

Season of 1704-1705

The great event of the season was the long-awaited opening of the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket in April 1705. Vanbrugh's new playhouse was to function only briefly as a venue for spoken drama, but was to be London's principal opera house until it burned in 1789. As such, it was to be a building of considerable importance, but when it opened it was intended as an ordinary playhouse, and it radically changed the balance of theatrical competition in London. The actor cooperative that had broken away from the patent company in 1695 had always occupied the small and inadequate "second" Lincoln's Inn Fields theatre, and when Vanbrugh agreed to assume managerial responsibility for the group and move it into his new theatre, he made them a suddenly more potent rival to the relatively successful but ill-contented company at Drury Lane under Christopher Rich.

At the outset of this season both companies knew full well that the status quo was strictly temporary. When Vanbrugh opened his fancy new theatre, competitive circumstances would change. We do not know exactly when Vanbrugh and Congreve assumed daily operational control of the Lincoln's Inn Fields company: at the outset of the season? when they received their royal license in December? after the new theatre finally opened in April 1705? In any case, the company appears to have functioned much as usual throughout most of the season, as does Drury Lane. Lincoln's Inn Fields was simply conducting a holding action. At Drury Lane, management's outlook is harder to guess. Rich was aggressive in stealing an opera from Vanbrugh (discussed below), but to judge from his ads this season, he regarded Richard Estcourt as his most reliable drawing-card. Estcourt received star billing in a surprising number of ads.

Vanbrugh and Congreve were looking for a competitive edge (over and above the new theatre itself), and their bright idea was to introduce Italianate (i.e., all-sung) opera. In all probability no one at this time seriously contemplated the notion of regular performances in Italian. A publicity plant in the *Diverting Post* of 28 October (its inaugural issue) refers to two operas

“almost finish’d” and mentions their being translated, seemingly as a matter of course. Daniel Purcell’s *Orlando Furioso* was apparently never completed, but Thomas Clayton’s *Arsinoe* (with words by Motteux) proved a tremendously popular novelty. Unfortunately for Vanbrugh, it did so at the rival theatre. Exactly how Christopher Rich made off with it we do not know, but evidently Vanbrugh had not signed a contract with Clayton, and Rich must have slipped in and offered better terms. *Arsinoe* ran steadily (and reportedly very profitably) throughout the spring and was to do so again the next season. The singers were local talent and the language was English, but public taste for the new wave in opera was established, and Rich had clearly stolen a march on his rivals.

What should Vanbrugh and Congreve do? They found themselves plagued by endless construction delays, and there was no point in mounting fancy productions at Lincoln’s Inn Fields when the scenery would not properly fit the new theatre. A month and a half before *Arsinoe* was produced at Drury Lane, they apparently inaugurated the new theatre with a concert that may have been attended by the Queen.¹ At this time the theatre was probably no more than a shell: the acting company did not move there until April, and the theatre had to be closed for three months the following summer to be “entirely finish’d,” while the company returned to Lincoln’s Inn Fields. As late as 3 February Congreve wrote to a friend that they had no idea when the theatre could open, or what they would open it with, “but I believe with no opera” (quoted in the calendar, below). What they finally decided to do was daring, imaginative, and unsuccessful. Following the Passion Week recess, they opened the Queen’s Theatre Haymarket with Jacomo (or Jakob) Greber’s *Gli amori d’Ergasto*. The identity of the performers is cloudy (probably mostly Italian singers currently resident in London), but the performance was almost unquestionably in Italian. There were no advertisements of the initial performances, and later commentary is decidedly confused and contradictory. Everyone agrees, however, that the production was a fiasco: there appear to have been no more than five performances. This production was followed by revivals of old plays with old costumes and scenery (so Downes informs us), the result being a decidedly feeble start for the new theatre.

By March 1705 simmering resentments and hostility between the two companies broke forth into open warfare. Vanbrugh and Congreve were planning to stage a Molière translation called *The Consultation* (i.e., *L’Amour médecin*). They were apparently greatly annoyed by Drury Lane’s rushing its own version into production, a play called *The Quacks*, by Owen Swiney. Vanbrugh used his good social and government connections to get the piece suppressed twice (see 29 March), a high-handed proceeding that naturally drew loud complaints from Drury Lane. The “seduction” of Susanna Mountfort away

¹ The evidence is a rather garbled notice in the *Diverting Post* of 25 November-2 December (see ca. late November).

from the Haymarket, and some snippy prologues and epilogues in June suggest a state of acute tension between the companies.

In truth, Vanbrugh had always envisioned a monopoly under his own direction, and he had no desire whatever to be engaged in costly competition with a second company. At the end of the spring he brought every pressure he could contrive on Rich to agree to a union, with Vanbrugh in charge of the resulting united company. On 19 July 1705 he sent Rich a set of "Proposals for Reducing the two Companies of Players into one" (printed under date, below). They were outrageously self-serving on Vanbrugh's part, and we cannot be surprised that Rich proved unwilling to cooperate. Very shortly thereafter 33 members of the Drury Lane company addressed a formal printed petition to the Lord Chamberlain, loudly protesting any plan whereby many of them would unquestionably lose their employment in London (see ca. Monday 23 July). Hard as it is to sympathize with the tyrannical and dishonest Christopher Rich, one can hardly help but agree with the blistering terms of his formal refusal of all union proposals in a letter to the Lord Chamberlain (see 25 July). Charles Gildon's summation of the controversy (see ca. early August) probably reflects much of the informed opinion around London: the public preferred to have two companies of actors, and Vanbrugh's "proposals" were seen as a nakedly self-interested power grab. We probably do not know all of the twists, turns, and stratagems in the battle. In LC 7/3, fols. 5-6, for example, there is an undated set of "Regulations for the Directors of the Playhouse."² These could well date from the summer of 1705. They provide for a new set of company bylaws; a group of "Honorary Directors," and the abolition of the benefit system, even for writers of plays. No such system ever came into operation, but we offer the hypothesis that this set of operational rules represents a proposal from Vanbrugh to the Lord Chamberlain presented as part of a union package at this time. If so, nothing came of it. With the benefit of hindsight, we can see very clearly that no suggestion from Vanbrugh that put his rival out of business could possibly have been accepted. The result was a stand-off: the Lord Chamberlain was Vanbrugh's friend and ally, but he was evidently not prepared to face the uproar that an enforced union would unquestionably have generated. The two companies would, therefore, find themselves again in direct competition when they reopened for 1705-06.

An interesting feature of the newspaper ads this season is that starting on 5 October virtually every notice for both theatres is accompanied by a statement that "This Play is Sold by Richard Wellington at the Dolphin and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard." A few performances are known only from *The Diverting Post*, a new weekly with a strong literary and theatrical bent. It lasted little more than a year, and it is at best a scrappy mélange, but it represents the first serious attempt at arts coverage in London since Motteux's *The Gentleman's Journal* in the early 1690s. Its accounts of new operas

² For a brief summary, see *Document Register*, no. 1811.

and plays performed and expected contain a lot of important information and are reprinted in their entirety in the calendar below.

Both company rosters this season are subject to problems. Some of the people Drury Lane employed in *Arsinoe* may have been hired only for that show. Even more awkward is the scantiness of the ads for Lincoln's Inn Fields: in many cases we simply cannot tell whether a singer or dancer was a regular employee, a temporary attraction, or a late addition.

DRURY LANE

The Rich-Skipwith management continued in place. Who handled the company's artistic operations is not known, though Richard Estcourt is an obvious candidate.

REPERTORY. Records are apparently close to complete for Drury Lane this year. The company is known to have mounted 59 mainpieces on a total of 189 nights, including one triple bill (28 June). It only used an afterpiece as such once (16 June). Six of the plays were new, two of them major successes. Colley Cibber's *The Careless Husband* ran nine nights initially and sixteen in all—the most successful new play in years (7 December). *Arsinoe*, an Italianate all-sung opera by Peter Anthony Motteux and Thomas Clayton, did not have a run as such, but enjoyed fifteen performances in the course of the spring and helped convince Vanbrugh that opera would be wonderfully profitable (16 January). Motteux's *Farewel Folly* had a so-so five-night initial run (18 January). John Dennis' rather wooden *Gibraltar* managed only two nights, with the author's benefit moved up to the second night to let the company dump the show as fast as possible (16 February). Owen Swiney's *The Quacks* was a Molière-derived farce that had only three performances (29 March): it is notable principally for having been suppressed twice by the Lord Chamberlain's office before the première (see 22 March). Richard Steele's *The Tender Husband* struggled through a total of seven not very profitable performances (23 April).

PERSONNEL. *Actors*:³ John Bickerstaff; William Bullock; James Carnaby; Colley Cibber; Richard Cross; Thomas Doggett; Richard Estcourt; Henry Fairbank; Philip Griffin; Mr Harris [advertised 12 June only];⁴ Benjamin Johnson; Theophilus Keene; Thomas Kent; John Mills; Henry Norris; William Pinkethman; George Powell [to 7 April]; Mr Sherman [advertised 12 June only]; William Toms; Robert Wilks; Joseph Williams; Thomas Wright [advertised 12 June only]. *Actresses*: Susannah Cox; Letitia Cross; Katharine Finch; Mary Kent; Frances Maria Knight; Jane Lucas; Margaret Mills;

³ Avery's roster includes "Griffith," but this is simply an error for "Griffin" on 6 February 1705. Avery also includes Phillips, but he was an amateur who took a part on 12 June.

⁴ We agree with the authors of the *Biographical Dictionary* (VII, 135) that this was probably not Joseph Harris and have indexed accordingly.

Henrietta Moore; Susanna Mountfort [from 14 June]; Sarah Norris; Anne Oldfield; Mary Powell; Jane Rogers; Elizabeth Sapsford; Mariana Smith; Diana Temple.

*Singers:*⁵ Mr Cook [apparently freelanced with both companies]; Francis Hughes; Richard Leveridge; the New Boy; Littleton Ramondon // Margarita de l'Epine; Mrs Hornbolt [joined in July]; Mary Lindsey; Catherine Tofts.

Dancers: René Cherrier; Mr Claxton; Mr Cottin [advertised 13 November only]; Philippe Du Ruel; Mons. La Forest; Anthony L'Abbé [worked for both companies] // Margaret Bicknell; Mrs Du Ruel; Mrs Mosse.

Musicians: John Banister; Francesco Gasparini; John Baptiste Loeillet [advertised 10 April only]; James Paisible.

Other Employees: Zachary Baggs (treasurer); John Hall; Thomas Newman (prompter).

LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS and QUEEN'S

Exactly when Vanbrugh and Congreve assumed operational control of the company is not known. Their license was issued 14 December, and presumably by that time they were in a position to approve or disapprove managerial decisions. They may have taken over financial responsibility for the company at the beginning of the season. Contrariwise, the actor cooperative may not have ceded full control until the license was granted, or even until the new theatre opened in April. We simply do not know. In all probability, Betterton either carried on as artistic director or served as a highly influential adviser to the new owners.

REPERTORY. Despite the move toward more advertising in the spring of 1704, the company reverted to old patterns in the autumn. Only nine particular performances are known before the new year (as against 80 at Drury Lane). Ads continued to be strictly occasional during the winter, and (frustratingly) virtually disappear when the new theatre opens in April. Overall, we have record of 36 mainpieces on a total of 58 nights, giving us what is probably about two-thirds of the company's repertory this season, but only about one-third of their performance dates. The company mounted eight new plays, but only Centlivre's *The Gamester* seems to have been successful. Two instances in which afterpieces were employed are known (24 and 25 April), but the records are so incomplete as to make the figure largely meaningless. The new plays were as follows. John Corey's *The Metamorphosis* had a brief run and disappeared (late September). Mary Pix's (?) *Zelmane*, appears to have survived about six nights (14 November). Nicholas Rowe's only comedy, *The Biter*, limped through about six nights (ca. late November). Susanna Centlivre's *The Gamester* (ca. late January) apparently enjoyed a dozen performances in its first month, was revived later in the spring, and entered the repertory. Jacomo Greber's *Gli amori d'Ergasto* was a dreadful disap-

⁵ Avery lists "Mr Hornbolt," but this is an error for Mrs Hornbolt on 18 July.

pointment as the choice to open Vanbrugh's new theatre: according to Downes it survived only five nights, and evidently only with afterpiece help at that. The anonymous afterpiece farce *The Consultation* was clearly a flop and was not published—probably, like Swiney's *The Quacks*, based on Molière's *L'Amour médecin* (24 April). Mary Pix's *Conquest of Spain* appears to have died quickly in mid-May. A. Chaves' *Cares of Love* enjoyed about three nights (1 August).

PERSONNEL. *Actors:* Thomas Betterton; John Boman; Barton Booth; William Bowen; George Bright; John Corey; Mr Dickins; William Fieldhouse; John Freeman; Francis Knapp; Francis Leigh; Josias Miller; Mr Mynns; George Pack; George Powell [from 14 April]; Mr Smeaton; Mr Trout; Cave Underhill; John Verbruggen; Mr Weller. *Actresses:* Maria Allison; Katherine Baker; Elizabeth Barry; Elizabeth Boman; Anne Bracegirdle; Lucretia Bradshaw; Mrs Fieldhouse; Abigail Hunt; Abigail Lawson; Elinor Leigh; Susanna Mountfort [until 14 June];⁶ Mrs Parsons; Elizabeth Willis.

Singers: Mr Cook [apparently freelanced with both companies]; John Davis; New Italian Boy; Mr Short // Ziuliana de Celotte [Ziuliana Celotti]; Mary Hodgson.

Dancers: Charles Fairbank; Fairbank's Scholar; Mons. Fleury [from 28 April; advertised only once]; Anthony L'Abbé [worked for both companies]; Mons. L'Abbé; Joseph Prince // Mrs Clark; Mlle de la Val; Mrs Elford; Mrs Evans.

Other Employees: John Downes (prompter); John Miles (treasurer?).

Proprietors: John Vanbrugh and William Congreve.

UNSTAGED PLAYS PERTAINING TO THIS SEASON

THE AMOROUS MISER (anonymous) was published this season (London: Benjamin Bragg, 1705). Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 5 February, where it was called "The last new Play." An ad in the same paper on 7 February announced that "The last new Play, call'd *Farewel Folly, or, The Younger the Wiser* . . . is in the Press and will be speedily publish'd. And whereas there is an Advertisement, that on Tuesday, Feb. 6 will be publish'd, the last new Comedy, entituled *The Amorous Miser, or The Younger the Wiser*. This is to certifie, That no such Comedy has ever been Acted." No edition of Motteux's *Farewel Folly* was to appear until 1707. *The Amorous Miser* is not the same as Motteux's *Farewell Folly*, but some scholars have assumed that it was a direct piracy, and the two titles have become bibliographically entangled. For clarification, see Cunningham, pp. 137-142. *The Amorous Miser* contains a prologue and epilogue, but no actors' names or title

⁶ Avery lists both "Mrs" and "Miss" Mountfort with the company, but we know of only one female Mountfort at this time; we deduce that Susanna Mountfort was advertised both ways.

page reference to venue; there is no evidence that the piece was ever performed.

FORTUNE IN HER WITS, a Latin comedy by Abraham Cowley, translated by Charles Johnson, was published at this time (London: Bernard Lintott, 1705). Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 16 April 1705: "This day is publish'd, *Fortune in her Wits*. A Comedy. Written originally by Mr Abraham Cowley, under the Title of *Nausragium Joculare*, and now fitted for the English Stage. To which is prefix'd a Critical Preface on Comick Translations in General. Printed for B. Lintott at the Middle-Temple-Gate in Fleet-street. Price 1s. 6d." The translation was published anonymously and the long critical preface is unsigned, but the 1812 *Biographia Dramatica*, II, 246, attributes it to Charles Johnson. There is no prologue or epilogue and no indication of any attempt to get the piece performed. We have discovered no record of performance.

THE LUNATICK. A Comedy. Dedicated to the Three Ruling B—s at the New-House in Lincolns-Inn-Fields (London: B. Bragg, 1705). Publication of this anonymous and unperformed comedy was advertised in the *Post Man* of 8-10 March 1705. There is no cast, no prologue or epilogue, and no reason to suppose that the play was performed at this time. The play is important only for its dedication, a bitter tirade against Betterton, Barry, and Bracegirdle as managers at Lincoln's Inn Fields (printed below under 10 March 1705). Genest (II, 507) points out that this play forms the basis for William Taverner's *The Female Advocates*, which received its première at Drury Lane on 6 January 1713. Taverner is therefore likely to be the author of the present play and its dedication, but this cannot be regarded as certain.

