

Imprint No.: **1768.007**

Short Title: **Performance Handbill, April 15, 1768.**

Author: Virginia Company of Comedians

Title: By permission of the Worshipful the Mayor of Williamsburg, At the old Theatre near the Capitol, by the Virginia Company of Comedians, on Friday, the 15th of April will be presented a Tragedy, called The Orphan, or the Unhappy Marriage. ... To which will be added, the second night, a Pantomime entertainment, in which will be introduced a new scene, not before presented, called Harlequin skeleton, or the Burgomaster Tricked.

Place Issued: Williamsburg

Issuing Press: Purdie & Dixon

Description: 1 sheet [1 pg.]; 32 x 22 cm. (broadside).

Notes: The mayor of Williamsburg was merchant James Cocke (1 Dec. 1767 to 30 Nov. 1768). The Virginia Company of Comedians conducted at least nine performances between April 4 and June 8 of 1768. Each show was advertised in advance, with a promotional handbill for each show printed in advance, and a detailed playbill the issued the day of the performance. Of the nine known performances, promotional handbills for only four of the advertised shows and one show-time playbill have survived.

This is one of the surviving imprints; production was uncredited by Hummel, but is assigned here to Purdie & Dixon based on the company's advertising. They advertised all of their performances in the Purdie & Dixon *Gazette*, but only about half of them in that of William Rind; moreover, these performances were concurrent with the meetings of the General Assembly and the General Court, when Rind's press was producing work for the public-printing concession, making the Purdie & Dixon press the most likely origin.

IVP Associated Names: Alexander Purdie (345); John Dixon (140)

Bibliographic Notations

| Early American Imprints? | N | Series: | Title No.: |
|--|------|---------|--|
| Evans, <i>American Bibliography</i> : | --- | | Clayton-Torrence, <i>Colonial Virginia</i> : --- |
| Bristol, <i>Supplement to Evans</i> : | --- | | Swem, <i>Bibliography of Virginia</i> : --- |
| Shipton/Mooney, <i>Imprints thru 1800</i> : | --- | | --- |
| Shaw/Shoemaker, <i>Checklist...1801-19</i> : | --- | | --- |
| Shoemaker, <i>Checklist...1820-29</i> : | --- | | --- |
| Hummel, <i>Southeastern Broad sides</i> : | 2992 | | Hummel, <i>Virginia Broad sides</i> : --- |
