

Ira Aldridge  
The Early Years, 1807–1833

Bernth Lindfors



UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER PRESS

# Contents

List of Illustrations	ix
Acknowledgments	xi
Introduction	1
1 The Lives of Ira Aldridge	4
2 Family Matters	17
3 Life in New York City	23
4 Charles Mathews and James Hewlett	47
5 A Gentleman of Colour	61
6 The African Tragedian	75
7 The African Roscius on Tour	95
8 A Fresh Start	112
9 A New Venture	129
10 Expanding the Repertoire	138
11 London Again	160
12 Playing New Roles	174
13 Pale Experiments	190
14 Dublin	208
15 Racial Compliments and Abuse	221

16	Re-engagements	232
17	Shakespeare Burlesques	245
18	A Satirical Battering Ram	253
19	Covent Garden	261
20	Other London Engagements	274
21	Moving On	287
	Notes	291
	Selected Bibliography	363
	Index	365