

THE new Opera of INKLE and YARICO, which was performed at our Theatre on the day last, is the production of Mr. Coleman, jun. and founded on a story in *Ligous* account of *Barbadoes*, related in the *Spectator*.

Were this piece examined with the severity of criticism, it would, in many respects, be found defective; at the same time it possesses *beauties* to compensate for those defects.—The original story never failed to interest and affect—and the alterations and additional characters for the stage being well adapted, aid the success of its representation. It was observable that great attention had been paid in preparing it for exhibition: the scenery was well chosen and dextrously managed; nor were the performers (as is sometimes the case in a new piece) deficient in their parts.

Mr. Rowe's Sir Christopher was in his usual stile; his command of features is very considerable; and his manner of using it always just. Mr. Remington's Inkle was by no means unpleasing.—Mr. Tyrell in Campley could not offend. Mr. Lynch's Trudge afforded much entertainment, but his abilities are better adapted, to the characters of Darby, Pady Driscol, &c.

Mrs. Freeman's Yarico was affecting—in the last scene particularly so. Miss Hoskin gave but a very faint colouring to Narcissa, she was too languid; a point in which she is sometimes defective.

Mrs. Chalmers always appears to enter into the spirit of her character; a circumstance to which every performer, who wishes to arrive at excellence, should be particularly attentive.—In Wowskie her superiority was evident; her manner pleasing and spirited, and her dress such as to strike the spectators with its characteristic propriety.

DRAMATICUS.

**Belfast Newsletter, 26 Dec 1788:**

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Dramaticus.

### THEATRE.

On Monday evening the tragedy of HAMLET was performed in the Belfast Theatre with much and merited approbation. Mr. May, in the principal character, entered so well into the spirit of his great Author, as to give reasonable hope that he will one day arrive at very considerable eminence in his profession. His action was just, easy, and elegant,—his voice distinct and harmonious. He never sunk below mediocrity, and in many passages the most rigid criticism would not have called his dramatic genius in question.

Mrs. Coates, in Ophelia, both before and in her madness, acquitted herself with singular propriety.

The old Court-Sycophant appeared with its usual advantage in the person of Rowe: tho' we had to regret his omission of the excellent advice of Polonius to Laertes.

A better Ghost has seldom appeared upon any stage: it might perhaps have been improved by Mr. Stewart's whining laments in some of the least impassioned of the Poet's lines; in those which alluded to 'the secrets of his prison house' it was impossible to withhold applause.

In short, excepting those nights in which we have seen a Siddons, Holman, and Brunton, we don't recollect the time when the Tragic Muse afforded more rational entertainment in this theatre.

### THEATRE.

Mr. May, in his second appearance on Friday last in Hamlet (for his own benefit) did not forfeit the encomium on his former performance of that character. The receipt of the house was £69 3s. Irish. Tho' rising merit, such as Mr. May's, in that favourite play of Shakespeare, deserved the reception it met with, we cannot avoid taking this opportunity of recommending it to the humane inhabitants of Belfast to shew at least an equal zeal in promoting a benefit which, we hear, is within a few days to be given.

*Belfast Newsletter, 9 Nov 1790:*

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*Belfast Newsletter, 28 Jan 1791:*

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*THEATRE.*

On Monday evening last was performed at this Theatre the comedy of the "Suspicious Husband." It must be allowed in justice to Mr. May, that his "Ranger" was an excellent performance; he supported the part of the rakish Templar with an uncommon degree of animation, and seemed quite at home in that difficult character. Mrs. Coates, also, in Clarinda, well deserved those frequent plaudits which burst from a numerous audience: her manner, dress, and elegant figure were perfectly well adapted to Ranger's Merry Coz. Mr. May and Mrs. Coates as performers, are well worthy the attention of the polite audiences of Belfast; yet if we may judge from the bad attendance on the theatre, they do not always meet with that degree of public favour which their excellence so well merits.

Belfast, 5th Jan. 1792.

B.

*Belfast Newsletter, 3 Jan 1792:*

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