THE ROYAL MARTYR, K. CHARLES I. This work was published with a title page reading: An Opera (Printed in the Year 1705). Copy used: Penn State. The Dedication "To the Queen" is signed by Alexander Fyfe, who was apparently the author. The piece is an excruciatingly bad religious "tragedy" in couplets, obviously not intended for performance. There is no prologue, epilogue, or list of characters. The play was reissued by John Morphew with a new title page in 1709 (copy used: Readex).

SOLON; or, Philosophy no Defence against Love by Captain Martin Bladen was published at about this time (London: R. Smith and J. Nutt, 1705). There is no record of performance (and none claimed on the title page) and no cast was printed with the play. Performance appears to have been intended: the play has appropriate stage directions; ends with "The Masque of Orpheus and Eurydice"; and is supplied with a prologue and epilogue. The epilogue is full of topical commentary on such people as Pinkethman, Du Ruel, L'Abbé, de l'Epine, Tofts, Estcourt, and Gasparini. It concludes with a sneer at Rowe's *The Biter*. The prologue and epilogue are reprinted by Danchin, I, 239-241.

September 1704

- Monday 11*
DL **THE JOVIAL CREW**, or, The Merry Beggars [Brome]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing. Beginning exactly at half an hour after Five a Clock.
- Wednesday 13*
DL **THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA** [Shadwell]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By the whole Company. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Thursday 14*
DL **TUNBRIDGE WALKS**, or, The Yeoman of Kent [Baker]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing, which will be express'd in the Great Bills.
- Saturday 16*
DL **THE TRAGICAL HISTORY OF TITUS ANDRONICUS** (Written originally by the Famous Shakespear) [adapted by Ravenscroft]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
COMMENT. "Written originally by . . . Shakespear" implies that this was the Ravenscroft adaptation of ca. 1678-79.
- Monday 18*
SF **ENTERTAINMENTS.** At the Great Booth in the Coach-makers Yard near St. George's Church in Southwark, during the time of Southwark-Fair, Is to be seen Mr Pinkeman's Company of Rope-Dancers, being the same Company that was at Bartholomew-Fair over against the Hospital-Gate, particularly the two famous French Maidens, and the Indian Woman; And also Italian Interludes of Scaramouch and Harlaquin, by those two Great Masters of their kind Mr Sorine and Mr Baxter; And likewise extraordinary Performances on the Manag'd Horse by the famous Mr Evans and Mr Baxter, who both perform several new things in their way. And also Mr Evans Walks on the Black Rope, and throws himself a Somerset through a Hogshead hanging eight Foot high, with several other Entertainments too tedious to insert here. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 19*
DL **SECRET LOVE**, or, The Maiden Queen (Written by the late Great Poet Mr Dryden). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All the Parts acted to the best Advantage. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Wednesday 20*
DL **DOCUMENT.** On this day Thomas Holford conveyed four messuages to John Vanbrugh, completing a site for the Haymarket theatre of approximately 132 by 145 feet. (P.R.O. LRRO 63.23, p. 357)
COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1780.
- Friday 22*
DL **DON JOHN**, or, The Libertine Destroy'd [Shadwell]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

- Saturday 23*
DL **THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE**, or, The Earl of Essex [Banks]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Tuesday 26*
DL **THE OLD BATCHELLOR** [Congreve]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All the Parts Acted to the best Advantage. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Thursday 28*
DL **BARTHOLOMEW-FAIR** (Written by the Famous Ben. Johnson). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Grotesque Danceing.
- ca. late
September
LIF ‡ **THE METAMORPHOSIS**: or, The Old Lover Out-witted [John Corey]. Cast not advertised (but see below).
FIRST EDITION. *The Metamorphosis: or, The Old Lover Out-witted*. A Farce. As it is now Acted at the New Theatre in Lincolns-Inn-Fields. Written Originally by the Famous Moliere (London: Bernard Lintott, 1704). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: No actors' names. Prologue By Mr C. Johnson: Design'd for Mr Verbruggen, in the Astrologer's Habit. Prologue Spoken by Mrs Bradshaw. Epilogue By Mr C. Johnson, and Spoken by Mr Booth.
Dedication [signed "John Cory"]: To say any thing for the Play, wou'd be to arrogate somewhat of Praise to my self, which I wou'd not willingly be thought guilty of.
COMMENT. The third night was advertised for 2 October, so we have judged a late September première likely, though at this time of year the company was probably not performing daily, especially since the "whole" company did not assemble until it mounted *Zelmane* (see 14 November). The costume of the prologue implies that Verbruggen acted Trickwell.
- Friday 29*
DL **THE LONDON CUCKOLDS** [Ravenscroft]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Saturday 30*
DL **ORONOKO** [Southerne]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

October 1704

- Monday 2*
DL **THE JOVIAL CREW**, or, The Merry Beggars [Brome]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Monday 2*
LIF **THE METAMORPHOSIS**, or, The Old Lover Out-witted [Corey]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 30 September)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. A New Farce never acted but twice. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Wednesday 4*
DL **THE FEIGN'D INNOCENCE**, or, Sir Martin Marall [Dryden and Newcastle]. Cast not advertised. To which will be added a short Comedy of two Acts

only, call'd, **THE SCHOOL-BOY**, or, The Comical Rivals [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

Friday 5
DL

THE EMPRESS OF MOROCCO [Settle]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing. This play is Sold by Richard Wellington at the Dolphin and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard. Where you may have most Novels.

COMMENT. From this day, Wellington appends a brief note to each day's ad from both theatres, offering the play of the day for sale. We have not reprinted these notices hereafter.

Saturday 7
DL

THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK [Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

Tuesday 10
DL

THE TRAYTOR, or, The Tragedy of Amidea [Shirley]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing. . . .

Wednesday 11
DL

LOVE MAKES A MAN, or, The Fop's Fortune [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

Thursday 12
DL

THE CONSTANT COUPLE, or, A Trip to the Jubilee [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

Friday 13
DL

THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON [Behn]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

Saturday 14
DL

MITHRIDATES KING OF PONTUS [Lee]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted there these Nine Years. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several new Entertainments of Danceing by the famous Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel, being the first time of their Danceing this Season.

Monday 16
LIF

SIR MANNERLY SHALLOW, or, The Country Wit [Crowne]. Betty Frisk—Miss Mountfort. To which will be added a Farce call'd, **THE STAGE-COACH** [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 14 October)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Miss Evans and Miss Mountfort. . . . The Part of Betty Frisk to be perform'd by Miss Mountfort, who also speaks a new Epilogue. A new Chacone (never perform'd before) by Miss Evans. And the Spinning-Wheel Dialogue between Mr Cook and another. . . . The Tickets given out for *Hannibal* [Lee's *Sophonisba*] will be taken for this Play. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.

COMMENT. Danchin (I, 225) reports that the new epilogue is "apparently not extant."

Wednesday 18
DL

THE SPANISH FRYAR, or, The Double Discovery [Dryden]. Fryar [Dominic]—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The Part of the Fryar to be perform'd by Mr Estcourt.

Being the first time of his appearance on the English Stage. Beginning exactly at half an hour after Five a Clock.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Estcourt, the famous Mimick . . . had the same Invitation from Ireland, where he had commenc'd Actor: His first Part here, at the Theatre-Royal, was the Spanish Friar, in which, tho' he had remembred every Look and Motion of the late Tony Leigh so far as to put the Spectator very much in mind of him, yet it was visible through the whole, notwithstanding his Exactness in the Outlines, the true Spirit that was to fill up the Figure was not the same, but unskilfully dawb'd on, like a Child's Painting upon the Face of a Metzo-tinto: It was too plain to the judicious that the Conception was not his own, but imprinted in his Memory by another, of whom he only presented a dead Likeness. But these were Defects not so obvious to common Spectators; no wonder, therefore, if by his being much sought after in private Companies, he met with a sort of Indulgence, not to say Partiality, for what he sometimes did upon the Stage. (Cibber, *Apology*, I, 304-305)

COMMENT. A "Prologue for Mr Wilks" on this occasion was printed with "An Imitation of the Sixth Ode of Horace, apply'd to His Grace the Duke of Marlborough" in a broadside. Luttrell's copy (now at Harvard) bears a 31 October acquisition date. The broadside says that the prologue was "Design'd For the first day of Mr Estcourt's acting, but Forbid to be Spoke by Mr Rich, who thought himself Reflected on in one of the Verses." Both pieces were reprinted in the *Diverting Post* of 28 October-4 November 1704. An epilogue "For Mr Estcourt, at his first Appearance on the English-Stage. By Mr Motteux" was published in the *Muses Mercury* of May 1707. Both prologue and epilogue are reprinted with commentary by Danchin, I, 226-227.

Thursday 19
DL

THE SPANISH FRYAR, or, The Double Discovery [Dryden]. Fryar [Dominic]—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 20
DL

THE TAMING OF THE SHREW, or, Sawny the Scot [Lacy]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing, and several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs Mosse, particularly the *Country Farmer's Daughter*, and the *Highland Lilt*, with an Irish Humour call'd, *The Whip of Dunboyn*, by Mr Claxton her Master.

Saturday 21
DL

THE ROVER; or; The Banish'd Cavaliers [Behn]. Ned Blunt—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Beginning exactly at Five a Clock.

Monday 23
DL

THE SILENT WOMAN (Written by the Famous Ben. Johnson). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel, and also Entertainments of Singing. . . . Beginning exactly at half an hour after Five a Clock.

Tuesday 24
DL

SIR COURTLY NICE, or, It cannot be [Crowne]. Sir Thomas Calico—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.

Wednesday 25
DL

ORONOKO [Southerne]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Entertainment of several Forreign Ministers. . . . With Singing; And several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel. . . . To begin exactly at half an hour after five a Clock.

- Thursday 26*
DL **THE OLD BATCHELLOR** [Congreve]. Capt. Bluff—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . To begin exactly at half an hour after five a Clock.
- Friday 27*
DL **ÆSOP** [Vanbrugh]. Cast not advertised. To which will be added a short Comedy of two Acts only, call'd **THE SCHOOL-BOY**, or, The Comical Rivals [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs Mosse and Mrs Bicknel.
- Saturday 28*
DL **THE COMMITTEE**, or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Estcourt. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
- Saturday 28*
REPORT. The Play-House in the Hay-Market (the Architect being John Vanbrugh Esq;) built by the Subscription Money of most of our Nobility, is almost finish'd, in the mean time two Opera's translated from the Italian by good Hands, are setting to Musick, one by Mr Daniel Purcel, which is called *Orlando Furioso*, and the other by Mr Clayton [*Arsinoe*], both Opera's are to be perform'd by the best Artists eminent both for Vocal and Instrumental Musick at the Opening of the House. (*Diverting Post*, 28 October)
COMMENT. Daniel Purcell's *Orlando Furioso* was never performed or printed. Thomas Clayton's *Arsinoe* was winkled away from Vanbrugh and mounted at Drury Lane on 16 January 1705, scoring a considerable success.
- Monday 30*
DL **THE LONDON CUCKOLDS** [Ravenscroft]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing, which will be express'd in the Great Bills.
- Tuesday 31*
DL **THE COMMITTEE**, or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

November 1704

- Wednesday 1*
DL **THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE**, or, The Earl of Essex [Banks]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing which will be express'd in the Great Bills.
- Wednesday 1*
IT **THE COMMITTEE** [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt. (For evidence of performance, see below.)
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. On Wednesday last . . . Mr Estcourt play'd the Part of Teague, in the *Committee*, before the Honorable Society of the Inner-Temple, with the great applause of the Judges and Benches of that most ancient House. (*Diverting Post*, 28 October-4 November)

COMMENT. This performance is recorded in Inderwick's *Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, III, 385. The LIF company was paid £20 for the performance, for which John Miles signed a receipt. Estcourt's appearance with the company this night is surprising: he had only just arrived from Ireland; Drury Lane was advertising him very hard; and he was to perform the same role at Drury Lane on Thursday. We deduce that a loophole in his short-term contract with Rich allowed him to perform elsewhere save at LIF itself.

- Thursday 2*
DL **THE COMMITTEE**, or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
- Friday 3*
DL **THE PILGRIM** [Vanbrugh, adapting Fletcher]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Friday 3*
LIF **SOPHONISBA**, or, Hannibal's Overthrow [Lee]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 2 November)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With Entertainments of Singing and Instrumental Musick between the Acts. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
- Saturday 4*
DL **HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK** [Shakespeare]. Grave-maker–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Monday 6*
DL **SECRET LOVE**, or, The Maiden Queen [Dryden]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
- Monday 6*
LIF **HENRY THE FOURTH**, with the Humours of Sir John Falstaffe [Shakespeare]. Falstaff–Betterton. (*Daily Courant*, 4 November)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The Part of Falstaffe to be perform'd by Mr Betterton, being the first time of his appearing on the Stage this Season. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
COMMENT. The same ad appeared for a performance on Thursday the 9th, with Betterton's first appearance of the season again advertised. Either the present performance was cancelled for some reason or the prompter failed to emend copy sent to the *Daily Courant* for another performance on the 9th.
- Tuesday 7*
DL **THE COMMITTEE** [Howard]. Teague–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
- Wednesday 8*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Bullfinch–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*, 7 November)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these 20 Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.
EDITION. The quarto of 1706 contains what is clearly the cast for this revival, prior to Powell's departure from the company on 7 April 1705. *The Northern Lass, or The Nest of Fools*. A Comedy. As it is now Acted By Her Majesties Servants At the

Theatre-Royal. With Prologue, Epilogue, and New Songs. By Richard Brome (London: Printed for H.N. and are to be Sold by J. Nutt, 1706). Copy used: British Library 644.g.25. The Actors Names. Sir Philip Luckless–Wilks; Tridewell–Mills; Sir Paul Squelch–Johnson; Bulfinch–Estcourt; Widgin–Bullock; Captain Anvil–Powell; Nonsense–Norris; Pate–Fairbank; Beavis–Bickerstaff; Howdee–Cibber; Clerk–Kent; Vexhem–Cross // Mrs Fitchow–Mrs Knight; Mrs Constance–Mrs Bicknell; Mrs Trainwell–Mrs Powell; Constance Hold up–Mrs Lucas. The Prologue Made and spoken by Jo. Hains [at an earlier date, since Hayns died in 1701.] The Epilogue. Spoken by Mistress ——. “H.N.” [Hugh Newman, the printer] comments in his dedication to the Duke of St Albans on the success of the revival (“having now again lately met with another most kind Reception”).

COMMENT. The prologue was originally written for the 1684 production of this play and was revamped at an unknown date. The revised version is printed by Danchin (I, 41-42) from *The Second Part of Mr Penkethman's Jest* (1721), speculatively associated with the season of 1701-02.

Wednesday 8
YB **CONCERT.** For the Benefit of Mr Dupree . . . will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick; by the best Masters. Beginning at Seven a Clock. Tickets to be had at the Door, 5s. each Ticket. (*Daily Courant*, 7 November)

Thursday 9
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these 20 Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing, which will be express'd in the great Bills.

Thursday 9
LIF **HENRY THE FOURTH**, with the Humours of Sir John Falstaffe [Shakespeare]. Falstaff–Betterton. (*Daily Courant*, 8 November)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The Part of Falstaffe to be perform'd by Mr Betterton, being the first time of his appearing on the Stage this Season [but cf. 6 November]. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Mr Betterton play'd last Wednesday [*recte* Thursday] the Part of Sir John Falstaff, to the General Applause of the Audience. (*Diverting Post*, 4-11 November)

Thursday 9
DOCUMENT. On this day Colley Cibber signed a contract with Christopher Rich to act at Drury Lane. The terms were £3 10s. per week, and by verbal agreement 10s. per week more for reading scripts and casting plays, plus a further 20s. for other managerial services. The contract is recited in a lawsuit of 29 June 1709 about Cibber's deserting Rich (P.R.O. C10/537/22).
COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1784.

