

# Esther Gayton – stage performances

*Please note: this information has been researched and compiled by Katie Howson, and any use of this should be acknowledged and credited to me.*

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## In summary:

- 1803 First known performance 11<sup>th</sup> April. April-June at Sadler’s Wells; Skipping Rope Hornpipe and one choreographed piece (Mr Jackson’s pupil).
- 1804 One appearance at the Royal Circus (benefit); solo Tambourine dance & Skipping Rope Hornpipe (Mr Gouriet’s pupil).
- 1805 Not found.
- 1806 April & May at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane – three benefits; various dances with other people (Mr D’Egville’s pupil).
- 1807 February at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane; March (by inference) at King’s Theatre, Haymarket; May-June – three benefits at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane; various dances with other people (all with D’Egville’s company).
- 1808 Salaried dancer with D’Egville’s company. Jan- March at King’s Theatre, Haymarket; April-June at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane; June – August at King’s Theatre; Sept private performance for the royal family; Oct-Dec at Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.
- 1809 Jan-Mar at King’s Theatre, Haymarket. Final performance on 10<sup>th</sup> March.

*☞ More details including quotes and reviews in a separate document.*

Date	Ref / Source	Theatre	Show	Details
<b>1803</b>				
11 April (Easter Monday)	The Sun 9 April 1803	Sadler’s Wells	Mixed programme	“Miss Gayton, Pupil of Mr. Jackson, late of Covent Garden Theatre, only 9 years of age, will dance a Hornpipe, with a Skipping Rope (her first Appearance in public).”

28-30 April	British Press 28 April 1803	Sadler's Wells	Mixed programme	Performed a "skipping-rope hornpipe" "aged nine". [She would actually have been 11 or 12.]
26 May	British Press 26 May 1803	Sadler's Wells	Serio-comic pantomime (inc Grimaldi)	"After which miss GAYTON will Dance the favourite SKIPPING ROPE HORNPIPE."
13-18 June	British Press 13 June 1803	Sadler's Wells	Mixed programme	"An entire New Dance (composed by Mr. King) called HEY FOR THE HIGHLANDS or JEMMY's RETURN. Principal Dancers Messrs King and Cipriani, Miss Gayton and Mad. St Amand."
<b>1804</b>				
29 Oct	Morning Post 29 Oct 1804	Royal Circus, Blackfriars Rd (later Surrey Theatre)	Benefit for Madame Volange from the Opera House. Programme inc: serio-pantomime, pantomime, horsemanship	"New Tambourine Pas Seul by Miss Gayton, pupil to Mr. Gouriet" and also "A New Dance, Called THE VILLAGE LOVERS ... in the course of the dance, Miss Gayton will introduce [illegible] favourite Skipping Rope Hornpipe.
<b>1805</b>				
<b>1806</b>				
24 April	Morning Chronicle 24 April 1806	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Benefit for Mademoiselle Parisot. Mixed programme	"... Mademoiselle Parisot, who will introduce her favourite Shawl Dance. The other characters by Mr. Decamp, Mr. G. D'Egville, Mr Joubert, Mrs. Sharpe, Miss Gayton, and all Mr. D'Egville's Young Pupils ..."
14 May	Morning Chronicle 2 May 1806 (announcement); Morning Post	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Benefit for Mr D'Egville. Mixed programme	"... the much admired ballet of PAUL and VIRGINIA. Arranged by Mr D'Egville for his pupils, and performed with universal applause at the King's Theatre by Miss Gayton and the rest of Mr D'Egville's Young Pupils. At the end of the play, the favourite Grand Ballet of CRAZY JANE ... In the

