

PRESS RELEASE

**RARE PERFORMANCE OF AUSTEN PLAY
SIR CHARLES GRANDISON
TO BE PERFORMED AT CHAWTON HOUSE
by *Sick & Wicked Productions*
on Wednesday 6 December**

Sir Charles Grandison is an adaptation by Jane Austen of the epic Samuel Richardson novel published in 1754 which Jane probably wrote as a light-hearted play for use in family theatricals at home in Steventon in the early 1790's, significantly adding to it around 1800.

The manuscript was discovered by the Lefroy family, hidden in an old bread oven, in 1954 and remained with them until 1977 when it was sold. At that time it was authenticated by Brian Southam and then published by Oxford University Press. In the early 1990s, the American business woman, Sandy Lerner, bought the manuscript from an antiquarian bookshop in San Francisco to add to the collection which is here at Chawton House Library.

Sick & Wicked Productions are based at the University of Southampton and Chawton House Library is delighted to welcome them for this rare performance of Jane's only surviving play. The *Sir Charles Grandison* manuscript will be on display in the Reading Room together with other plays for private performance, and an introduction to the importance of amateur theatricals in the Regency period will set the scene for the entertainment.

Reception with wine and canapés at 6.30pm, performance at 7.00pm. Tickets £12.50 and £8.50 for Friends & students available from Corrine Saint on 01420 541010 or email corrine.saint@chawton.net

(ENDS)

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For further information, please contact:

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