Friday 10
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but twice these 20 Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing, which will be express'd in the great Bills.

Saturday 11
DL **VENICE PRESERV'D**, or, A Plot Discover'd [Otway]. Antonio–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, and Mrs du Ruel.

- Monday 13*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but thrice these 20 Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing by Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell, Mrs Lucas, Mr Laferry [La Forest], and Mr Cottine.
- Monday 13*
DOCUMENT. On this day Richard Middlemore and Andrew Card brought suit against Charles Killigrew and others, claiming that they should have been receiving profits from Dame Mary Davenant's license to sell fruit in the theatre, signed over to them in May 1687. No result is known. (P.R.O. C8/595/71)
COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1785.
- Tuesday 14*
DL **THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA** [Shadwell]. Sir William Belfond—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, and Mrs du Ruel.
- Tuesday 14*
LIF † **ZELMANE; OR, THE CORINTHIAN QUEEN** [Mary Pix]. No advertisement of initial performances; cast not advertised (but see below).
FIRST EDITION. *Zelmana; or, The Corinthian Queen*. A Tragedy. As it is Acted at the New-Theatre in Lincolns-Inn-Fields. By Her Majesties Servants (London: William Turner and John Nutt, 1705). Copy used: Folger. Dramatis Personæ: Arbaces—Cory; Amphialus—Verbruggen; Arcanes—Booth; Geronta—Freeman; Piroto—Weller // Zelmana—Mrs Barry; Antimora—Mrs Bracegirdle. Prologue Spoken by Mr Booth. Epilogue Spoken by Mrs Bowman drest like Victory.
Anonymous Dedication: the following Poem was a piece left unfinished by Mr M——t, who in his Life was generally belov'd, and encourag'd in what he did by all. The Gentleman who brought it to me, also inclin'd me to lay it at your Feet. . . . I hope the Memory of the Author may excuse the defects of my Addition. The Town I hear has been favourable in its Character.
COMMENT. The date is assigned on the basis of an ad for the fifth night on Saturday 18 November. We have presumed a continuous run, which would place the première on Tuesday the 14th, but if the performances were spread out, the première would be earlier. The *Diverting Post* of 4-11 November says that the première will take place "On Monday next" (i.e., 13 November) and that *Zelmana* will be presented "With a Farce, annexed to it." If there was an afterpiece, its identity remains unknown. The prologue was printed in the *Diverting Post* of 11-18 November, where we are also told that this production was "the first time of the whole Company's Playing." The statement in the unsigned dedication (by Pix?) that the piece was based on an uncompleted MS by William Mountford (d. 1692) may be true or not, but the *Diverting Post* of 28 October assigns authorship to Mrs Pix.
- Wednesday 15*
DL **THE TRUE AND ANCIENT HISTORY OF KING LEAR AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS** [Tate, adapting Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Thursday 16*
DL **THE SPANISH FRYAR**, or, The Double Discovery [Dryden]. Fryar [Dominic]—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
COMMENT. The *Daily Courant* ad of 15 November specifies "With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, being the first time of his Singing on the

Stage this Winter.”

- Thursday 16*
YB **CONCERT.** At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Signiora Maria Margarita Gallia. . . . will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, composed by that Great Italian Master Signior Gioseppe Saggion. With several Sonatas with Flutes and Hautboys, and likewise a Sonata for two Flutes; by the best Masters. And several Songs in Italian, with Flutes and Hautboys, by Signiora Maria Margarita Gallia, who never Sung in any publick Consort in England but twice. The whole being entirely new composed and accompanied by Signior Gioseppe Saggion. And likewise several Songs in English, composed by the late Famous Mr Henry Purcell. Beginning at Eight a Clock. Tickets to be had at the Door. [No price stated.] (*Daily Courant*)
- Friday 17*
DL **TITUS ANDRONICUS**, or, The Rape of Lavinia (Written by Mr William Shakespear) [adapted by Ravenscroft]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing and Dancing.
- Saturday 18*
DL **THE REHEARSAL** [Buckingham]. Bayes–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these five Years. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin. And several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, and Mrs Mosse.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 17 November Monsieur Cherrier is advertised to dance at this performance.
- Saturday 18*
LIF **ZELMANE**; or, The Corinthian Queen [Pix]. Zelmane–Mrs Barry (and see 14 November). (*Diverting Post*, 11-18 November)
COMMENT. This performance is known from a news paragraph: “And at the Theatre in Little Lincolns-Inn-Fields, will be represented the last new Tragedy . . . being the fifth time of Acting. The Part of the Corinthian Queen inimitably Play'd by Mrs Barry.
- Monday 20*
DL **TUNBRIDGE-WALKS**, or, The Yeoman of Kent [Baker]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Tuesday 21*
DL **THE REHEARSAL** [Buckingham]. Bayes–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With all the Entertainments that were perform'd on Saturday last by Signior Gasperini, Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss; and others.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 20 November, Monsieur Laferry [La Forest], and Mrs Bicknell are advertised to perform on this date.
- Wednesday 22*
DL **THE ALBION QUEENS**, or, The Death of Mary Queen of Scotland [Banks]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.
- Thursday 23*
DL **THE COMMITTEE**, or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge. And Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, being the first time of their performing this Winter.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 22 November, Monsieur Du Ruel, Mrs Du

Ruel, and Mrs Mosse are also advertised to dance at this performance.

- Friday 24*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge. And Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and others.
- Saturday 25*
DL **HENRY THE FOURTH**, with the Humours of Sir John Falstaffe [Shakespeare]. Falstaff–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these five Years. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, and others.
- Saturday 25*
LIF **THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO MOORE OF VENICE** [Shakespeare]. Othello–Betterton. (*Diverting Post*, 18-25 November)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. “By the Desire of several Persons of Quality,” according to the paragraph in the *Diverting Post*.
- ca. late
November
LIF ‡ **THE BITER** [Nicholas Rowe]. (On the performance date, see below.)
FIRST EDITION. *The Biter*. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre in Lincolns-Inn-Fields, By Her Majesty’s sworn Servants. Written by N. Rowe, Esq; (London: Jacob Tonson, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Sir Timothy Tallapoy–Betterton; Pinch–Pack; Clerimont–Verbruggen; Friendly–Booth; Scribblescrabble–Leigh; Bandileer–Knap; Trick–Fieldhouse; Grumble–Trout; Bohee–Freeman // Lady Stale–Mrs Leigh; Mariana–Mrs Bracegirdle; Angelica–Mrs Mountfort; Mrs Clever–Mrs Barry; Mrs Scribblescrabble–Mrs Lawson. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Betterton. Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle.
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. *The Biter*, a Farce . . . had a six Days run; the six Days running it out of Breath, it Sicken’d and Expir’d. (Downes, *Roscus Anglicanus*, p. 95) Did not the tragic Rowe write *The Biter*, a comedy; and was he not the only person of the audience that laughed during the acting of it? (Davies, *Dramatic Miscellanies*, I, 94) The Part of the Biter perform’d by Mr Pack, who in time will be a shining Comedian. (Advance notice in the *Diverting Post* of 28 October-4 November)
COMMENT. The author’s benefit was advertised for Monday 4 December, but since the company gave *Abra-Mule* on Saturday 2 December, the initial run of Rowe’s play must have been non-continuous. The prologue was published in the *Diverting Post* of 18-25 November, but this need not imply a première before the week of 27 November. As early as the *Diverting Post* of 28 October-4 November, there was a puff announcing imminent performance: “Next Week will be Acted at the New Theatre in little Lincoln’s Inn Fields, a New Farce called, *The Biter*. Written by Nicholas Rowe, Esq.” Thus the prologue was presumably ready around the beginning of the month and could have been passed to journalist friends at any time, though Danchin (I, 230) suggests that variants in the *Diverting Post* version may imply that the “text had been taken by ear.” A single song for the play was published, “Cloe blush’t and frown’d and swore,” music by Eccles, sung by Cook (D&M 542).
- Monday 27*
DL **THE PLAIN DEALER** [Wycherley]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Italian Sonatas on the Violin by Signior Gasperini. A *Spanish Dance* and the *Punchanello’s Dance* by Monsieur Cherrier. And also Danceing by Mrs Lucas and Mrs Bicknell. . . . And Note, That the Theatre in Dorset-Garden being now repair’d from the Damage done by the late great Winds, the same will be ready by the latter end of this Week to Act in, for Entertainments of Musick and Danceing.

- Monday 27* DOCUMENT. A Copy of a Letter from Sir John Stanley to Mr Rich. Cockpit Monday 27 November 1704. Sir, My Lord Chamberlain being informd That you are upon a treaty with some of the Players, Dancers &c. of the Company at Lincolns Inn Fields to Entertain them in yours contrary to severall Orders allready made. My Lord has therefore directed me to give you Notice of it, and to acquaint you, That if you Proceed any further in Contempt of his Orders, you must Expect to be punisht with the utmost severity. I am Sir Your very humble Servant J. Stanley. (LC 7/3, fol. 92v)
COMMENT. This copy of Stanley's letter was made in connection with Rich's protest to the Lord Chamberlain of 9 December 1705 against alleged "seduction" of his personnel by Vanbrugh and Congreve.
- Tuesday 28* **HENRY THE FOURTH**, with the Humours of Sir John Falstaffe [Shakespeare]. Falstaff–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted but once these five Years. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge. And Danceing by Mrs du Ruel. [And note about DG as 27 November.]
- Wednesday 29* **VOLPONE**, or, The Fox (Written by the Famous Ben. Johnson). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Bicknell, and others. [And note about DG as 27 November.]
- Thursday 30* **MITHRIDATES KING OF PONTUS** [Lee]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With Singing by Mr Leveridge, and Danceing by Mrs du Ruel; and others.
- ca. late
November
Queen's **CONCERT**. Signiora Sconiance, a Famous Italian Singer, who lately came from those Parts, had a few Days since the Honour to Sing before Her Majesty with great Applause, upon the First Opening of the Theatre in the Hay Market, erected by the Contribution of the Nobility. She is to Sing several Italian Songs, never Sung in this Kingdom before, Compos'd by the most Celebrated of the Modern Italian Masters. (*Diverting Post*, 25 November-2 December)
COMMENT. This is a tantalizing report. It reads like a press release, and the change of tense is disconcerting. No such singer has been traced, and the name could be satiric. But if this notice can be believed, it reports what appears to be an official inaugural concert for the new Haymarket Theatre in the presence of Queen Anne, otherwise unknown. The theatre was clearly far from rigged and fully operational (it did not open for dramatic performances until 9 April 1705), but a concert could easily have been given there long before the acting company was able to move in.

December 1704

- ca. December DOCUMENT. At about this time Jacomo Greber recorded thirty-three items of practical advice in his commonplace book about how a foreign musician coming to London should seek employment to his advantage. The advice covers whom to see, how to negotiate, salary levels, current musical taste, etc. The manuscript is now in the Osborn Collection, Yale University. Translated from the German in Harold E. Samuel, "A German Musician Comes to London in 1704," *Musical Times*, 122 (1981), 591-593.

- ca. early
December
Queen's
- COMMENT. A revival of Shakespeare and Fletcher's *King Henry the Eighth* was planned for about this time, but evidently did not take place. In the *Diverting Post* of 9-16 December 1704 is printed "A Prologue design'd to be Spoke before Henry the VIII by Mr Betterton" (reprinted by Danchin, I, 238). The anonymous author laments the lack of success of the company and says that not even Otway or Congreve now please the audience. Danchin assumes that "*Henry VIII* was acted about mid-December, and the present prologue was not used," but when the company advertised the play for 3 May 1705 the bill stated "Not Acted these four Years." We assume, therefore, that the December revival proved abortive.
- Friday 1
DL
- THE REHEARSAL** [Buckingham]. Bayes–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, Mr Laferry [La Forest], and Mrs Bicknell. . . . And on Wednesday next a Play will be Acted at the Theatre in Dorset-Garden.
- Saturday 2
DL
- MACKBETH** [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . All the Musick, both Vocal and Instrumental, compos'd by Mr Leveridge, and perform'd by him and others.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 1 December, "several Entertainments of Danceing" are advertised for this performance.
- Saturday 2
LIF
- ABRA-MULE** (Written by Mr Trapp of Oxford). Cast not given. (*Diverting Post*, 25 November-2 December)
- Saturday 2
- REPORT. On Wednesday next [6 December], at the Theatre in Dorset Gardens, (which has been refitted with new Decorations and Scenes) will be presented a Play supposed to be Written by Mr Colly Cibber. (*Diverting Post*, 25 November-2 December)
COMMENT. The announced performance apparently was not given, and nothing seems to have come of the scheme to reopen Dorset Garden at this time (see 5 December). Cibber's new play, *The Careless Husband*, premièred at Drury Lane on 7 December.
- Monday 4
DL
- THE FEIGN'D INNOCENCE**, or, Sir Martin Marr-all [Dryden and Newcastle]. Cast not advertised. To which will be added another short Play of two Acts only, call'd, **THE SCHOOL-BOY**, or, The Comical Rivals [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With variety of Singing and Danceing.
- Monday 4
LIF
- THE BITER** [Rowe]. Cast not advertised (but see ca. late November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Author. At the Desire of Several Persons of Quality . . . the last New Farce.
- Tuesday 5
DL
- THE ROVER**, or, The Banish'd Cavaliers [Behn]. The Part of Ned Blunt to be perform'd by Mr Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and others. . . . By reason of the badness of the Weather, we

shall defer Acting in Dorset-Garden for some time.

Wednesday 6
DL

TIMON OF ATHENS, or, The Man-Hater [Shadwell, adapting Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With a Masque of Musick compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcell. Wherein Mr Leveridge performs the Part of Bacchus and a little Girl of Ten Years of Age the Part of Cupid. With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and Mrs Moss.

Thursday 7
DL

‡ **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Colley Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *The Careless Husband*. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre Royal, By Her Majesty's Servants. Written by C. Cibber (London: William Davis, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 19 December. The Persons: Lord Morelove—Powel; Lord Foppington—Cibber; Sir Charles Easy—Wilks // Lady Betty Modish—Mrs Oldfield; Lady Easy—Mrs Knight; Lady Grave-airs—Mrs Moore; Mrs Edging—Mrs Lucas. The Prologue. Prologue upon the last Campaign, Written by a Person of Quality; design'd for the Sixth Day, but not spoken. The Epilogue. [The unspoken prologue for the sixth night was by Arthur Maynwaring or possibly the dedicatee, the Duke of Argyle. See Snyder.]

Dedication: This Play at last through many Difficulties, has made way to throw it self at your Grace's Feet. . . . [The play was subjected to the charge] offer'd to my First Play, viz. That it was none of my own: But that's a Praise I have indeed some reason to be proud of. . . .

The Best Criticks have long, and justly complain'd that the Courseness of most Characters in our late Comedies have been unfit Entertainments for People of Quality, especially the Ladies: And therefore I was long in Hopes, that some able Pen (whose Expectation did not Hang upon the Profits of success) wou'd generously attempt to reform the Town into a better Tast, than the World generally allows 'em: But nothing of that kind having lately appear'd, that wou'd give me an Opportunity of being Wise at anothers Expence, I found it Impossible any longer to Resist the secret Temptation of my Vanity, and so even struck the first Blow my self: And the Event has now convinc'd me, that whoever sticks closely to Nature can't easily write above the Understanding of the Galleries, tho' at the same Time he may Possibly deserve Applause of the Boxes.

This Play before its Tryal on the Stage was Examin'd by several People of Quality, that came into your Graces Opinion of its being a Just, a Proper, and Diverting Attempt in Comedy; but few of 'em carry'd the Compliment beyond their private Approbation. . . . But your Grace has been pleas'd, not only to encourage me with your Judgment; but have likewise by your Favourable Influence in the Bounties that were rais'd for me for the Third and Sixth Day, defended me against any Hazards of an entire Disappointment from so bold an Undertaking. . . .

And if the Dialogue of the following Scenes flows with more easie Turn of Thought and Spirit, than what I have usually produc't; I shall not yet blame some People for saying 'tis not my own, unless they knew at the same time I owe most of it to the many stolen Observations I have made from your Grace's manner of Conversing. [Dedication signed by Colley Cibber, and dated 15 December 1704.]

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. A new Comedy never Acted before.

