opinion of foreign stages. P. 77

C H A P. XXXVI.

State of the stage during Mr. Garrick's absence continued — His advice pursued — Several musical pieces — Royal Shepherd, Almena, Pharnaces — Platonic Wife unexpectedly saved from the fury of the critics — Folly of two young actors — Powell and Holland characterized. P. 86

C H A P. XXXVII.

Mr. Garrick's return to England — The Sick Monkey — Address to the public in a humorous prologue — Public opinion of his improvement in acting — Fortune of several new plays — Plain Dealer, clandestine Marriage, Falstaff's Wedding, &c. P. 95

A 4 C H A P.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. XXXVIII.

Death of Mrs. Cibber—Of Mr. Quin—Some particular transactions of their lives. P. 106

C H A P. XXXIX.

Mr. Garrick's Country Girl—Unhappy in the subject, and choice of the actresses—His Cymon and Christmas Tale—Earl of Warwick—Mrs. Yates's Margaret of Anjou—Dido—Widow'd Wife—Zenobia. P. 121

C H A P. XL.

Hugh Kelly—An author who writes against the players—Supposed the first English writer of sentimental comedy—His False Delicacy—Word to the Wife—Clementina, and School for Lovers—His death. P. 133

C H A P. XLI.

Dr. Goldsmith—Sollicits Mr. Garrick for his vote and interest—Offers him the play of the Good-Natured Man—Their contest about it—Some farther account of the doctor—His envy, malice, absurdity,

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

absurdity, good-nature, generosity, and benevolence — Dies. P. 142

C H A P. XLII.

The Padlock — Mr. Dibdin — Mungo — Mrs. Arne — The Hypocrite, taken from Cibber's Non-furor — French manners and English — Maria and Charlotte — Mrs. Abington — Her various talents in acting — Her accomplishments, and behaviour in private life. P. 165

C H A P. XLIII.

Mrs. Pritchard retires from the stage — Reason for it assigned — Account of her introduction to and progress in the theatre — Her singular talents in acting — Object of the public care — Her death — Mrs. Clive leaves the theatre — Her interview with Mr. Garrick on the occasion — Her stage abilities described at large — Her love of tragedy, &c. P. 175

C H A P

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. XLIV.

Mr. Havard leaves the stage — His respectable character — Employed by Mr. Giffard — His Scanderberg — Charles the First — Some observations on that tragedy — Enquiry into the reasons of contempt thrown on player authors — Mr. Gray censured — Mr. Havard engaged to Fleetwood — His Regulus — Employed by Mr. Garrick — His death. P. 195

C H A P. XLV.

The Jubilee at Stratford, in honour of Shakespeare — The fate of a clergyman who cut down Shakespeare's mulberry-tree — The use made of it — Various entertainments at the Jubilee — Account of the company — The Ode — Remarks upon it — A gentleman turns the whole festival into ridicule — A Macaroni pleads the cause of insensibility against Shakespeare — Answer to him by the steward — Strange stupidity of the inhabitants of Stratford — Harmony between Mr. Garrick's generosity and economy. P. 213

C H A P.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

C H A P. XLVI.

Mr. Mossop quits the service of Mr. Garrick — Goes to Ireland, and articles with Barry and Woodward — Leaves them, and opens the theatre of Smock Alley — His ill fortune — Comes back to England — Goes abroad with a friend — Returns to London — Offers his service to the managers of Covent garden — Dies. P. 229

C H A P. XLVII.

Mr. Barry visits London — He acts at the Opera-house, and at Mr. Foote's theatre, with Mrs. Dancer — His and Mrs. Dancer's engagement at Drury lane — They quit that theatre, and are hired by the managers of Covent-garden — Mr. Barry afflicted with the gout and other disorders — Dies — His character. P. 232

C H A P. XLVIII.

Mr. Foote and Mr. Garrick — Foote's envy and malevolence to Garrick — The latter praises the former, who constantly rails at and abuses the latter—

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

latter — His design of exposing him in a mock procession — Dropt — Resumes his intention of bringing him on the stage — Reasons for it — Farther particulars relating to Mr Garrick and Mr. Foote — Foote's verses on Humour, &c.

P. 250

C H A P. XLIX.

Mr. Cumberland — A prolific writer — Banishment of Cicero — Brothers — Attacks the writers of the age in his prologue — Not so original as he pretends to be — Instances of his borrowing from others — West-Indian, his best play, commended — Major O Flarty — Fashionable Lovers — Colin a bad Scotchman — Druid — A play from novels — Timon of Athens — No improvement of the original — Choleric Man — Supported by the acting — Mr. Cumberland's dread of the critics — Attacks writers in the news-papers, in hopes of silencing them — His opinion of himself — Goldsmith's verses on him.

P. 269

C H A P. L.

Death of Mr Lacy — Mr Garrick sole manager — Afflicted

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

— *Afflicted with chronic disorders — Alonzo — Braganza — Bon Ton — The Runaway — Observations on them, and the representation of them, &c.* P. 285

C H A P. LI.

The players unprotected, and persecuted — Their characters more respectable than generally supposed — Their loyalty — Neglect of their own interest — Distress of decayed actors — Mr. Hull's address to the players — The foundation of a theatrical fund — Which was first established at Covent garden — Mr. Garrick the great promoter of the fund at Drury-lane — His earnestness to support it — Advises an act of parliament for its security — His donation to it by will, &c. P. 306

C H A P. LII.

Improvements in the entrance to Drury-lane theatre, and ornaments over it — Mr. Garrick resolves to part with his share of the patent — Various reasons assigned for it — Acts several of his principal

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

principal characters — Takes his final leave of the stage — His address to the audience. P. 323

C H A P. LIII.

Mr Garrick retired from the theatre — Attentive to what passes on Drury-lane stage — His advice followed — Attends the rehearsal of Miss More's tragedy of Percy — Writes the prologue and epilogue to it — Offends Mademoiselle D'Eon — Reasons for his not being intimate with that person — The Fatal Falshood — Miss Young — Unexpected honours paid to Mr. Garrick in the House of Commons — Instructs a young actor in a very difficult part — Is taken ill at a nobleman's seat — Returns to town, seemingly recovered — Relapses — Attended by several physicians — His calm resignation — Dies — Magnificently buried. P. 330

C H A P. LIV.

View of Mr. Garrick's general character — Cannot be compared with Burbage, Allen, Hart, Mobun, &c. — Superior to Wilks, Booth, and Cibber — More

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07067-6 - *Memoirs of the Life of David Garrick, Esq.: Interspersed with Characters and Anecdotes of his Theatrical Contemporaries: Volume 2*

Thomas Davies

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

C O N T E N T S.

— *More honoured than any English or foreign actors—Moliere and Baron—Anecdotes of them*
 — *Mr. Garrick compared with Roscius—His pre-eminence—Honours paid to Mr. Garrick not confined to his native country—Mr. Neckar, Mr. De St. Foix, and the duke of Nivernois—Mr. Garrick's learning—Improvements from his constant visitors—His conversation—Contrasted with that of Foote—The services which he did to others—Mr. Beighton's character—Mr. Garrick considered as an author—His faults—Splendid manner of living—His humanity, benevolence, and charity.* P. 351

A P P E N D I X.

<i>Testimonies of Mr. Garrick's genius and merits—</i>	Page 397
<i>List of Mr. Garrick's dramatic works</i>	— 409
<i>List of characters acted by Mr. Garrick</i>	— 415
<i>Order of Mr. Garrick's funeral</i>	— — 419
<i>Mr Garrick's will</i>	— — — 422

T H E