

To wake the soul by tender strokes of art,
To raise the genius, and to mend the heart;
To make mankind in conscious virtue bold,
Live o'er each scene, and be what they behold:
For this the Tragic Muse first trod the stage.

Alexander Pope

(1688–1744)

Prologue to Addison's *Cato*, I. I (1713).

The first line appears as a motto above the proscenium
of the Richmond Theatre, Surrey.