COMMENT. "A Song in the last New Play . . . Set by Mr D. Purcell, and Sung by Mr Leveridge" ("Sabina with an Angel's Face") was published in the *Diverting Post* of 9-16 December.

Thursday 7
YB

CONCERT. An Extraordinary Consort of Musick. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. At the Consort-Room in Villiers-street in York-Build-

ings . . . will be perform'd several select Entertainments of Vocal and Instrumental Musick by the best Masters. To begin at 8 in the Evening. Tickets may be had at the Door. [Price not stated.] (*Daily Courant*, 6 December)

- Friday 8*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once.
- Saturday 9*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but twice.
COMMENT. No author's benefit was advertised the third night, though Cibber's dedication shows that he received one.
- Saturday 9*
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Congreve to Joseph Keally: Rowe writ a foolish farce called the *Biter*, which was damned. Cibber has produced a play [*The Careless Husband*], consisting of fine gentlemen and fine conversation altogether; which the ridiculous town for the most part likes; but there are some that know better. (*Congreve: Letters and Documents*, pp. 34-35)
- Monday 11*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice.
- Tuesday 12*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but four times.
- Tuesday 12*
LIF **ABRA MULE**, or, Love and Empire [Trapp]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 9 December)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With Entertainments of Dancing by the Famous Mademoiselle de la Val. With several Entrys perform'd with her by Monsieur l'Abbe. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
- Wednesday 13*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Author. Being the Sixth day.
- Thursday 14*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 14*
DOCUMENT. License for a New Company of Comedians. Whereas We have thought fitt for the better reforming the Abuses, and Immorality of the Stage That a New Company of Comedians should be Establish'd for our Service, under stricter Government and Regulations than have been formerly.
We therefore reposing especiall trust, and confidence in Our Trusty and Welbeloved John Vanbrugh and William Congreve Esqrs for the due Execution, and performance of this our Will and Pleasure, do Give and Grant unto them the said John Vanbrugh, and William Congreve full power and Authority to form, constitute, and Establish for Us, a Company of Comedians with full and free License to Act and Represent in any Conven-

ient Place, during Our Pleasure all Comedies, Tragedys Plays, Interludes Operas, and to perform all other Theatricall and Musicall Entertainments whatsoever and to settle such Rules and Orders for the good Government of the said Company, as the Chamberlain of our Household shall from time to time direct and approve of Given at our Court at St James this 14th day of December in the third Year of Our Reign. By her Majestys Command Kent. (LC 5/154, p. 35)

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. I went to dine with Dr Gibson; where were also Dr Kennet and Dr Waugh. Her Majesty's Proclamation [i.e., the theatre license] (in the *Gazette* of Xtmass-day) much regretted; Mr Vanburgh [*sic*] and Mr Congreve (two of the chief Debauchers of the Stage) being appointed Directors. (*The London Diaries of William Nicolson Bishop of Carlisle 1702-1718*, ed. Clyve Jones and Geoffrey Holmes [Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1985], p. 260, entry for 27 December 1704)

COMMENT. The license was printed in the *London Gazette* of 21-25 December 1704. This license was granted with the consent of the company of actors at Lincoln's Inn Fields, who had acted there as a cooperative under the license of 1695 but had now agreed to move to Vanbrugh's elegant new theatre and work there under his direction. (See the season headnote and *Roscus Anglicanus*, pp. 98-99.)

Friday 15
DL

THE CARELESS HUSBAND [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the Eighth day of Acting it. . . . With a piece of Instrumental Musick to be perform'd by Mr Paisible, Mr Banister, and others. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier.

Saturday 16
DL

THE CARELESS HUSBAND [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the Ninth day of Acting it. . . . With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini; And several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. This Day, at the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, Mrs Cross, Famous for Singing and Acting in the last Reign, Sings a New Dialogue with Mr Leveridge; She having lately entred into Articles with Mr Rich. (*Diverting Post*, 9-16 December)

Saturday 16

DOCUMENT. On this day Rich answered Charles Killigrew's emended bill of complaint of 1 April 1704; Skipwith answered on the 18th. They discuss the 1680s. quarrel over rights to shares in the United Company; the actor rebellion of 1695; and subsequent disputes. At issue is the lease granted in 1702 by the Drury Lane shareholders to Betterton and other Lincoln's Inn Fields actors—a lease that never took effect because Rich refused to vacate the theatre. (P.R.O. C9/317/3)

COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1794.

Saturday 16

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Mr Clayton's Opera, which is Set after the Italian manner, is to be performed there [Drury Lane]. Madam De La Valle, a Person Eminent for Dancing, and one that by the general Vogue, excels Mrs Subligny, has performed twice with great Applause. (*Diverting Post*, 9-16 December)

Monday 18
DL

THE SPANISH FRIAR, or, The Double Discovery [Dryden]. Friar [Dominic]—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini; And several Entertain-

ments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel.

- Tuesday 19*
DL **LOVE MAKES A MAN**, or, The Fops Fortune [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini; And Danceing by Mrs du Ruel.
- Tuesday 19* DOCUMENT. Starting on this day numerous defendants in the suit by Sir William Smith concerning Drury Lane profits (filed 30 May 1704) began to make their replies. The Lincoln's Inn Fields actors replied in a body that they had received no money from the Drury Lane patentees and denied conspiracy. During the spring of 1705 at various dates different Drury Lane shareholders likewise denied receipt of money and conspiracy. (P.R.O. C8/599/77)
COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1795.
- Wednesday 20*
DL **THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON** [Behn]. Scaramouch—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Entertainment of several Forreign Ministers. . . . All the Songs in the Play, being set to new Musick, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge and others. And all the original Dances which were perform'd, particularly the *Card Dance*.
- Thursday 21*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With some Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel. Being the last time of Acting till after Christmas-day.
- Both theatres were presumably dark from 22 to 26 December
for the usual Christmas recess.*
- Tuesday 26*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Bullfinch—Estcourt; Squelch—Johnson; How dee—Cibber; Widgeon—Bullock; Nonsense—Norris (and see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All the Comical parts to be perform'd by the chief Comedians . . . And all the other parts to the best advantage. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and others.
- Thursday 28*
DL **THE JOVIAL CREW**, or, The Merry Beggars [Brome]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With some Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini, particularly one never perform'd before by him and Mr Paisible for a Violin and Flute. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 27 December, *The Committee* was advertised for this day.
- Friday 29*
DL **MACKBETH** [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All the Musick both Vocal and Instrumental being compos'd by Mr Leveridge, and perform'd by him and others. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and others.

Saturday 30
DL
THE CONSTANT COUPLE, or, A Trip to the Jubilee [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the famous Signiora Francisca Margareta de l'Epine, being lately return'd to England, will sing several Songs in Italian and English, never perform'd before by her. And Dancing by Mrs du Ruel.

January 1705

Monday 1
DL
THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON [Behn]. Scaramouch–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. To which will be added several extraordinary Decorations. And several Entertainments of Grotesque Danceing, viz. The *Punchanello Dance* by Monsieur Cherrier, with the *Country Farmer's Daughter* by Mrs Moss; And the *Harlequin Dance* by Mr Laforrest and Mrs Bicknell.

Monday 1
SJP
CONCERT. Eccles set an ode for the New Year's Day celebration held at court this day. See Bucholz, *Augustan Court*, Table 7.5.

Tuesday 2
DL
THE CARELESS HUSBAND [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing by Mrs Cross, Particularly a Pastoral Dialogue between her and Mr Leveridge. Being the first time of her Appearance on the Stage these 5 Years [but see 16 December 1704].

Tuesday 2
HDR
CONCERT. For the Benefit of Mr Henry Eccles, Jun. This present Tuesday being the 2d of January, at Mr Hills Danceing Room in Crosby-Square in Bishopsgate-street, will be a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, perform'd by several Eminent Masters, with several Italian Sonatas perform'd on the Violin by Mr Henry Eccles Beginning at Six a Clock. At 2s. 6d. per Ticket. Tickets may be had of Mr Young at the Dolphin and Crown in St. Paul's Church-yard, Cole's Coffee-house in Bartholomew-Lane behind the Royal Exchange, Garraway's Coffee-house, and Mr Walsh's a Musick-shop in Katharine-street in the Strand, and at the Door. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 3
DL
THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA [Shadwell]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing which are express'd in the great Bills.

Thursday 4
DL
THE REHEARSAL [Buckingham]. Bayes–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de l'Epine will perform several new Entertainments of Singing in Italian and English, never yet perform'd. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, and others.

Thursday 4
YB
CONCERT. For the Benefit of Mr [Charles?] Smith and Mr Isaac. In the great Room at York Buildings . . . will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick by the best Masters, beginning at Seven a Clock in the Evening. [Price not stated.] (*Daily Courant*)

- Friday 5*
DL **KING HENRY THE FOURTH**, with the Humours of Sir John Falstaffe [Shakespeare]. Falstaff–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing and Dancing.
- Saturday 6*
DL **SIR COURTLY NICE**, or, It cannot be [Crowne]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several new Entertainments of Singing and Dancing by Mrs Cross, particularly a Pastoral Dialogue between her and Mr Leveridge. Being the second time of her Appearance on the Stage these five Years.
- Saturday 6*
GOLD H **ENTERTAINMENT** This occasion is known from a printed text. *Words sung at the Entertainment given by the right Honorable Sir Owen Buckingham, Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, and the Sheriffs of the City of London to his Grace the Duke of Marlborough, and other General Officers, the 6th of January, 1704/5.* Written by Mr Motteux. Set to Musick by Mr Weldon. ("Welcome, the returning Brave / Conquering Chiefs, who Empires save.") A copy is preserved in the Bute Broad­sides, C32, Houghton Library, Harvard University.
COMMENT. We have deduced the venue from a notice in the *Daily Courant* of Monday 8 January: "On Saturday last the Duke of Marlborough, with several of the Nobility, the principal Officers of the army, and other Persons of Quality, whom his Grace was pleas'd to invite to accompany him, were entertain'd at Goldsmith's hall with a magnificent Dinner, by the Lord-Mayor, Court of Aldermen, and Sheriffs of this City."
- Monday 8*
DL **BARTHOLOMEW-FAIR** (Written by the Famous Ben Johnson). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mr Claxton, Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell, and others.
- Tuesday 9*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With Singing by Mr Leveridge. Some Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini. And Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and others.
- Tuesday 9*
LIF **THE MAN OF MODE**, or, Sir Fopling Flutter [Etherege]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 8 January)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Person of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing by the famous Mademoiselle de la Vall, and Mrs Elford. Boxes 5s. Pitt 3s. Gallery 2s.
- Wednesday 10*
DL **THE COMICAL REVENGE**, or, Love in a Tub (Written by Sir George Etherege). Sir Nicholas Cully–Doggett; Palmer–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these Ten Years.
- Thursday 11*
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF OEDIPUS KING OF THEBES** [Dryden and Lee]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these Five Years. . . . All the Musick compos'd by the late famous Mr Henry Purcell, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge and others. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing by Mrs Cross, parti-

cularly a Pastoral Dialogue by her and Mr Leveridge.

- Friday 12*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mr Laferry [La Forest], Mrs Bicknell, Mrs Lucas, and others.
- Saturday 13*
DL **THE COMICAL REVENGE**, or, Love in a Tub (Written by Sir George Etheridge). Sir Nicholas Cully–Doggett; Palmer–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the famous Signiora Francisca Margaretta de L'Epine will sing several Songs in Italian and English. With Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
- Saturday 13*
LIF **TAMERLANE** [Rowe]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mademoiselle De la Val. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several new Entertainments of Danceing by her self, and Mrs Elford.
- Monday 15*
DL **THE OLD BATCHELLOR** (Written by Mr Congreve). Fondlewife–Doggett; Captain Bluff–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini, particularly the Eccho by him and Monsieur du Ruel. Also several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, compos'd by the famous Mr Henry Purcell. And Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell, and others.
- Tuesday 16*
DL ‡ **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [libretto by Peter Anthony Motteux; music by Thomas Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)
FIRST EDITION. *Arsinoe, Queen of Cyprus*. An Opera, After the Italian Manner. As it is Perform'd at the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, By Her Majesty's Servants (London: Tonson, 1705). Copy used: Folger. The Names of the Actors: Ormondo–Hughes; Feraspe–Leveridge; Delbo–Mr Cook or Mr Good // Arsinoe–Mrs Tofts; Dorisbe–Mrs Cross; Nerina–Mrs Lyndsey.
Songs in the New Opera, Call'd Arsinoe Queen of Cyprus, Compos'd by Mr Tho. Clayton was published by I. Walsh (publication advertised in the *Post Man* on 2 April 1706. See Hunter, no. 12. The collection comprises 16 songs. A second issue contains an additional three songs between the original no. 16 and no. 17 (Hunter, no. 12a). Hunter reports separate publication of 13 of the songs, no. 5, items 385, 386, 389, 390, 391, 392, 400, 410, 411, 414, 415, 420, 423. On 5 October 1706 Walsh advertised in the *Post Man* a much fuller edition, comprising the overture and 37 songs: *Songs in the Opera Call'd Arsinoe Queen of Cyprus* (Hunter, nos. 26, 29, 30, 31).
Preface: The Design of this Entertainment being to introduce the Italian manner of Musick on the English Stage, which has not been before attempted; I was oblig'd to have an Italian Opera translated: In which the Words, however mean in several Places, suited much better with that manner of Musick, than others more Poetical would do. The Stile of this Musick is to express the Passions, which is the Soul of Musick: And though the Voices are not equal to the Italian, yet I have engag'd the Best that were to be found in England; and I have not been wanting, to the utmost of my Diligence, in the instructing of them. The Musick being Recitative, may not, at first, meet with that general Acceptation, as is to be hop'd for from the Audience's being better acquainted with it: But if this Attempt shall, by pleasing the Nobility and Gentry, be a Means of bringing this manner of Musick to be us'd in my Native Country, I shall think all my Study and Pains very well employ'd. Thomas Clayton.
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. A New Opera never perform'd before . . . After the Italian manner, All Sung, being set to Musick by Master Clayton. With several

Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur l'Abbee, Monsieur Du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Elford, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and others. And the famous Signiora Francisca Margareta de l'Epine will, before the Beginning and after the Ending of the Opera, perform several Entertainments of Singing in Italian and English. No Person to be admitted into the Boxes or Pitt but by the Subscribers Tickets, to be deliver'd at Mrs White's Chocolate-house. The Boxes on the Stage and the Galleries, are for the Benefit of the Actors.

COMMENT. Publication was advertised by Jacob Tonson in the *Daily Courant* of 17 January. The Folger has two 1705 editions of *Arsinoe*. We judge PR 3699 S85 A8 Cage (with four pages of prelims, and 48 pages of text) to be the first edition. PR 3699 S85 A81 (four pages of prelims, 40 of text) is a close resetting of the first edition in slightly smaller type.

Wednesday 17
DL

THE ROVER, or, The Banish'd Cavaliers [Behn]. Ned Blunt—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini. Singing by Mr Leveridge. And Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell, &c.

Thursday 18
DL

‡ **FAREWEL FOLLY**, or, The Younger the Wiser [Peter Anthony Motteux]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *Farewel Folly: or, The Younger the Wiser*. A Comedy, As it is Acted at the Theatre Royal. With a Musical Interlude, call'd *The Mountebank: or, The Humours of the Fair*. Never before Printed. Written by Mr Motteux (London: James Round, 1707). Dramatis Personæ: Old Mr Holdfast—Estcourt; Young Holdfast—Wilks; Richly—Fairbank; Townly—Mills; Mimick—Cibber; Sharp—Pinkethman; Digger—Norris; Squire Lubbard—Bullock; Salathiel—Cross; Shab—Kent // Mariana—Mrs Oldfield; Jenny—Mrs Lucas; Isabella—Mrs Smith; Mrs Lodgem—Mrs Powell. ("Mr Carnaby" is listed among the women, but without a role specified.) Prologue Spoken by Mr Estcourt. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Wilks. (Copy used: Huntington.)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

COMMENT. "The Mountebank-Song, as it is Sung by Doctor Leverigo, and his Merry Andrew Pinkanello" was published in the *Diverting Post* of 13-20 January 1704[5]. "See sirs, see here, a doctor rare," written and sung by Leveridge, was printed in various later collections (D&M 2878; Hunter, no. 33, item 63). On the relationship of *Farewel Folly* to *The Amorous Miser* (a simplified adaptation published at the time of performance), see Cunningham, pp. 137-143, and the list of "Unstaged Plays" at the end of the headnote to this season.

