



## Georgian glamour Society portrait

A painting of three of the most glamorous and notorious women of the 18th century as witches from *Macbeth* has been acquired by the [National Portrait Gallery](#).

It includes Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, who was the daughter of the first Earl Spencer and had a child from an affair with the 2nd Earl Grey.

Marrying the fifth Duke of Devonshire put her at the very summit of Whig society and helped make her one of the greatest celebrities of her day.

She was played by Keira Knightley in the recent film *The Duchess*.

She is depicted with Elizabeth Lamb, Viscountess Melbourne, and their friend Anne Seymour Damer, a sculptor. The three of them were renowned as political hostesses and society beauties.

The work will go on show in an exhibition entitled *The First Actresses: Nell Gwyn To Sarah Siddons*. It comprises 53 portraits by artists including Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough.

The *Macbeth* picture was painted in pastel in 1775 by Daniel Gardner and came from a private collection in lieu of inheritance tax.

The exhibition runs from Oct 20, 2011 to Jan 8, 2012.