

*'You know we have long projected acting this Christmas in Hampshire & this scheme would go on a vast deal better would you lend your assistance. You may remember when you was at Tunbridge my expressing a very earnest & a very natural wish to have you with me during the approaching festival, & on finding there were two unengaged parts I immediately thought of you, & am particularly commissioned by My Aunt Austen & her whole Family to make the earliest application possible, & assure you how happy you will make them as well as myself if you could be prevailed on to undertake these parts & give us all your company ... As to any diffidence in regard to succeeding in Parts, I beg it may be sent to Coventry, for I assure You they are neither long nor difficult, & I am certain You will succeed in them, Your accommodations at Steventon are the only thing My Aunt Austen & myself are uneasy about, as the House being very full of Company, she says she can only promise you "a place to hide your Head in" but I think you will not mind this inconvenience, I am sure I should not to be with You. Do not let Dress neither disturb You, as I think I can manage it so that the Green Room should provide You with what is necessary for acting ... I assure you we shall have the most brilliant party & a great deal of amusement, the House full of Company & frequent Balls. You cannot possibly resist so many temptations, especially when I tell you your old friend James is returned from France & is to be of the acting party.'*

Eliza, Comtesse de Feuillide, to Philly Walter, 16 November 1787