Friday 19
DL

FAREWEL FOLLY, or, The Younger the Wiser [Motteux]. Cast not advertised (but see 18 January). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once.

Saturday 20
DL

FAREWEL FOLLY, or, The Younger the Wiser [Motteux]. Cast not advertised (but see 18 January). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but twice.

COMMENT. No author's benefit was advertised on the third night.

Saturday 20

ADVERTISEMENT. There is prepared for the Entertainment of the Publick, a Consort of Musick, Vocal and Instrumental, in Praise of the Success of her Majesty's Forces in the last Campaign. The Words set to Musick by Mr Jeremiah Clark and Mr William Crofts, Organists to the Chapel Royal, and performed by the best Voices and Hands now in England. Notice will be given of the time in the News Papers on Tuesday next, and Tickets will be

then ready to be delivered by Mr Clark and Mr Crofts, and also by Mr Playford, at his Shop in the Temple Change, Fleet-street. (*Diverting Post*, 13-20 January)

Saturday 20 DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 13-20 January 1704[5] is published "A Consolatory Epistle from the Earl of S-----, to the Lord G-----, . . . occasion'd by the Death of Lady Mary [Findley], the Famous Rope-dancer" ("Blush not, Illustrious Bard, to own"). Internal references ("her Fall," "the faithless Rope") imply that she died in a fall.

Monday 22 **FAREWEL FOLLY, or, The Younger the Wiser** [Motteux]. Cast not advertised (but see 18 January). (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice.

Tuesday 23 **FAREWEL FOLLY, or, The Younger the Wiser** [Motteux]. Cast not advertised (but see 18 January). (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but four times. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, and Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Bicknell, &c.

Wednesday 24 **THE COMICAL REVENGE, or, Love in a Tub** (Written by Sir George Etheridge). Sir Nicholas Cully–Doggett; Palmer–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini. And Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.

Thursday 25 **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)
DL
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several other Entertainments of Singing in Italian. And also Danceing. None to be admitted into the Pit or Boxes, but by the Subscribers Tickets, which are deliver'd at Mr White's Chocolate-house. But the Boxes on the Stage, and the Galleries, are for the Benefit of the Actors.

Thursday 25 **LIKE MASTER LIKE MAN** [author unknown; lost?]. Cast not advertised.
LIF (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. This present Thursday will be reviv'd a Comedy . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing in and between the Acts, viz. That celebrated Dialogue by Mr Boman and Mr Pack, representing a drunken Officer and a Town Miss, originally perform'd in the Opera of the *Mad Lover*. As also a Country Dialogue by Mrs Willis and Mr Short. A new Trumpet Song by Mr Davis, compos'd by Mr Eccles. Likewise the last new Entry by Mr Firbank and Scholar. The Dance of *Blowsabella* by Mr Prince and Mrs Clark; And several other comick Dances by him and others. Also a right *Irish Trot* by a Child of 5 Years of Age. By her Majesty's Sworn Servants.

COMMENT. All that we know about this comedy is from the *Daily Courant* ad, which specifies that it is revived. No English play with this title is known until much later. In 1745 the Scottish actor William Lyon published *The Wrangling Lovers, or Like Master Like Man*. In 1766 Thomas Ryder's *Like Master Like Man* was performed in Dublin, and a year later was brought to London (pub. Dublin, 1770). Both are afterpiece versions of Vanbrugh's *The Mistake* (December 1705), itself a translation of Molière's *Le Dépit amoureux*. Whether this performance in January 1705 represents (a) a pre-Vanbrugh translation or adaptation of Molière, otherwise unknown; (b) a revival of Davenant's *The Man's the Master* under a deformed title; or (c) another play altogether, of which we know nothing, cannot be determined.

Friday 26
DL **TIMON OF ATHENS**, or, The Man-Hater [Shadwell, adapting Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With a Masque set to Musick by the famous Mr Henry Purcel. And several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and Mrs Bicknell.

Saturday 27
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margareta de l'Epine will sing several Songs in Italian and English. With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.

Monday 29
DL **THE COMMITTEE**, or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge; And Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell, and others.

*Both theatres were dark on Tuesday 30 January in observance
of the annual fast for the martyrdom of King Charles I.*

Wednesday 31
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK** [Shakespeare]. Polonius—Doggett (and see 4 November 1704). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.

Wednesday 31
YB **CONCERT** For the Benefit of Mr Dean and Mr Keene. . . . will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick by the best Masters in England, viz. A Solo by a great Italian Master, an extempore Performance on the Flute to a ground by Mr Paisable, a Sonata for two Flutes by him and Mr Banister, a Solo by Mr Dean, &c. With variety of Singing by the best Performers. Beginning at Eight a Clock. Tickets may be had at Robin's Coffeehouse in Exchange-Alley, Nando's at Temple-Bar, Mr Keene's in Arundel-street in the Strand, and Mr Dean's at the Blue Posts in Pall-Mall. [Price not stated.] (*Daily Courant*, 30 January)

ca. late
January
LIF ‡ **THE GAMESTER** [Susanna Centlivre]. Cast not advertised (but see below).
FIRST EDITION. *The Gamester: A Comedy*. As it is Acted at the New Theatre in Lincolns-Inn-Fields, By Her Majesty's Servants (London: William Turner and William Davis, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Sir Thomas Valere—Freeman; Dorante—Corey; Young Valere—Verbruggen; Lovewell—Betterton; Marquess of Hazard—Fieldhouse; Hector—Pack; Galoon—Smeaton; Count Cogdie—Dickins; First Gentleman—Weller; Second Gentleman—Knap; Box Keeper—Lee // Lady Wealthy—Mrs Barry; Angelica—Mrs Bracegirdle; Betty—Mrs Parsons; Favourite—Mrs Hunt; Mrs Security—Mrs Willis; Mrs Topknot—Mrs Fieldhouse. Prologue, Written by Mr Roe [Rowe], and Spoke by Mr Betterton. Epilogue [by Charles Johnson, according to the *Diverting Post* of 27 January-3 February], Spoke by Mr Verbruggen.

Dedication: The Kind Reception this Play has met with from the Town, gives me some Hopes of Your Lordship's Acceptance. . . . The Design of this Piece were [*sic*] to divert, without that Vicious Strain which usually attends the Comick Muse, and according to the first intent of Plays recommend Morality, and I hope I have in some measure, perform'd it; I dare affirm there is nothing Immodest, nor immoral in it;

part of it I own my self oblig'd to the French for, particularly the Character of the Gamester [i.e., to Regnard's *Le joueur* (1696)]; but he is intirely ruin'd in the French; whereas I, in Complaisance to the many fine Gentlemen that Play in England, have reclaim'd him, after I have discover'd the ill Consequence of Gaming.

COMMENT. We have dated the play on the basis of (a) publication of music, prologue, and epilogue at the beginning of February, and (b) the statement in the *Flying Post* of 22 February that the performance that night is the twelfth. The run was not continuous, and the première could not have occurred after 5 February, but with ancillary materials already in print a somewhat earlier date is indicated. Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* on 9 February. Publication of "the new Musick in the Comedy call'd the *Gamester*, compos'd by Mr Terton [i.e., John Lenton] Price 1s. 6d. the Set" was advertised in the *Post Man* of 30 January-1 February. The prologue and epilogue were published in the *Diverting Post* for 27 January-3 February.

A notice for a performance of *The Busie Body* in the *Post Boy* of 26-28 May 1709 for the benefit of "the Family of Mrs Mary Pix, deceas'd," states that "the greatest part of which said Comedy, and also that of the *Gamester*, was wrote by the said Mrs Pix." We are not aware of any evidence to confirm this assertion.

February 1705

- Thursday 1*
DL **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. A new Opera never perform'd but twice . . . None to be admitted into the Pit or Boxes but by the Subscribers Tickets deliver'd at Mr White's Chocolate-house in St. James-street; but the Boxes on the Stage, and the Galleries, are for the Benefit of the Actors.
- Friday 2*
DL **THE REHEARSAL** [Buckingham]. Bayes—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini, and Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell, and others.
- Saturday 3*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS, or, The Nest of Fools** [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November) (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margareta de l'Epine will Sing several new Songs in Italian and English. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
- Saturday 3*
DL REPORT. Congreve to Joseph Keally: I have been so employed, and am still like to be so, that I have no time for any thing. I know not when the house [i.e., the new Haymarket Theatre] will open, nor what we shall begin withal; but I believe with no opera. There is nothing settled yet. (*Congreve: Letters and Documents*, p. 35)
COMMENT. The uncertainty of the co-manager as to what the new theatre would open with is striking testimony to the haste with which the company must have mounted Greber's *Gli amori d'Ergasto* in early April.
- Monday 5*
DL **DON JOHN, or, The Libertine Destroy'd** [Shadwell]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All the Musick being compos'd by the late famous Mr Henry Purcell, And perform'd by Mr Leveridge and others. To which will be added several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, Mrs Bicknell,

and others.

Tuesday 6
DL

THE PLAIN DEALER [Wycherley]. Manly–Griffin. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing.

Tuesday 6
SJP

ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not known (but see 16 January). This performance at court on the Queen's birthday is known from a notice in the *London Gazette* of 5-8 February 1704[5]: "St. James's, Feb. 6. This being Her Majesty's Birth-Day . . . Before Dinner, there was an Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, and in the Evening an Opera." The opera is identified in an ad run in the *Daily Courant* on 2 and 3 March for a performance at DL on Monday 5 March: "a new Opera, all sung, (after the Italian manner) call'd, *Arsinoe, Queen of Cyprus*. As it was perform'd at St James's before Her Majesty on Her Birthday." Cast not known (but see 16 January). The earlier entertainments included an ode set by Eccles, a dance called "The Marlborough" by Isaac, and dancing by Du Ruel and his wife. (See Bucholz, *Augustan Court*, Table 7.5.)

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. On Tuesday last was Celebrated here Her Majesty's Birth-Day; the Nobility and Gentry appearing at Court in a very Costly and Magnificent manner: The Day was spent with the usual Solemnities at Court; there being a Magnificent Feast, with an Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick; and the Night Concluded with a fine Opera, to the Satisfaction of all the Court. There was also Bonfires, Ringing of Bells, Illuminations, and other Demonstrations of Joy, upon account of the same. (*London Post*, 7-9 February)

COMMENT. The Drury Lane ad for Wednesday 7 February specifies "several Entertainments of Danceing which were perform'd last Night before her Majesty [i.e., in this performance at court] by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel." A special prologue for the court performance was written by Congreve and published by Tonson as a broadside (reprinted by Danchin, I, 255-256). Publication was advertised "This day" in the *Daily Courant* of 8 February. Also printed was "An Epilogue to the Court, on the Queen's Birth-Day. By Roger, the *Observer's* Country-man" (published by B. Bragg). Danchin (I, 254, 256-257) reports Luttrell's acquisition date (Newberry copy) as 14 February 1704/5. Danchin sensibly queries whether this was "the actual epilogue spoken," since the tone seems inappropriate, especially an attack on "Kit-Cat J—b" (i.e., Jacob Tonson). Danchin inclines to the theory that this piece is "merely a political pamphlet in the form of an epilogue," and so do we.

Wednesday 7
DL

FAREWEL FOLLY, or, The Younger the Wiser [Motteux]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing by Mr Leveridge, and several Entertainments of Danceing which were perform'd last Night before Her Majesty by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.

Thursday 8
DL

SECRET LOVE, or, The Maiden Queen [Dryden]. Florimel–Mrs Cross. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mrs Cross. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Danceing by her. Particularly a Dialogue compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcell, beginning, Tell me why my Charming Fair. Perform'd by her and Mr Leveridge, and Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Monsieur Cherrier.

COMMENT. An advance notice in the *Daily Courant* of 5 February says "The Part of Florimel to be perform'd by Mrs Cross. Being the first time of her Acting there these five Years."

COMMENT. Singing by Mrs Cross had been advertised at Drury Lane for 16 December and 2 January. Florimel is probably the first role she had taken in a play since her return.

Thursday 8
LIF **ALL FOR LOVE**, or, *The World well Lost* [Dryden]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 9
DL **SECRET LOVE**, or, *The Maiden Queen* [Dryden]. Florimel–Mrs Cross. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing which will be express'd in the Great Bills.

Friday 9
LIF **THE MAN OF MODE**, or, *Sir Fopling Flutter* [Etherege]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 8 February)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing in Italian by Signiora Ziuliana de Celotte; All the Instrumental and Vocal Musick compos'd by that eminent Master Sigismond Cousser, both lately arrive'd in England.

COMMENT. This is Ziuliana Celotti's first recorded appearance in London. For the little known about her, see *Biographical Dictionary*, III, 129.

Saturday 10
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS**, or, *The Nest of Fools* [Brome]. Cast not advertised (but see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margareta de l'Epine will sing several new Songs in Italian and English. With several new Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, and others.

Monday 12
DL **THE SPANISH FRYAR**, or, *The Double Discovery* [Dryden]. Fryar [Dominic]–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Singing by Mr Leveridge. Several Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini; particularly an Echo by him and Monsieur du Ruel. And Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and others.

Tuesday 13
DL COMMENT. The première of John Dennis' *Gibraltar* was advertised in the *Daily Courant* but had to be deferred (see 16 February).

Tuesday 13
YB **CONCERT**. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Corbett. . . . will be perform'd by the best Voices and Masters, a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick entirely New. beginning at 8 of the Clock precisely. Tickets may be had at the Door, at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street, and at the Smyrna Coffee-House in the Pall-mall. (*Daily Courant*, 12 February)

Wednesday 14
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF OEDIPUS KING OF THEBES** [Dryden and Lee]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With all the Musick compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcell, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, and others.

Thursday 15
DL **TUNBRIDGE-WALKS**, or, *The Yeoman of Kent* [Baker]. Woodcock–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Singing

by the new Boy. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.

Friday 16
DL

‡ **GIBRALTAR**, or, The Spanish Adventure [John Dennis]. Cast not advertised (but see 20 February). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *Gibraltar: or, The Spanish Adventure*, A Comedy. As it was Acted at the Theatre in Drury-Lane. By Mr Dennis (London: Wm. Turner and J. Nutt, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Publication was advertised in the *Post Man* of 8-10 March. No actors' names. The Prologue. First Epilogue Writ by a Friend, Spoken by Leonora. Second Epilogue, Writ by the Author, Spoke by the Serjeant, but shortened in the Speaking to make room for the First. Danchin (I, 261) adds "An Epilogue design'd to be spoken at the Acting of *Gibraltar*, on the *Second Night*, being for the Benefit of the Author." It was printed in the *Diverting Post* of 24 February-3 March 1704/[5].

Preface: This Play was so unfortunate as to find the Town out of Humour with it, whether it proceeded from the Calamities which attended the Rehearsal, which were so numerous as never had befallen any Play in my Memory, or from the Malice, and strange Prejudices with which many came prepossess'd. The first day it was well Acted in most of its Parts, but was not suffer'd to be heard. The second day it was, for the most part, faintly and negligently Acted, and consequently was not seen; and a Play depriv'd of its Life, and its Spirit, can no more please like one which appears with those, than a Dead Man can have the Agreeableness of a Man who is Living. . . .

I, by no means think it comparable to some ev'n of my own Plays. I was too much fatig'd by the long Poem which I wrote this Summer, in so short a space, to design any thing for the Stage like a Master Piece; and the two last Acts of this Play were writ with two [*sic*] much Precipitation for that. Yet, I look'd upon it to be an agreeable Trifle, with which those might be delighted, who have tast of a Low Comedy. . . . I shall only say one Word, which may serve to answer a great many Objections, which are daily made against Plays; and that is this, that it is impossible there can be any where found a more contemptible Judge of Plays, than he who takes the Sentiments of the Characters for the Sentiments of the Poet; for the Sentiments of the Characters being *Pro* and *Con*, if these Sentiments are the Poets, he must necessarily Contradict himself, and can never have any meaning.

