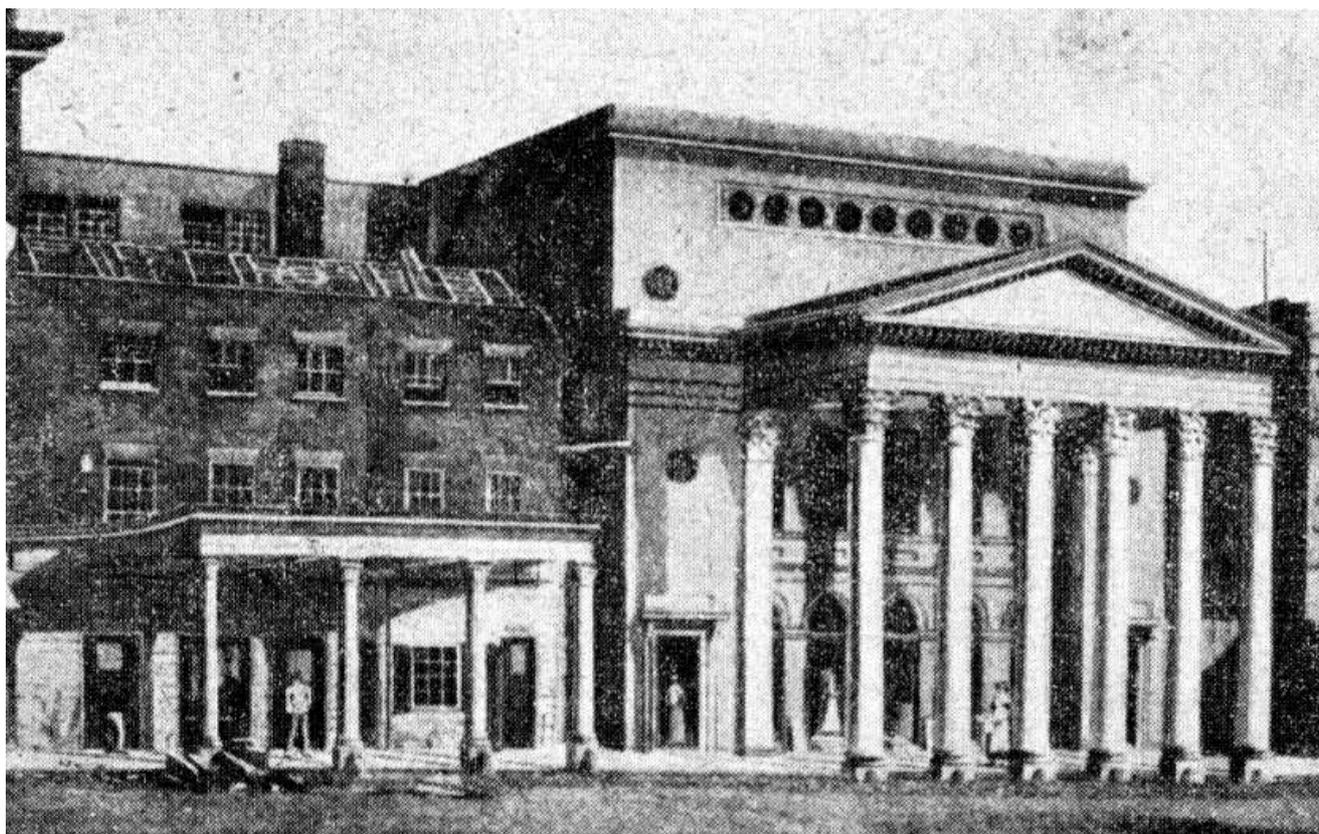


1821-1822

New Haymarket Theatre Built



Theatre Museum Enghoven Collection

The old Little Theatre stands next door to the new Haymarket Theatre.

"Milady" Hamlet

1821 : The Lyceum Theatre is presenting Hamlet with the title role played by a woman - Julia Glover, a well established actress who, for has graced the London stage the past 25 years, though previously in more conventional roles. The performance earned congratulations from Kean, and she has been generally praised as a thoroughly dependable, serious player - "a rare thinking actress".

Death of Mrs Garrick, age 99

1822, 16th October : 43 years after the death of her husband, Mrs Garrick has died at the age of 99. During thirty years of marriage they never spent a single night apart. Her Will leaves to the British Museum her husband's valuable collection of old English plays and the celebrated Roubilliac statue of Shakespeare. The chair made from Shakespeare's mulberry tree will also be donated to the Museum. She was buried on 25th October in Westminster Abbey, next to her husband.

1821 : The hundred year old Little Theatre in the Haymarket has been completely rebuilt - and the new building currently stands next door to the original building. The new theatre has been designed by John Nash, the architect who is currently remodelling much of central London, and has cost £20,000. The exterior, with its Corinthian pillars has been much praised. The interior, however, has come in for much criticism. It is said to be devoid of ornamentation to the point of being "bare", and has poor acoustics and even poorer sightlines. Under the management of David Morris, the opening production was a revival of Sheridan's "The Rivals". The old building remains and there are plans to convert it into shops and a restaurant.

Stephen Kemble Dies First ever run of a hundred consecutive performances

1822: Stephen Kemble has died at the age of 64. Always in the shadow of his legendary sister, Sarah Siddons, and his highly praised brother, John Philip, Stephen led a roving life, being manager of a theatre in Edinburgh, of a company in Ireland, and briefly (in 1818) manager of Drury Lane, where he proudly introduced his son, Henry, as Romeo.

In his latter years he became enormously fat, and regularly appeared at Covent Garden in the role of Falstaff - a part he could play without padding. The contemporary wits used to say that Covent Garden had the Big Kemble, and Drury Lane had the Great Kemble.

Stephen's son, Henry, has disappeared from the scene. Soon after his Drury Lane debut he sank to the Coburg, and has been heard of no more.

First ever run of a hundred consecutive performances

1822 : William Moncrieff's adaptation of Pierce Egan's book "Tom and Jerry" has become the first play to run one hundred consecutive performances. The play opened on 26th November 1821 and ran until 30th March, 1822, at the Adelphi Theatre. Throughout its run there has been the obligatory but almost inaudible piano accompaniment during each performance, so that the theatre can get round the law which prevents a straight play from being performed anywhere except at the Patent Theatres.

"Booth" Theatres still doing good business

1822 : An increase has been noted in the number of "Booth" companies. These are strolling players who operate on a profit-share basis. They erect their portable booths in villages and small towns which are missed by the circuit companies, and are a traditional part of all provincial fairs. Their repertoire is mainly melodrama and cut down versions of Shakespeare.