



Laguerre, John, artist. *Theophilus Cibber in the character of Ancient Pistol* [graphic]. Great Britain: 18th century. Folger ART File C567.7 no.2 (size XS)

Theophilus Cibber was the only son of actor and playwright Colley Cibber who survived into adulthood. In 1720, he joined Colley's company at the Drury Lane theatre, where he quickly gained favor with the public in the role in which he is depicted here, Ancient Pistol. Theophilus became known for his lively acting style and comedic timing. Despite his skill and forays into theatre management, the increasingly quarrelsome Theophilus gained an unpleasant personal reputation unimproved by financial irresponsibility and marital infidelity. His tumultuous and increasingly intermittent acting career ended in October 1758, when he drowned in a shipwreck in the Irish Sea. (Salmon, Eric. "Cibber, Theophilus (1703-1758)." *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. 26 May 2005. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ref:odnb/5418>)

From an original in the [Folger Shakespeare Library](#)
Licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International License](#) (CC BY-SA 4.0)