I have only this to add, that the Landskip which is painted in the first Scene of the Play, is drawn after Imagination, and not after the Truth, for there is no such place as is there describ'd near *Gibraltar*, and for that reason I ordered it to be left out in the Acting, because, upon the Stage, there could be no Apology made for it.

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

Saturday 17
DL

SECRET LOVE, or, The Maiden Queen [Dryden]. Florimel—Mrs Cross. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de l'Epine will sing several Songs in Italian and English. With several new Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur and Mrs du Ruel.

Monday 19
DL

COMMENT. Drury Lane was apparently dark this day. Its *Daily Courant* ad on the 19th concerns John Dennis' author benefit for *Gibraltar* on Tuesday the 20th—an exceptional instance of a theatre cancelling a second night in order to move directly from première to the author's benefit and the end of the run.

Tuesday 20
DL

GIBRALTAR, or, The Spanish Adventure [Dennis]. With several Alterations. Duena—Norris. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Dennis. . . . With several Enter-

tainments of Singing and Danceing, which will be express'd in tomorrow's Bills [*sic*].

COMMENT. The use of the author's name in the benefit ad is unusual. The person who sent copy to the *Daily Courant* forgot to alter phraseology used in the ad for the 19th.

Tuesday 20
LIF

THE AMOROUS WIDOW, or, The Wanton Wife [Betterton]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several new Entertainments of Danceing by the Famous Madamoiselle de la Val, Mrs Elford, Monsieur l'Abbee's Brother and Scholar.

*Starting Wednesday 21 February, neither company acted
on Wednesdays or Fridays during Lent.*

Thursday 22
DL

THE CHANCES [Buckingham, adapting Fletcher]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mrs Oldfield. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.

COMMENT. Oldfield's usual role was the Second Constantia, and we presume that she performed it on this occasion.

Thursday 22
LIF

THE GAMESTER [Centlivre]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 20 February)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With an Addition of a new Scene. For the Benefit of the Author. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.

COMMENT. Avery (I, 88) reports that the *Flying Post* of 22 February calls this the twelfth night.

Thursday 22

ADVERTISEMENT. The Playhouse in Lincoln's-Inn Fields is to be Let, or disposed of on a Building Lease, or to be sold. Enquire of Mr Robert Moore, a Booseller, at the Bible in Serle-street near Lincoln's-Inn Back-Gate. (*London Gazette*, 19-22 February 1704[5])

COMMENT. No buyer or renter seems to have been found. According to tax records in the Westminster Public Library, William Pinkethman was the tenant or owner of record by 1706-07, but by 14 May 1708 Christopher Rich had succeeded him. (See Paul Sawyer, *The New Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields* [London: Society for Theatre Research, 1979], p. 10.) For another ad offering the premises for let, see 7 September 1708.

Saturday 24
DL

THE PLAIN DEALER [Wycherley]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de l'Epine will Sing several new Songs in Italian and English. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel. Particularly a new Dance call'd the Heroine compos'd by Mrs du Ruel, at the Desire of a Person of Quality.

Monday 26
DL

THE RELAPSE, or, Vertue in Danger [Vanbrugh]. Amanda—Mrs Rogers. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Mrs Rogers playing her own part. With Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughes, and the new Boy. And several Italian Sonatas by Signior Gasperini. And Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier and Mrs Moss.

- Tuesday 27*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Wilks. . . . With Singing by Mr Leveridge and the new Boy. Some Sonatas on the Violin by Signior Gasperini. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
- Wednesday 28*
IH **CONCERT.** A great Consort of Musick, consisting of the best Performers, both Vocal and Instrumental, besides a New Voice, exceedingly admir'd; at the Great India House, lately opened, at the end of Pall-mall, facing the Hay-market; being encouraged by several persons of Quality: The Consort begins at seven. Tickets may be had at the door of the said India House. [Price not stated.] (*Post Man*, 24-27 February)

March 1705

- Thursday 1*
DL **GREENWICH PARK** [Mountfort]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mrs du Ruel. . . . With Singing by the new Boy. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel, particularly the *Heroine*, a Dance compos'd by Monsieur du Ruel at the Desire of a Person of Quality.
- Thursday 1*
LIF **THE AGREEABLE DISAPPOINTMENT** [*Love Betray'd*] [Burnaby]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Pack and Mrs Bradshaw. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Mrs Elford, Mr Firbank, and others. And Singing by Mrs Hodgson. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
- Friday 2*
TGB **CONCERT.** A Consort of Musick will be perform'd by the best Masters, at Mr Kinhamer's at the Two Golden Balls in Hart-street near the upper end of Bow-street, Covent-Garden, this present Friday being the 2d of March, beginning at Seven a Clock. Tickets may be had at White's Chocolate-house in St. James's, and at Tom's Coffee-house in Covent-Garden, at 5s. a Ticket. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 3*
DL **SIR COURTLY NICE**, or, It cannot be [Crowne]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the famous Signiora Francisca Margareta de l'Epine will sing several new Songs in Italian and English. With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and Mrs Moss.
- Saturday 3*
LIF **THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO, MOOR OF VENICE** [Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised (but see 25 November 1704). (*Daily Courant*, 2 March)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Betterton. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Mademoiselle Duval, Mrs Elford, and others. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
COMMENT. Betterton presumably played Othello.
- Saturday 3*
DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 24 February-3 March is printed a nine-line effusion in verse "Upon Mrs Tofts" by "Mr Sam. Phillips" ("How are we pleas'd when beauteous Tofts appears").

- Monday 5*
DL **ARSINOE, QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*, 3 March)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. A new Opera, all sung, (after the Italian manner) . . . As it was perform'd at St James's before Her Majesty on Her Birth-day.
- Tuesday 6*
DL **CONCERT.** The performers, time, and price are unknown. The concert is known from a hand-drawn sketch of what is reportedly a ticket once in the possession of Joseph Haslewood for a "Musick" at "Covent Garden" [i.e., Drury Lane Theatre?] for "Tuesday 6 March 1704" [i.e., 1704/5]. New York Public Library Drexel MS 1986, fol. 2v. Another such sketch, specifying "the Musick at the Playhouse in Covent Garden" is pasted into the Smith Collections, British Library 11791.dd.18, Vol. IX, 96.
- Wednesday 7*
YB **CONCERT.** At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Hodgson. . . . will be a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, perform'd by the best Masters: With several Pieces of the late Mr Purcell, and variety of new Songs. Beginning at Eight of the Clock precisely. Tickets may be had at the Door and at the Smirna Coffee-house in the Pall-mall, and at St. Cecilia's Coffee-house in St. Martin's-Lane. [Price not stated.] (*Daily Courant*, 6 March)
- Thursday 8*
DL **ARSINOE, QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. As it was perform'd before Her Majesty at St. James's on Her Birth-day. The Dances perform'd by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and others.
- Saturday 10*
DL **SECRET LOVE, or, The Maiden Queen** [Dryden]. Florimel—Mrs Cross. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and Mrs Moss. And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de l'Epine will sing several new Songs in Italian and English. For her own Benefit.
- Saturday 10*
LIF **DON SEBASTIAN, KING OF PORTUGAL** [Dryden]. Cast not advertised. With the Masque of **THE JUDGMENT OF PARIS** [libretto by Congreve; Eccles' music?]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . For the Benefit of Mrs Barry. . . . And several Entertainments of Danceing by Mademoiselle de la Val, Mrs Elford, and both Monsieur l'Abbe's Scholars. Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. Gallery 2s. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
- Saturday 10*
DOCUMENT. On this day, publication of an anonymous and unacted comedy called *The Lunatick* was advertised by B. Bragg in the *Post Man* (see the list of unacted plays in the season headnote). William Taverner may have been the author. The dedication contains an extensive commentary on the managers at Lincoln's Inn Fields.
 The Epistle Dedicatory to the Three Rulings B—s of the New-House in Lincolns-Inn-Fields. Most Arbitrary and Most Hermaphrodite Conjunction, Since it has been brought into a Custom to offer the Products of the Brain to those who generally have the least Pretence to it, by that Rule the following Play has a peculiar right to appear under so Illustrious a Protection as

Yours, whose Sense and Honesty are not less Conspicuous than Your High Birth, and Education. The First, the many Glorious Farces, Ridiculous Tragedies, the Lumber of the Stalls, which by a joint-consent You have Cook'd up, and Palm'd upon the World, testifie beyond a Contest the Sound, the Eminent Justice You have done all those Ridiculous Coxcombs who engag'd themselves in Your Cause against them, who Paid them Honestly, and Rul'd them easily, will abundantly make out, and the other two will be extremely Visible to those who know any thing of Scotland-Yard Stall, Old Gowns, and the Wash-bowl. Having thus done more for You than most Writers can do for their Patrons, I have some Confidence that the World will not accuse me of Ambition, and Mercenary Design in Dedicating to those by whom no Part of Mankind yet got Twopence: Heroes and Beauties are generally too full of themselves, to bestow their Favours without a valuable Consideration. And Jago's Precept to Roderigo has reach'd all the Candidates of their Favour, (Put Money in thy Purse,) being sure of a Repulse where the Fee is only in Promise, and more than Lawyers are averse to a Cause in forma Pauperis. The old Thread-bare Whim of Merit and sense are laudibly laid aside by You, and You, like the other Giants of Mankind, think

What is the Worth of any thing,
But as much Money as 'twill bring.

And in that, perhaps, You may be in the Right, if you knew what would bring You Money and what not; but since you go by guess, I know no reason why the following Piece was so long Postpon'd, while you brought on such a heap of Vicious Rubbish, as no tolerable Judge could expect a Benefit from; but Kissing goes by Favour, and You, of all Governours, have been the most Generous to Your Darlings; You have by an excessive Fondness of them, and a peculiar happiness of Management, turn'd your selves out of Doors, and Starv'd all Your Dependants; brought a Company, in a few Years, from the Admiration, to the Contempt of the Town; a Work beyond the Talent of most Men, whose little Capacities have made them at least so true to their Interest, as to let those get something, but whom they got all. But You will, perhaps, accuse me of Partiality, and giving You a Praise beyond Your Deserts, since You will Plead Your bringing on half a Dozen good Plays in Ten Years. But I might say of that, as Diagoras did of the Offering in the Temples of those who had escap'd the Tempests of the Sea, That those who were Drown'd had put up none; for the Number is so small of those that had been sav'd in Your Element, that they wou'd be lost in the Multitudes of the Damn'd. But it is a good-natur'd Saying, *De mortuis nil nisi Bonum*. Speak well of the Dead. Your Dominion is Expir'd, Your Reign at an End, and therefore to remark on Your Follies, is an Ill-natur'd Censure, which Humanity condemns, especially, since by Your ill Management You have made way for Your Subjects to come into a more Honourable Regiment, and as a Pennance for Your past Crimes, You become Pupils in Your Old Age; this shews indeed, that

All Humane Things are subject to Decay,
And when Fate Summons, Mortals must Obey.

But have You, Illustrious Princes, consider'd what You are doing? What Noble Perquisites You give up? There will be no more Clandestine Sharing betwixt You without the rest; no more private accounts, and Double Books; no more paying Debts half a score times over out of the Publick Stock, yet

never paying them in reality at all. There will be no more sinking Three Hundred and fifty Pounds at a time in the Money repaid on a famous Singer's Account, but never accounted for to the rest of the Sharers; no more stopping all the Pay of the Under Actors on Subscription-Nights, when You were allow'd forty or fifty Pound a Night for the House, besides the Benefit of the Galleries; no more sinking the Court-Money into Your own Pockets, and letting the Sallary People and Under Sharers Starve without Pay; no more taking Benefit-Days in the best Season of the year, and Dunning the Quality for Guinea-Tickets to help out the Defects of all the other above-named Perquisites; no fifty Shillings per Week for scowring Old Lace, nor burning it, and selling the Product for private advantage; no Twenty Shillings a Day House-Rent; no sharing Profits with the Poetasters; nor Eating and Drinking out the other half before the Performance; no saving Coals at Home, by Working, Eating and Drinking, &c. by the Stock-Fire; nor, in short, any Advantage to be made but by stated Sallaries, or the best Improvement of Natural Gifts, as far as Age, ugliness and Gout will permit.

If You have taken a View of this Melancholy Prospect, ponder it well before You conclude, and remember, that the Pleasure of Insulting Poets (whom You are not worthy to Converse with) and of Judging of Plays, which You do not understand, are Prerogatives which few of Your Station wou'd so easily quit. Being confident the good Advice I have given You, will heartily engage You in my Interest, I commit my self and my Play, with a wonderful Satisfaction, to Your Patronage, and abundantly please my self with subscribing my self Your most Humble, and Devoted Servant, Franck Telltroth. [Anon., *The Lunatick* (London: B. Bragg, 1705). Copy used: Folger.]

COMMENT. For discussion of this bitter attack on the management of Thomas Betterton, Elizabeth Barry, and Anne Bracegirdle, see Milhous, *Thomas Betterton*, pp. 162-164.

Monday 12
DL

THE COMICAL REVENGE, or, Love in a Tub (Written by Sir George Etheridge). Sir Nicholas Cully—Doggett; Palmer—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Italian Sonatas on the Violin by Signior Gasperini, and Singing by the new Boy, and Danceing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Bignall, and others.

Tuesday 13
DL

ARSINOE, QUEEN OF CYPRUS [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . All sung after the Italian manner. The Dances to be perform'd by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and others.

Thursday 15
DL

SHE WOU'D, IF SHE COU'D (Written by Sir George Etheridge). Sir Oliver Cockwood—Doggett; Sir Joslin Jolly—Estcourt. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted there these six Years. . . . For the Benefit of Mr Estcourt. With Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, and the New Boy. And several Entertainments of Danceing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, and Mrs Moss.

COMMENT. New music was evidently written for this play at about this time. In the *Post Man* of 17-20 March 1705 is an ad for publication "This Day" by Walsh and Hare of "the new Musick in four parts, perform'd in the Comedy call'd, *She wou'd if she cou'd*. Composed by a person of Quality, price 1s. 6d."

- Saturday 17*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and others. And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de l'Epine will perform several new Entertainments of Singing in Italian and English.
- Saturday 17*
DL DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 10-17 March is a fourteen-line poem "Upon Mrs Du Ruel" by "Mr Sam. Phillips" ("Gods, how she steps! see how the blushing Fair").
- Monday 19*
DL **SHE WOU'D, IF SHE COU'D** [Etherege]. Sir Oliver Cockwood–Doggett; Sir Joselyn Jolly–Estcourt; Gatee [Gatty]–Mrs Cross. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing by the new Boy, some Italian Sonata's on the Violin by Signior Gasperini, and Dancing by Monseur Cherrier, Mr Laferry [La Forest] and Mrs Bignall.
- Tuesday 20*
DL **ARSINOE, QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . All sung after the Italian manner. The Dances perform'd by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and others.
- Wednesday 21*
YB **CONCERT.** For the Benefit of Mr Dupree . . . will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick by the best Masters, beginning at Seven a Clock. Five Shillings a Ticket. (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 22*
DL COMMENT. Owen Swiney's *The Quacks, or, Love's the Physician* was advertised in the *Daily Courant* for this day, but was suppressed. The ad read: "Never Acted before. . . . With several Entertainments of Musick and Dancing by the best Performers. For the Benefit of Ben. Johnson." A poem "Upon the new Farce, called, *The Quacks*, being forbid to be Acted on Thursday the 22d of March" ("If any Man ask the Reason") was printed in the *Diverting Post* of 31 March-7 April 1705. A four-line poem "On the Obstruction given to the Farce called, *The Quacks*" ("Ye Sons of Parnassus, that filch for your Bread") appeared in the issue of 7-14 April. For other information on the suppression, see 29 March and Rich's letter of 9 December 1705 to the Lord Chamberlain's office.
- Saturday 24*
DL **THE RELAPSE, or, Virtue in Danger** [Vanbrugh]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de l'Epine, will sing several Songs in Italian and English. With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and Mrs Moss.
- Monday 26*
DL COMMENT. Drury Lane did not run an ad in the *Daily Courant* this day, which is extremely unusual for them at this time. Throughout Lent, the company regularly advertised the next day's performance on Wednesdays and Fridays. The house was probably dark for some reason, most likely connected with the suppression of *The Quacks*.

