

THE PRINCE OF PARTHIA

by

Thomas Godfrey (1736 - 1763)

1763

First play written and produced in the colonies. Born in Philadelphia, educated at an "English School" there. Was a pupil of William Smith, Provost of the College of Philadelphia. His companions were Benjamin West and Francis Hopkinson. A lieutenant in the Pennsylvania militia for the expedition against Fort Duquesne. He had been indentured to a watch maker in Philadelphia before becoming a member of the militia (1758).

Play first produced in 1767. Revived in 1915 in Philadelphia.

The Prince of Parthia

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Ctesiphon (tes' a fon)

A ruined city in Iraq on the Tigris - capital of ancient Parthia.

A tragedy - reminiscent of Shakespeare -
Macbeth, Hamlet, Julius Caesar, etc.
Romeo and Juliet