	14 May 1806 (report)			course of the ballet, the Minuet de la Cours and the Gavotte, by Mr D'Egville and Miss Gayton; and several new Dances by his Pupils.
19 May	Morning Chronicle 14 May 1806	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Benefit for Miss De Camp Mixed programme	Including Mademoiselle Parisot's favourite hornpipe and "a Ballet by Miss GAYTON and the rest of Mr D'Egville's Young Pupils."
<b>1807</b>				
3, 4, 5 Feb 17 Feb	La Belle Assemblée <sup>1</sup>  Morning Post 6 Feb 1807 <sup>2</sup>  The Sun 17 Feb 1807	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Opera, Dance & Afterpiece	"... a new Dance, composed by Mr D'Egville, and entitled <i>Emily; or Juvenile Indiscretion</i> , was performed at this theatre, [Drury Lane] between the Opera and Afterpiece, for the first time ... It was supported with much grace and agility by Joubert, Montgomery, Mrs Sharp, Miss Gayton, and the whole <i>Corps de Ballet</i> of the house ..." <sup>1</sup> "The New Ballet was repeated last night at Drury-lane Theatre. It is much improved by being abridged, and will be more attractive every night of representation. Parisot, Miss Gayton, and Mrs. Sharpe, appeared to great advantage. It was performed as an after-piece, and as such will prove attractive." <sup>2</sup>
March	The Sun 4 March 1807	King's Theatre	Unknown	"The illness of Miss Gayton also occasioned an omission of the little incidental dance."
26 May	Morning Chronicle 26 May 1807	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Benefit	Performed a pas de deux from The Forty Thieves with Mrs Sharp.
June		Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Benefit for Mr Dignum	As above
10 June	Morning Chronicle 9 June 1807	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Benefit for Miss C. Bristow	Performed a pas de quatre with Mrs Sharp and the Miss Dennets [sic].
<b>1808</b>				
2 Jan	Morning Chronicle 2 Jan 1808 <sup>1</sup>  Morning Post 4 Jan 1808 <sup>2</sup>	King's Theatre, Haymarket	Opera, divertissement, grand ballet	"The grand Ballet was La Belle Laitière, formerly composed by Mr. D'EGVILLE, and at present well got up under his management. Miss GAYTON (one of his pupils) danced most pleasingly with a shawl, in which she imitated with great success the graceful steps and manner of PARISOT, and was much applauded." <sup>1</sup> "Miss Gayton, pupil to the new Manager, succeeded Madame Parisot, and in the Shawl Dance in particular displayed so much elegance and

				<p>grace, as to render her every way worthy of the situation she has been thus brought to fill. She is a native of England, and affords a gratifying proof that the talents we have hitherto sought in France, may be supplied at home. It indeed evidently requires only a discerning Master, capable (as Mr. D'Egville has proved himself) of making a judicious choice of the objects of his instructions, to render the Ballet Department wholly independent of foreign aid.”<sup>2</sup></p> <p>☞ Her appointment as a principal dancer was announced on the same day, although this may date from late 1807 – appointment by season or calendar year?</p>
9 Jan	Morning Post 11 Jan 1808	King’s Theatre, Haymarket	As above	La Belle Laitière: “... and we saw with increased pleasure the elegant performance of D’EGVILLE’s little pupil, Miss GAYTON, whose dancing is perhaps more graceful than that of any English actress that has appeared on the Italian stage.”
20 Feb	London Sun 22 Feb 1808	King’s Theatre, Haymarket		“...a new Divertissement was brought forward under the title of La Fête Chinoise, which was very creditable to the taste and inventive powers of D’EGVILLE, the composer, and which was ably supported by DESHAYES, his wife MOREAU, PRESLE and Miss GAYTON. This little ballet was well received by a numerous audience.”
26 Mar	Morning Chronicle 28 Mar 1808	King’s Theatre, Haymarket		“... a new Pastoral Ballet was brought out on Saturday night, by Mr D’EGVILLE which has some pretty music, and in which the light and elegant Miss GAYTON danced a hornpipe with great <i>éclat</i> .”
22 & 23 April	London Sun 22 & 23 April 1808; Morning Post 25 April 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		Performed in “Caractacus” at Theatre Royal, played the part of “Isla”
11 May	Morning Chronicle 2 May 1808 (1) Morning Advertiser 9 May 1808 (2)	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane	Comedy of the HONEY-MOON, with a dance incidental to the Piece; song by Mme Catalani;	Performed in “La Fete Chinoise” as a principal dancer (1) “THEATRE ROYAL, Drury Lane – On WEDNESDAY next, on which night Madame Catalani has kindly offered her services; and by permission of the Proprietors of the King’s Theatre” (2)

