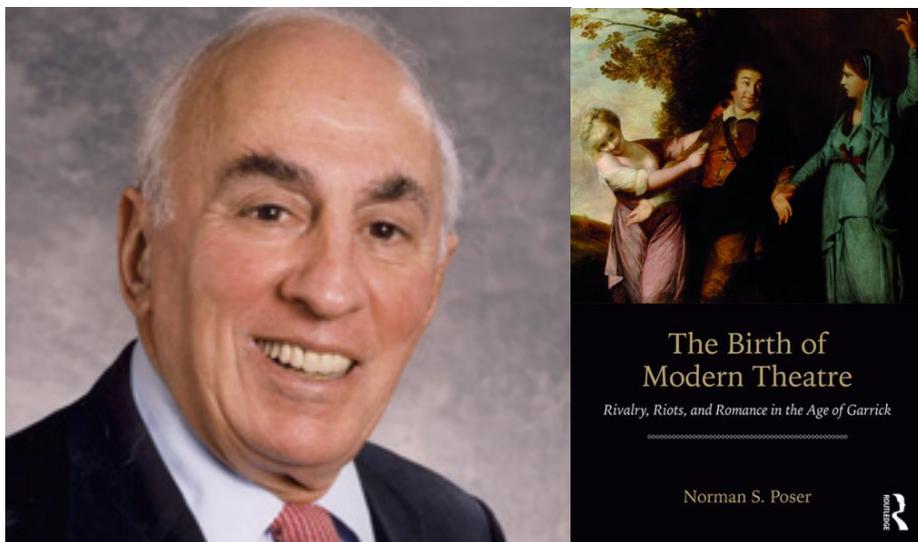


***Please join the Jane Austen Society of North America--NY Metropolitan Region  
for an Evening with Norman S. Poser***



**THE BIRTH OF MODERN THEATRE: RIVALRY, RIOTS, AND ROMANCE IN THE AGE  
OF GARRICK**

by Norman S. Poser

**When: Wednesday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**Time: 6:30 PM - 8 PM**  
**Where: Shakespeare & Co.**  
**939 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10065**  
**Cost: FREE EVENT**

Evening will include a short talk by Mr. Poser, a Q&A and a book signing.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**

**THE BIRTH OF MODERN THEATRE: RIVALRY, RIOTS, AND ROMANCE IN THE AGE  
OF GARRICK**  
by Norman S. Poser

A vivid description of the 18<sup>th</sup>-Century London theatre scene—a time when the theatre took on many of the features of our modern stage. A natural and psychologically based acting style replaced the declamatory style of an earlier age. The theatres were mainly supported by paying audiences, no longer by royal or noble patrons. The press determined the success or failure of a play or a performance. Actors were no longer shunned by polite society, some becoming celebrities in the modern sense.

The dominant figure for thirty years was David Garrick, actor, theatre manager and playwright, who, off the stage, charmed London with his energy, playfulness, and social graces. No less important in defining 18<sup>th</sup>-Century theatre were its audiences, who considered themselves full-scale participants in theatrical performances; if they did not care for a play, an actor, or ticket prices, they would loudly make their wishes known, sometimes starting a riot.

This book recounts the lives—and occasionally the scandals—of the actors and theatre managers and weaves them into the larger story of the theatre in this exuberant age, setting the London stage and its leading personalities against the background of the important social, cultural, and economic changes that shaped eighteenth-century Britain.

Among the major personalities discussed:

- David Garrick, the charismatic actor, theater manager, and playwright,
- Peg Woffington, the bewitching and promiscuous actress,
- Charles Macklin, the surly, anti-social, occasionally violent but brilliant actor,
- Kitty Clive, the outspoken comedian,
- Samuel Foote, the witty satirist; and several others.

Delving into their friendships, rivalries, and relationships (it does get steamy!) Poser reveals scandalous stories set against the backdrop of a theater scene that was beginning to resemble today's show business world.

NORMAN S. POSER is professor emeritus at Brooklyn Law School. His works include *LORD MANSFIELD: JUSTICE IN THE AGE OF REASON* (2013), the only modern biography of the great 18<sup>th</sup>-Century British judge, and *ESCAPE: A JEWISH SCANDINAVIAN FAMILY IN THE SECOND WORLD WAR*. Poser was born in London

and lives in New York City. He is currently working on another project involving the American Revolution.

Mr. Poser is a widely respected expert in international and domestic securities regulation. He is also the author of the books **BROKER-DEALER LAW AND REGULATION**, and **INTERNATIONAL SECURITIES REGULATION: LONDON'S "BIG BANG" AND THE EUROPEAN SECURITIES MARKETS**, and numerous law review articles in these fields. He is a member of the American Law Institute and serves on the Advisory Board of Standard & Poor's *The Review of Securities & Commodities Regulation*. He retired from teaching in 2007.