

CENSORSHIP

THEATRE & GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS

- ◆ England & France



RESTRICTIONS, REGULATIONS, LICENSES

- ❖ in England- restrictions back to Elizabeth I- who restricted the subject matter
- ❖ licenses necessary for theatrical companies, plays

1737- PARLIAMENT- LICENSING ACT-

- ❖ restricted Theatre to Drury Lane and Covent Garden theatres, requiring licensing for all plays

❖ unlicensed theatres/performances were “coupled” with other services... as a way around the law

❖ theatrical popular entertainment - not regulated-
another loophole

COVENT GARDEN

- ❖ opened December 7, 1732
- ❖ presented entertainment: tumblers, pantomimes with animals, contortionists, revivals of old plays
- ❖ licensed to present legitimate drama
- ❖ still a theatre today- major renovations/expansion in 1998-1999



FRENCH THEATRE RESTRICTIONS

- ❖ France's legitimate theatre: Comédie Française, Opéra, Comédie Italienne
- ❖ unofficial theatre- Boulevard Theatres
- ❖ many types of musical theatre/entertainment- to get around "monopolies" given by government
- ❖ All government restrictions on theatre lifted during the French Revolution (1791)