- Tuesday 27*
DL **ARSINOË, QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All Sung after the Italian Manner . . . the Dances to be perform'd by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrer, Mrs Du Ruel, and Mrs Moss.
- Wednesday 28*
DL COMMENT. Swiney's *The Quacks* was again advertised for this day, and again suppressed.
- Thursday 29*
DL ‡ **THE QUACKS**, or, Love's the Physician [Owen Swiney]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
FIRST EDITION. *The Quacks, or, Love's the Physician*. As it was Acted (after being twice forbid) at the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane. By Mr Swinny (London: Benj. Bragg, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Sir Patient Carefull—Norris; Clitander—Mills; Doctor Medley—Bullock; Caudle—Cross; Tickle Pulse—Pinkeman; Novice—Bickerstaff; Refugee—Cibber; Rhubarb—Fairbank; Freckle—Keen; Harry—Estcourt // Lysette—Mrs Moor; Lucinda—Mrs Temple; Doris—Mrs Powel; Nurse—[Mr] Carnaby. Prologue. Epilogue Forbid to be Spoke. Epilogue Spoke by Mr Mills.
Preface: The hints of this Play were taken from a petit Piece of Moliere call'd *L'Amour Medicin*. I can't stile it a Translation [*sic*], the Doctors part being intirely new, much of the other Characters alter'd, and the Contrivance somewhat Chang'd.
The Town were a little Surpriz'd, to find an Entertainment forbid upon the Day it was to be Represented; it seems, the better to Divert 'em, this Play was to be stifled because the other House were to Act one upon the same Subject! . . . As for the Gentlemen of the other House, who are to reform the Stage, purify our Diversions and Naturalize all the Wit of Moliere . . . I shall only say of 'em That they are the properest Persons in the World to reform the Stage, having known so well what it is to corrupt it, as those Physicians they say are the best, who have felt the Diseases they are to Cure.
I hope no worthy Man will believe that my design in this Trifle, was to Expose the Character of a Physician, but the abuse of it; to set Ignorance and Villany in a proper Light, and shew Men how easy they are Deceiv'd when they are taken by their Passions.
The Noise of these Scenes Alarm'd the Licencer [Charles Killigrew], who generally destroys with as much Distinction as the old Woman in Don Quixots Library and wou'd a sav'd no more of 'em, if it were not, that he is pay'd for Tolerating some; however they are here intire, and if I believ'd any Body was unacquainted with his good Judgment, I shou'd mar out the Retrenchments he made and shew that the edg of his Justice was turn'd upon the Innocent, and that he rather Disfigures than Cures.
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never acted before . . . With several Entertainments of singing and dancing by the best Performers.
COMMENT. The authors of the *Biographical Dictionary* (III, 75) question whether James Carnaby played the nurse in the first production, but the evidence seems inconclusive, so we give the cast as reported.
- Saturday 31*
DL **ÆSOP** [Vanbrugh]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being oblidg'd at the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With some Scenes Reviv'd. And the famous Signiora Francisca Margarita de L'Epine, will sing several Songs in Italian and English. With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur de Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs de Ruel, Mrs Bicknall and others. Being the last time of Acting till Easter Week.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 30 March *Richard III* was advertised for this day.

- Saturday 31*
LIF **THE VIRTUOSO** [Shadwell]. Cast not advertised. To which will be added the Masque of **ACIS AND GALATEA** [Motteux and Eccles]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 30 March)
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Five Years. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality, for the Benefit of Cave Underhill. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing by Mademoiselle de la Val, Mrs Elford, Mr Firbank and others. Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. Gallery 2s. It being the last time of Acting at this House.
- COMMENT. The company sensibly decided to make use of the Passion Week hiatus to make their move to their new theatre.
- Saturday 31* DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 24-31 March is printed "On the Duke of Marlborough's approaching Campaign. Made and set by Mr H. Hall of Hereford, and Sung with great Applause by the new Boy at the Theatre Royal" ("Heark to the War, the Trumpet sounds").

April 1705

Monday 2-Saturday 7 April
PASSION WEEK

- Monday 2*
YB **CONCERT.** At the Desire of several Persons of Quality . . . will be perform'd a great Consort of Musick, both Vocal and Instrumental: The Vocal part to be performed by Signora Juliana Celotti, and the Instrumental by 20 of the most eminent Masters in London. For the Benefit of Signora Juliana Celotti. To begin exactly at 7 of the Clock. Tickets may be had at Mr Weger, at the black Balcony in Suffolk-street. [Price not stated.] (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 7*
GBS **ENTERTAINMENTS.** Mr Robinson, Master Ladder-Dancer of England: He does such wonderful things that has been very surprising to all that ever saw him; he stands on the uppermost Step of the Ladder and turns himself quite round, which no Man ever did, or can do besides himself; playing on the Violin, with several other things. He is approved to be the only Person in that Art. To which is added, Vaulting on the Slack Rope, and Tumbling; with Entertainments of Singing and Dancing. Perform'd by several Persons. To be seen at the Great Booth at Stepney during the time of Easter-week. No Money Entrance, but what you please to call for, as a Glass of very good Wine and Cyder." (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 7* DOCUMENT. Theatre Royall 7th April 1705. This is to Certifie That Mr George Powell is at Libertie to dispose of himself as he thinks fitt. Chr. Rich (LC 7/3, fol. 91)
- COMMENT. Powell's return to Drury Lane had lasted less than a season. He was advertised at Queen's in *The Indian Emperour* on 14 April.
- Monday 9*
DL **THE QUACKS; Or, Love's the Physician** [Swiney]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but Once. . . . With several Entertainments of Musick and Dancing by the best Performers.

Monday 9
Queen's

‡ **GLI AMORI D'ERGASTO** [music by Jacomo Greber]. Performance and cast not advertised, but see below.

FIRST EDITION. *The Loves of Ergasto*. A Pastoral. Represented at the Opening of the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-market. Compos'd by Signior Giacomo Greber (London: Jacob Tonson, 1705). [With facing title page in Italian.] Copy used: University of Chicago. A dual-language Italian-English libretto. No singers' names. Cupid Sings the Prologue.

COMMENT. This performance marks the opening of Vanbrugh's fancy new Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket. The Newdigate Newsletter has the following account, late or muddled in tense, but apparently substantively correct: "On Monday next [i.e., last?] the new Theatre in the hay market built by the subscriptions of the Nobillity is to be opened at which time a new Italian pastorall called the *Loves of Ergasto* set to music by the famous Italian [German] Jacomo Greber will be acted." (Folger Shakespeare Library)

Downes reports as follows: "About the end of 1704, Mr Betterton Assign'd his License, and his whole Company over to Captain Vantbrugg to Act under his [license], at the Theatre in the Hay Market. And upon the 9th, of April 1705. Captain Vantbrugg open'd his new Theatre in the Hay-Market, with a Foreign Opera, Perform'd by a new set of Singers, Arriv'd from Italy; (the worst that e're came from thence) for it lasted but 5 Days, and they being lik'd but indifferently by the Gentry; they in a little time marcht back to their own Country." (*Roscus Anglicanus*, pp. 98-99)

Publication of the dual-language libretto confirms that the opera given was Jacomo Greber's *Gli amori d'Ergasto* and strongly implies that the performance was given in Italian. The identity of the Italian performers has been much but inconclusively disputed. Curtis Price suggests that "Vanbrugh and Congreve may have imported one or two Italian singers during the frantic preparations for the opening of their theatre, but it is likely that they assembled most of their shabby cast from among the foreigners at the rival Drury Lane theatre." See Price, "The Critical Decade for English Music Drama," p. 47. Colley Cibber (*Apology*, I, 325) gives a rather hazy account of the opening of the theatre: "To strike in, therefore, with this prevailing Novelty [opera], Sir John Vanbrugh and Mr Congreve open'd their new Hay-Market theatre with a translated opera to Italian Musick, called *The Triumph of Love* [actually given in 1706], but this not having in it the Charms of *Camilla* [to be staged at Drury Lane in 1706], either from the Inequality of the Music or Voices, had but a cold Reception, being perform'd but three Days, and those not crowded. Immediately upon the Failure of this Opera, Sir John Vanbrugh produced his Comedy call'd the *Confederacy*" [actually not given until 30 October]. Cibber's account has led so reputable an authority as Fiske to believe that the performance was in English, but what Cibber had to say of an event that occurred at the rival theatre thirty-five years before he was writing must be viewed with skepticism, especially as he is manifestly muddled. He is right about the essential point: the Haymarket opened with a dismal failure. But Cibber gets the opera wrong; probably gets the language wrong; and is clearly conflating events of 1705 and 1706. The testimony of Downes (writing within three years of the event), the dual-language libretto, and the stress on "Italian" pastoral convince us that Vanbrugh attempted unsuccessfully to combat Drury Lane's success with the stolen *Arsinoe* by mounting an Italian-style all-sung opera in the original language.

Who were the performers? Downes' comment about a foreign company notwithstanding, there seems a high probability that most if not all of the singers were hired locally. From subsequent disputes between Vanbrugh and the Baroness, we infer that she had a part. Margarita de l'Epine ("Greber's Peg") is an obvious candidate: she had been singing at Drury Lane, but the nature of her contract is unknown. Maria Gallia is another possibility.

A "Prologue Spoken at the First Opening of the Queen's New Theatre in the

Hay-Market" (by Samuel Garth) was published as a broadside (London: John Nutt, 1705). Another broadside printing, by Benjamin Bragg, included on the verso a prose paraphrase "in a Familiar Stile, for the better Conception of the True Meaning, and for the Particular Use of Mr Jer. Collier." The prologue for the opening was reprinted in the *Muses Mercury* in February 1707. Congreve's "Epilogue at the Opening of the Queen's Theatre, in the Hay-Market, with an Italian Pastoral. Spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle" was published in Congreve's *Works* of 1710. All of this ancillary matter is reprinted with helpful commentary by Danchin, I, 265-269.

The opening of Vanbrugh's new theatre naturally attracted a good deal of commentary, most of it satirical or hostile. The *Diverting Post* of 7-14 April printed an epigram "On the Projectors of the New Play-House in the Hay-Market":

When I their boxes, Pit, and Stage, did see,
Their Musick Room, and middle Gallery,
In Semi-circles all of them to be;
I well perceiv'd they took peculiar Care
Nothing to make, or do, upon the Square.

An anticipatory broadside in the form of a mock-advertisement for "The New Hospital in the Hay-Market" appeared ca. late March, listing "Places under the Governours to be dispos'd of"—including "A Cryer of Rehearsals—fit for a Herald" [Vanbrugh] and a "Play Cutter—fit for an Exhausted Poet" [Congreve], etc. (See British Library 816.m.19 [35]; printed in Albert Rosenberg, "A New Motive for the Censorship of Owen Swiney's 'The Quacks'," *Notes and Queries*, 203 [1958], 393-396.) Circa May an anonymous pamphlet appeared called *A Kit-Kat C-b Describ'd* (London: Printed in the Year, 1705), mocking the contributions of the Kit-Cat Club to Vanbrugh's theatre (see *Document Register*, no. 1806). The 3 May 1705 issue of Defoe's *Review of the Affairs of France* contains a biting attack on the new theatre, objecting to its encouragement of vice and sneering at Vanbrugh's problems in collecting money pledged by his subscribers. Defoe includes Garth's prologue for the first night, plus an abusive poem "On the New Playhouse in the Hay-Market." In the 5-12 May issue of *Rehearsal of Observer* is another hostile account of the theatre, treating it as the "Temple" of the Kit-Cat Club.

Tuesday 10
DL

THE QUACKS; Or, Love's the Physician [Swiney]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Author. Never Acted but Twice. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing [singing] by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, Mrs Lyndsey and the new Boy. A Piece of Instrumental Musick by Mr Paisible, Mr Banister, Mr Lully [Loeillet] and others. And Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, and Mrs Moss.

Wednesday 11
DL

THE COMMITTEE; Or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt; Obadiah the Clerk—Johnson. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Mr Johnson performs his own part of Obadiah the Clerk. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.

Thursday 12
DL

ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All sung after the Italian manner. For the Benefit of the Composer.

Friday 13
DL

THE EMPEROR OF THE MOON [Behn]. Scaramouch—Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several new Entertainments of Singing in English

and Italian by Mr Ramondon, it being the first time of his performing on the Stage.

- Saturday 14*
DL **A KING AND NO KING** [Beaumont and Fletcher]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 13 April)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And Signiora Margaretta de L'Epine will sing several Songs in Italian and English, with Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel and Mrs Moss.
- Saturday 14*
Queen's **THE INDIAN EMPEROR**, or the Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards [Dryden]. Cortez–Powel. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Entertainments of Dancing, as also Singing by the new Italian Boy. By Her Majesty's Sworn Servants.
- ca.
mid-April
Queen's REPORT. The first Play Acted there [at the Queen's Theatre, following Greber's *Gli amori d'Ergasto*], was *The Gamester*. Then the *Wanton Wife* [Betterton's *The Amorous Widow*]. Next, *Duke and no Duke*. After that, *She wou'd, if She Cou'd*; and half a Score of their old Plays, Acted in old Cloaths, the Company brought from Lincolns-Inn-Fields. The Audiencies falling off extremely with entertaining the Gentry with such old Ware, whereas, had they Open'd the House at first, with a good new English Opera, or a new Play; they wou'd have preserv'd the Favour of Court and City, and gain'd Reputation and Profit to themselves. (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 100-101)
COMMENT. Because Vanbrugh had not started to advertise regularly in the *Daily Courant*, Downes' statement about revivals cannot be proved, but it is compatible with such performance records as we possess.
- Monday 16*
DL **THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA** [Shadwell]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Entertainment of Singing and Dancing, as expressed in the Bill.
- Tuesday 17*
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF MACKBETH** [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With all the Musick, Vocal and Instrumental; Compos'd by Mr Leveridge, and perform'd by him and others. With Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, and others.
- Wednesday 18*
DL **A COMICAL REVENGE**, or, Love in a Tub [Etherege]. Palmer–Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing in Italian and English by Mr Ramondon.
- Thursday 19*
DL **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). To which will be added, a short Farce call'd, **THE QUACKS**; Or, Love's the Physician [Swiney]. Cast not advertised (but see 29 March). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The Dances to be perform'd by Monsieur du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss and others.
- Saturday 21*
DL **AN EVENING'S LOVE**; Or, The Mock Astrologer (Written by the late Mr Dryden). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these six Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing, in Italian and English, by Signiora Margarita de l'Epine; and Danc-ing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, Mrs Moss, and others.
COMMENT. Letitia Cross sang "Why so pale and wan fond lover" (Durfey, *Songs*

Compleat, V, 194-195). Very likely she also performed her usual part in this play, Jacinta.

Saturday 21 DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 14-21 April is a satiric poem entitled "The Player's Litany," mocking actors' poverty, difficulty with managers, and their resentment of highly-paid imports from Ireland (i.e., Richard Estcourt).

Monday 23 † **THE TENDER HUSBAND; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools** [Richard Steele].
DL Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *The Tender Husband; or, The Accomplish'd Fools*. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane. By Her Majesty's Servants. Written by Mr Steele (London: Jacob Tonson, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 9 May. Dramatis Personæ: Sir Harry Gubbin—Bullock; Humphry Gubbin—Pinkethman; Mr Tipkin—Norris; Clerimont Sen.—Mills; Capt. Clerimont—Wilks; Pounce—Eastcourt // Mrs Clerimont—Mrs Cross; Aunt—Mrs Powell; Niece [Biddy]—Mrs Oldfield; Fainlove—Mrs Kent; Jenny—Mrs Sapsford. Prologue, Written by Mr Addison. Spoken by Mr Wilks. Epilogue Spoken by Mr Eastcourt.

Dedication [to Addison]: I hope I make the Town no ill compliment for their kind Acceptance of this Comedy, in acknowledging that it has so far rais'd my Opinion of it, as to make me think it no improper Memorial of an Inviolable Friendship. I should not offer it to You as such, had I not been very careful to avoid every thing that might look Ill-natur'd, Immoral, or prejudicial to what the Better Part of Mankind hold Sacred and Honourable.

