

**RIENZI: A
TRAGEDY,
IN THE ACTS**

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Rienzi: a tragedy, in the acts by Mary Russel Mitford

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MARY RUSSEL MITFORD

**RIENZI: A
TRAGEDY,
IN THE ACTS**

5. 1828.

RIENZI:

A TRAGEDY,

in Five Acts,

BY MISS MITFORD.



FIRST PERFORMED

AT THE

THEATRE ROYAL, DRURY LANE,

OCTOBER 9, 1828.

Fourth Edition.

LONDON:

JOHN CUMBERLAND, 19, LUDGATE HILL.

1828.

795.

PRINTED BY G. H. DAVIDSON,
IRKLAND YARD, DOCTORS' COMMONS.

PREFACE.

THE materials of the following Tragedy are taken partly from the splendid narrative of Gibbon ; partly from the still more graphical and interesting account of Rienzi's eventful career, contained in the second volume of *L'Abbé de Sade's Mémoires pour servir à la Vie de Pétrarque*; and, as far as the female characters are concerned, entirely from invention.

So much for the play. To such of my readers as may have witnessed Mr. Young's performance of its hero, my feeble eulogium would, indeed, be superfluous, especially as, by the publication of the piece, I have enabled them to appreciate the delicate touches which belong exclusively to the performer. Still, I cannot

refrain from adding to my cordial thanks, one tribute, which none but the Authoress can pay; by declaring, with unfeigned sincerity, that the image present to my fancy, when writing that long and arduous part, has been perfectly and vividly embodied by the great actor to whom it has been so fortunately entrusted. To Mr. Cooper, I owe a double debt: as an actor, for his pure and affecting performance of Angelo; and, as a manager, for his ability in arranging the complicated business of the scene; and for the kindness and courtesy with which he lightened the labour of the preparations, to all who had a share in them. To Mrs. Faucit, I would in particular express my acknowledgments, for the discrimination and energy which she bestowed on a character important in the piece, but not calculated to reward the actress; whilst, to Miss Phillips, I owe an obligation of a different sort, for the pathos, the intelligence, and the modest sweetness, which, on their first development, have so enchanted the theatrical world. It is to me one of the most gratifying circumstances attendant on the production of *Rienzi*, that it has been

the medium of introducing to the acted drama, a young lady so fitted to adorn it, by every womanly grace. In short, to all the Performers, not only for the ability with which they filled their parts, but for the interest that they took in the general effect of the Play, I beg leave to offer my sincerest and warmest thanks.

PREFACE

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THE SECOND EDITION.

IN offering to the world a second edition of her Tragedy (the first impression of which was sold in three days), the Authoress has only to repeat her thanks to the excellent performers to whom she was originally indebted for success; and to acknowledge, with sincere gratitude, the almost unanimous kindness with which *Rienzi*, whether as an acted drama, or a published poem, has been received by the press.

Cast of the Characters.

As performed at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Cola di Rienzi, afterwards Tribune of the People</i> | } | Mr. Young. | |
| <i>Stephen Colonna, a great Nobleman of Rome</i> | | | |
| <i>Angelo Colonna, his Son</i> | | Mr. Cooper. | |
| <i>Ursini, a great Nobleman, Rival to Colonna</i> | } | Mr. Mude. | |
| <i>Savelli</i> | | | |
| <i>Cafarello</i> | } Lords of the Colonna Faction | Mr. Altken. | |
| | | Mr. Lee. | |
| <i>Frangipani, a Partisan of Ursini, also a Nobleman</i> | } | Mr. Bland. | |
| <i>Alberti, Captain of the Guard</i> | | | |
| <i>Paolo, a Roman Citizen</i> | | Mr. Thompson. | |
| <i>Canillo, Rienzi's Servant</i> | | Mr. Yarnold. | |
| <i>Nuncio, Ambassador, Nobles, Citizens, Guards, &c.</i> | | Mr. C. Jones. | |
| <i>Lady Colonna, Stephen Colonna's Wife</i> | | Mrs. Faucit. | |
| <i>Claudia, Rienzi's Daughter</i> | | Miss Phillips. | |
| <i>Berta</i> | } Claudia's Attendants | } Mrs. Geesin. | |
| <i>Teresa</i> | | | } Mrs. Webster. |
| <i>Rosa</i> | | | |
| <i>Ladies, Attendants, &c.</i> | | | |

SCENE—Rome, in the Fourteenth Century.

The lines marked with inverted commas were omitted in representation.