CALL FOR PAPERS: Theatre in the Regency Era: Plays, Performance, Practice 1795-1843 Downing College, University of Cambridge

Downing College, University of Cambridge July 29-31, 2016



Convenors: Michael Burden, Michael Gaunt, Sarah Meer, Marcus Risdell, Vanessa L. Rogers, Barry Sheppard

Though the Regency period in Britain only technically lasted nine years (from 1811 to 1820), the man who became George IV exerted his influence for many more decades after his death, and his interest in theatre and the arts characterized the period. This is the era of an astonishing proliferation of new theatres, catering to a wider audience than ever before. New forms of entertainment appeared (equestrian, military, melodramatic), and theatrical amusements grew more diverse as managers, authors, and performers dealt with changes in contemporary taste and preoccupations, an increased awareness of social issues, and technological innovations, among other developments.

To reflect the interdisciplinary nature and commercial motivations of theatre in the Regency Era, the conference invites papers by scholars exploring the period's dance, music and drama from a range of historical and methodological perspectives.

The keynote address will be given by Celina Fox (*The Arts of Industry in the Age of Enlightenment*), and historical gesture specialist Jed Wentz (Conservatorium van Amsterdam) will present a lecture-performance. In addition, the conference will open with an introduction by Iain Mackintosh (*Architecture, Actor and Audience*) at the remarkable Cambridge Festival Theatre (built in 1814), providing a rare opportunity for conference attendees to see an original surviving Regency three-level horseshoe auditorium.

Please submit your abstracts of around 500 words for your 20-minute paper to the convenors by **15 February**, **2015**: <u>regency@str.org.uk</u> The convenors welcome proposals for both individual papers and fully-formed panels of three related papers.

For further details, please see: <u>www.regencytheatre2016.com</u>