			favourite ballet, La Fete Chinoise; grand Serious Ballet of CARACTACUS	
16 May	British Press 16 May 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		In Caractacus
23 May	Morning Advertiser 22 May 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		Performed a shawl dance, as part of “The Tragedy of Othello” or “Fine Fleecy Hosiery” (!)
6 June	Morning Advertiser 31 May 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		“Time’s A Tell-Tale” at Theatre Royal – “In Act II a dance composed by Mr D’Egville, by Miss Gayton and the rest of Mr D’Egville’s pupils.” Also Caractacus – no mention of performers.
9 June	London Sun 10 June 1808	King’s Theatre, Haymarket	Benefit for D’Egville	“D’EGVILLE and Miss GAYTON and several Pupils of the former, appeared to much advantage in the Ballet entitled EMILIE which was originally brought out at Drury Lane ... and the last Ballet was La Fille Sauvage, in which there was a very charming Pas de Trois by DESHAYES, his wife, and Miss GAYTON. One of the most pleasing entertainments of the evening was the minuet by D’EGVILLE and Miss GAYTON, which was much applauded.”
23 June	British Press 20 June 1808	King’s Theatre, Haymarket		“UNE LECON DE GRACE; in which Madame Catalani will execute some Attitudes with a Shawl, with Miss Gayton.”
2 Aug	Morning Chronicle 3 Aug 1808	King’s Theatre, Haymarket		“Miss GAYTON, in the Fille Sauvage, displayed also an extraordinary improvement. To the most graceful lightness, she added a firmness of step infinitely beyond her years; and she certainly presents the promise of the most accomplished English dancer that our stage has produced.” Last night of the season.
28 Sep	? 30 Sep 1808	Cardigan House, Richmond	Private performance for the Royal Family.	“... after her sprightly hornpipe, she was particularly called on for her shawl dance...”

11 & 12 Oct	London Star 12 & 13 Oct 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		Caractacus.
17 Oct	British Press 17 Oct 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		THE BUSY BODY (comedy) "after which will be revived (not acted these five years) the grand Romance BLUEBEARD; or, FEMALE CURIOSITY". "The dance composed by Mr D'Egville ..." Cast included Miss Gayton (8 dancers named).
23 Nov	Edinburgh Annual Register	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		"Between the play and the farce appeared, on 23 <sup>rd</sup> , a dance called Love in a Tub. In the tub an amorous cooper sits down, while the damsel whom he would fain caress, kisses hands with a more engaging lover, and the young turn down the vessel over the greybeard. When his wife arrives, he is released from his trap, and the whole concludes in a general dance. Mr Noble, and the fair pupils of Mr D'Egville exerted themselves with great effect; and no praise could exceed the merit of the charming Miss Gayton."
23 Nov	Oracle & Daily Advertiser 24 Nov 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		"Bluebeard" – a dance newly composed by Mr D'Egville.
22 Dec	The Globe 22 Dec 1808	Theatre Royal, Drury Lane		"Love in A Tub"
<b>1809</b>				
3 Jan	Morning Post; Morning Chronicle 2 Jan 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		Performed in "Les Amours de Glauque" . Allardyce Nicoll gives the premier date as 6 <sup>th</sup> January. First appearance of Armande Vestris on the London stage.
	London Sun 7 Jan 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		"DESHAYES, MOREAU and MISS GAYTON retain their situations, so the <i>Corps de Ballet</i> will be very effective this season ..."
14 Jan	Morning Chronicle 16 Jan 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		"An apology was made for the graceful Miss Gayton to allow her to omit her <i>Pas Seul</i> in the second <i>Divertissement</i> , for the Ballet is to be ranked only as a dance."
17 Jan	Morning Chronicle 16 Jan 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		Performed in "Les Amours de Glauque"
31 Jan	Morning Chronicle 30 Jan 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		Performed in "Les Amours de Glauque"

4 Feb	Morning Chronicle 3 Feb 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		Performed in "Les Amours de Glauque"
<b>10 Mar</b>	Morning Chronicle 13 Mar 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		<b>"The fascinating GAYTON danced for the last time. She is to be led to the hymenial altar by the REV MR. MURRAY."</b>
May	Morning Chronicle 22 May 1809	King's Theatre, Haymarket		"Miss LUPINO, though not so beautiful as Miss GAYTON, is a better dancer, and has more force, as well as a more finished stile."