



National
Portrait
Gallery

THE FIRST ACTRESSES

NELL GWYN TO SARAH SIDDONS

20 October 2011 –
8 January 2012

The First Actresses presents a vivid spectacle of femininity, fashion and theatricality in seventeenth and eighteenth-century Britain. Taking centre stage are the intriguing and notorious female performers of the period whose lives beyond the stage ranged from royal mistresses to successful writers and businesswomen. The exhibition reveals the many ways in which these early celebrities used portraiture to enhance their reputations, deflect scandal and create their professional identity.

Featuring famous masterpieces alongside works that are on show for the first time, the fascinating stories of actresses such as Nell Gwyn, Kitty Clive, Hester Booth, Lavinia Fenton, Elizabeth Linley, Sarah Siddons, Mary Robinson and Dorothy Jordan will be explored through portraits by the leading artists of the period including Joshua Reynolds, Thomas Gainsborough, John Hoppner and James Gillray.

DISPLAY

The Actress Now

Portraits of contemporary British actresses from the Gallery's Collection. Free.

EVENTS

For information on all events complementing *The First Actresses* please visit www.npg.org.uk/thefirstactresses

CATALOGUE

A fully-illustrated catalogue accompanies the exhibition and is available from all Gallery shops and www.npg.org.uk/shop. RRP £30 (hardback).

HOW TO BOOK

Visit www.npg.org.uk/thefirstactresses, call 0844 248 5033 (transaction fee applies), or visit the Gallery in person.

Tickets: £11 (concs £10/£9)
National Art Pass holders 50% discount

MEMBERSHIP

Become a Member and see *The First Actresses* for free. Visit www.npg.org.uk or call 020 7312 2404

SENIOR CITIZEN OFFER

Every Wednesday visitors aged 60 years and over can see the exhibition for only £9.

VISIT

Daily 10.00 – 18.00

(closure commences at 17.50)

Thursdays and Fridays until 21.00

(closure commences at 20.50)

Last admission to the exhibition is one hour before the Gallery closes.

The Gallery is closed 24–26 December 2011

LATE SHIFT AT THE GALLERY

Every Thursday and Friday enjoy art, music, drinks, talks, tours and workshops until 21.00. Plus, get 2 for 1 drinks at the *Late Shift* bar with your exhibition ticket.

🚶 Leicester Square / Charing Cross

🚶 Charing Cross

Buses to Trafalgar Square

♿ Orange Street ramp /

Shop entrance in St Martin's Place

St Martin's Place, London WC2H 0HE

www.npg.org.uk

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Recorded Information: 020 7312 2463

Text Direct 18001



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