



Hollis, printmaker. *Miss Ellen Bateman as Richard 3rd ... ; Miss Kate Bateman as Richmond ...* [London: London Printing and Publishing Company, mid-19th century]. Folger ART File B328.5 no.1 (size XS).

Kate and Ellen Bateman were six and four years old when they premiered as Richmond and Richard III, respectively, in 1849, their first production as stars. The sisters rarely performed whole plays; instead, they filled two hours of performance with scenes from several works. The Batemans' repertoire included, in addition to *King Richard III*, *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and the nineteenth-century comedy *Paul Pry*. Child prodigies were as popular in the nineteenth century as they are today. Their working conditions were also a matter of public concern; eventually, by the end of the nineteenth century, the first U.S. legislation regarding the working conditions of child actors was passed. (McMahon, Heather M. "Profit, Purity, and Perversity: Nineteenth-Century Child Prodigies Kate and Ellen Bateman." Order No. 3152834 Indiana University, 2003. Ann Arbor: ProQuest. Web. 25 Mar. 2019.)