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 21 April this play is advertised as, "The City Nymph; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools." Joseph Addison contributed some help to his friend and future collaborator. See Shirley Strum Kenny, "Two Scenes by Addison in Steele's *Tender Husband*," *Studies in Bibliography*, 19 (1966), 217-226. For a discussion of Steele's contractual arrangements with Rich for the play, see Aitken, *The Life of Richard Steele*, I, 111-123.

Monday 23 **THE MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR** [Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily*
Queen's *Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Entertainments of Dancing by Mademoiselle de la Val, Mrs Elford and others, &c.

Tuesday 24 † **THE TENDER HUSBAND; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools** [Steele]. Cast not
DL advertised (but see 23 April). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but Once.

RECEIPTS: Gross receipts totalled £26 14s. (P.R.O. C7/642/44). House charges were calculated at £38 15s. 10d, and the deficiency (£12 1s. 10d.) was chargeable against Steele's share of the third night profits.

Tuesday 24 † **THE CONSULTATION** [anonymous; lost]. Never Acted before. Cast not
Queen's advertised. To which will be added an Italian Pastoral call'd, **THE LOVES OF ERGASTO** [Greber]. Licoris—the new Italian Boy. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. Virtually nothing is known of *The Consultation*. It was not published, and the author or translator is nowhere named. From the strenuous efforts made by the management of the Queen's Theatre to get *The Quacks* suppressed at Drury Lane (see 29 March), various authorities have conjectured (plausibly enough) that *The Consultation* was likewise a translation or adaptation of Molière's *L'Amour médecin*.

- Wednesday 25*
DL
THE TENDER HUSBAND; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools [Steele]. Cast not advertised (but see 23 April). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but Twice.
RECEIPTS: No author's benefit was advertised. According to testimony by Christopher Rich in P.R.O. C7/642/44, the third night gross was £61 6s., and Steele's share, after deduction of £38 15s. 10*d.* house charges and £12 1s. 10*d.* deficiency the second night, amounted to £10 8s. 2*d.* However Steele offered to "waive his profit by the said play . . . and permit the same to goe to the use of the Company provided they would act the said play the then next Winter one day for his [Steele's] Benefit instead of the third day," agreeing to pay constant and incidental charges and to remain responsible for the deficiency on 24 April." For the upshot, see 15 November 1705.
- Wednesday 25*
Queen's
THE CONSULTATION [anonymous; lost]. Cast not advertised. To which will be added, The Mask of **THE LOVES OF MARS AND VENUS** in three Musical Entertainments [Motteux and Eccles]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before [but see 24 April].
- Thursday 26*
DL
THE TENDER HUSBAND; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools [Steele]. Cast not advertised (but see 23 April). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but Thrice. . . . With Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel and Mrs du Ruel.
RECEIPTS: According to testimony by Christopher Rich in P.R.O. C7/642/44, gross receipts the fourth night totalled £26 11s. By agreement with Steele, Rich was not obliged to extend the run or give Steele the profits of the sixth night if the fourth night receipts were under £40.
- Thursday 26*
Queen's
THE HUMOUROUS LIEUTENANT [Fletcher]. Lieutenant–Bowen. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With the Grand Dance in *Rinaldo and Armida*, perform'd by Mademoiselle de la Val, Mrs Elford, Mr Firbank, and others.
- Friday 27*
Queen's
THE GAMESTER [Centlivre]. Cast not advertised (but see 22 February). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Dancing by Mademoiselle de la Val, and others.
- Saturday 28*
DL
THE TENDER HUSBAND; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools [Steele]. Cast not advertised (but see 23 April). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mrs Tofts, and Dancing by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, and Mrs Moss.
- Saturday 28*
Queen's
VENICE PRESERV'D; Or, a Plot Discover'd [Otway]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur Fleuri, newly arriv'd in England.
COMMENT. Fleuri is otherwise unknown.
- Saturday 28*
DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 21-28 April is an anonymous twelve-line poem "To a Lady Reading the Tragedy of *Heroick Love*." George Granville's *Heroick Love* received its première at Lincoln's Inn Fields circa January 1698—according to Downes, with considerable success (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 93). There is no record of a revival until 1713.

- Monday 30*
DL **LOVE'S LAST SHIFT; Or, The Fool in Fashion** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Mills. . . . It being the last time of Acting till after May-Fair. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, Mrs Lindsey, and the new Boy. Particularly, the Frost Musick in the 4th Act of *King Arthur*, Compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcel, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, the new Boy, and others; with the proper Scenes belonging to the Musick. And several Serious and Grotesque Dances by Monsieur du Ruel, Mrs du Ruel, Monsieur Cherrier, and Mrs Moss.
- Monday 30*
Queen's **DON QUIXOTE** [Durfey]. Don Quixote—Bowen. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And every thing else as it was Originally.
COMMENT. This was probably Part 1 of Durfey's trilogy.

May 1705

- Tuesday 1*
MF **ENTERTAINMENTS.** This is to satisfy the Town, that during the Time of May-Fair, ensuing, Mr Pinkethman and Mr Finly, for Time past having had the honour to give Satisfaction to the Quality, in their separate Booths, and still being willing to keep up the Grandeur of the said Fair, have continu'd to the utmost of their Endeavours to divert the Town with some new and surprising Entertainments, which they hope will give Satisfaction in general. Their separate Entertainments will be exprest upon their Bills, in and about the Town. And their Booths will stand as usual. (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 3*
Queen's **KING HENRY THE EIGHTH: With the Fall of Cardinal Wolsey** [Shakespeare and Fletcher]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 1 May)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these four Years.
COMMENT. Lack of an ad after 1 May could imply that the company cancelled this performance on account of May Fair, but because they advertised irregularly we cannot be certain.

Both companies apparently closed for May Fair.

- ca.
mid-May
Queen's ‡ **THE CONQUEST OF SPAIN** [Mary Pix].
FIRST EDITION. *The Conquest of Spain*: A Tragedy. As it is Acted by Her Majesty's Servants at the Queen's Theatre In the Hay-Market (London: Richard Wellington, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* on 25 May. Dramatis Personæ: No actors' names. The Prologue. An Epilogue By a Friend.
COMMENT. Downes says "The first new Play Acted there [at Vanbrugh's new theatre], was the *Conquest of Spain*; the beginning of May 1705. Written by Mrs Pix, it had not the life of a Stock-Play, for it Expir'd the 6th Day." Actually, the first new play (as opposed to opera) acted there was *The Consultation* (anonymous; lost), which appeared 24 and 25 April and sank without further trace. We have assigned a mid-May (rather than early May) date because both theatres appear to have closed for the duration of May Fair. Assuming that Downes is accurate about a six-day run, the première probably occurred between the 12th and the 17th of May.
- Saturday 12*
DL **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Entertainments of Dancing.

- Tuesday 15*
DL **THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE; Or, The Earl of Essex [Banks].** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And at the desire of some Persons of Quality, Mrs Tofts performs several Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian, with Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss and Others.
- Wednesday 16*
DL **AMPHITRION; Or, The Two Sosia's (Written by the late Mr Dryden).** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And all the Songs set by the late Mr Henry Purcell, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge, Mrs Lyndsey, and the new Boy.
- Friday 18*
DL **AMPHITRION; Or, The Two Sosia's (Written by the late Mr Dryden).** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And all the Songs set by the late Mr Henry Purcell, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge, Mrs Lyndsey, and the new Boy. With several Entertainments of Dancing by Mrs Cross and others.
- Saturday 19*
DL **THE TENDER HUSBAND; Or, The Accomplish'd Fools [Steele].** Cast not advertised (but see 23 April). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian by Mrs Tofts, and Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and Others.
- Tuesday 22*
DL **THE SPANISH FRYAR; Or, The Double Discovery [Dryden].** Fryar [Dominic] –Estcourt. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Singing by the New Boy. And a Mad Dialogue, Composed by the late Mr Henry Purcell, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge and Mrs Lindsey.
- Wednesday 23*
DL **THE PROPHETESS; Or, the History of Dioclesian [Betterton and Purcell].** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.
- Wednesday 23*
Queen's **THE GAMESTER [Centlivre].** Cast not advertised (but see 22 February). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Thursday 24*
DL **TUNBRIDGE-WALKS; Or, The Yeoman of Kent [Baker].** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And at the desire of several Persons of Quality, Mrs Tofts performs several Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian, with Variety of Dancing. It being the last time of Acting till Whitson Monday.
- Thursday 24*
Queen's **AMPHITRION; Or, The Two Sosia's (Written by the late Mr Dryden).** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted here but Once. . . . The Vocal Musick set by the late Mr Henry Purcell, with several Entertainments of Dancing.
- Monday 28*
DL **THE SOLDIERS FORTUNE (Written by Mr Otway).** Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Five Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.

- Monday 28*
Queen's **THE SCORNFUL LADY** (Written by those Celebrated Authors, Beaumont and Fletcher). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 26 May)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these three Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing; particularly the Dialogue of, Thus at the height of Love we live, set by the late Mr Henry Purcell.
- Tuesday 29*
DL **THE SOLDIERS FORTUNE** (Written by Mr Otway). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Five Years [but see 28 May]. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Wednesday 30*
Queen's **THE ADVENTURES OF 5 HOURS** [Tuke]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Six Years.
- Thursday 31*
DL **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). To which will be added a Farce call'd, **THE QUACKS**, or Love's the Physician [Swiney]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

June 1705

- Friday 1*
Queen's **THE ADVENTURES OF FIVE HOURS** [Tuke]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted but once these Six Years. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing between each Act.
- Saturday 2*
DL **THE CARELESS HUSBAND** [Cibber]. Cast not advertised (but see 7 December 1704). (*Daily Courant*, 1 June)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian, by Mrs Tofts, and Dancing by Mrs Cross and others.
- Saturday 2*
Queen's **THE TRAGEDY OF OTHELLO: MOOR OF VENICE** [Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised (but see 25 November 1704). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the last time of Acting it this Season.
- Monday 4*
Queen's **THE MAN OF MODE: or, Sir Fopling Flutter** [Etherege]. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Tuesday 5*
DL **VOLPONE; or, The Fox** (Written by the Famous Ben. Johnson). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Capt. Griffin. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing, viz. A Song Compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcel, beginning, Genius of England, &c. perform'd by Mr Leveridge: And a Dialogue taken out of the Opera of *King Arthur*, perform'd by him and Mrs Lindsey. Also Singing by the new Boy; and Danceing by Mrs Cross and others. To begin at half an Hour after 5 a Clock. No Money to be return'd after the Curtain is drawn up.
- Wednesday 6*
Queen's **THE ADVENTURES OF FIVE HOURS** [Tuke]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there but twice. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing between each Act.

- Thursday 7*
DL
- ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). To which will be added the last Act of a Farce, call'd, **LOVES CONTRIVANCE**, or *Le Medicin Malgre luy* [Centlivre]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and others.
- Friday 8*
Queen's
- RULE A WIFE AND HAVE A WIFE** [Fletcher]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted by that Company these Nine Years. . . . The Principal Parts to be perform'd by those who play'd them when 'twas reviv'd in King Charles the Second's time.
- COMMENT. According to Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 82-83) Betterton acted Michael Perez and Mrs Barry took Margaretta in the United Company revival of 1682. Both were available at the present time. Cave Underhill might have performed Cacofogo in the time of Charles II, though Downes lists William Cartwright for the role.
- Saturday 9*
DL
- AN EVENINGS LOVE: Or, The Mock Astrologer** [Dryden]. Jacinta—Mrs Cross. (*Daily Courant*)
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . And the Eunuch's Dialogue Compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcel, perform'd by her and the New Boy; also Singing by Mr Leveridge, and Mrs Lindsey, and Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier and Mrs Moss. A new Dance (never perform'd before) by Mrs Cross and others, For her Own Benefit. To begin at half an Hour after five a Clock. No Money to be return'd after the Curtain is drawn up.
- Saturday 9*
Queen's
- THE INDIAN EMPEROR: or, The Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards** [Dryden]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 April). (*Daily Courant*)
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there but once. . . . with several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing between each Act.
- Tuesday 12*
DL
- THE ROYAL MERCHANT, or Beggar's Bush** [Fletcher and Massinger]. Not acted these Twenty Years. Merchant [i.e., Florez]—Wilks (and see below). (*Daily Courant*)
- EDITION. *The Royal Merchant: or, Beggars-Bush*. A Comedy. Acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury-Lane, by Her Majesty's Servants (London: H.N. for William Keeble, et al., n.d. [1706]). Copy used: Harvard. Publication was advertised in the *Post Boy* of 25 January 1706. Dramatis Personæ: Woolfort—Williams; Gerrard—Keen; Hubert—Mills; Florez, the true Heir of Flanders, falsly call'd Goswin, a rich Merchant of Bruges—Wilks; Hemskirck—Biggerstaf; Van dunck—Bullock; Merchants—Carnaby, Phillips, Kent, Toms; Higgen—Estcourt; Prig—Norris, alias Jubilee Dicky; Snap—Kent; Ferret—Fairbank; Ginks—Tom Wright [otherwise unknown]; Boors—Sherman, Harris, Cross // Jacqueline—Mrs Cox; Bertha—Mrs Rogers. No prologue. Epilogue Spoken by Mr Pinkeman, mounted on an Ass; a long Whig on the Ass's Head. [Danchin, I, 275, reports that the epilogue printed in the 1706 edition is simply the old Jo Hayns ass epilogue.]
- ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The part of the Merchant to be perform'd by Mr Wilks for his own Benefit; With several new Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian, by Mrs Tofts; and Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss and others.
- COMMENT. Enormous confusion has surrounded this title. The dedication to the 1706 edition was signed "H.N.," which has generally been taken to mean Henry Norris but was actually the publisher Hugh Newman, who wrote dedications to

several reprinted plays about this time (e.g., *The Northern Lass*, which he signed—see 8 November 1704). Genest's account (II, 322) muddles a 1756 edition of a Covent Garden revival with this one. The mess was accurately disentangled (so far as we can tell) as long ago as 1926 by Arthur Colby Sprague in *Beaumont and Fletcher on the Restoration Stage*, Appendix II, pp. 274-275. Unfortunately, Nicoll entered the piece in his handlist (II, 346-347) as a play by Henry Norris, and Avery indexed it under Beaumont and Fletcher "(adapted by Henry Norris)." In fact, the play printed in 1706 and apparently staged by the Drury Lane company the preceding spring is simply the Fletcher and Massinger *Beggar's Bush* of 1622, virtually unaltered.

Wednesday 13
Queen's

THE ADVENTURES OF FIVE HOURS [Tuke]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice these Six Years. . . . With Entertainments of Singing and Dancing between each Act.

Thursday 14
DL

SIR SALOMON SINGLE: or, *The Cautious Coxcomb* [Caryll]. Betty—Mrs Mountfort. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The Part of Betty to be perform'd by Mrs Mountfort; and an Epilogue spoken by her upon her first appearance on this Stage. For the Advantage of Mr Estcourt; with comical Songs and Dances.

COMMENT. The "Epilogue: Spoken by Mrs Mountfort at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane" was separately published as a broadside by Bernard Lintott and is reprinted with commentary by Danchin (I, 276-277). Lintott's ad in the *Daily Courant* of 18 June says the the piece is by the author of *The Yeoman of Kent* (i.e., Thomas Baker). Susanna Mountfort was only 14 years old, but had already performed Betty at LIF and in a court performance the previous season. Her jumping to Drury Lane is surprising, since her stepfather John Verbruggen remained with the other company. Those actors who had participated in the Court performance of February 1704 probably took their usual roles: Peregrine—Wilks; Justice Wary—Johnson; Ralph—Pinkethman.

Friday 15
Queen's

RULE A WIFE AND HAVE A WIFE [Fletcher]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there but once. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.

Saturday 16
DL

THE YOUNG COQUET [anonymous; lost?]. Young Coquet—Mrs Cross. **THE COUNTRY HOUSE** [Vanbrugh]. Madam Barnard—Mrs Mountfort. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these 6 Years. For the Benefit of Mr Mills. . . . Two short Comedies of Two Acts each . . . The Part of Madam Barnard in the *Country House*, which was Originally Acted by Mrs Verbruggen; to be perform'd by her Daughter Mrs Mountfort . . . With the Frost Musick in *King Arthur*; compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcel, and perform'd by Mr Leveridge, the new Boy and others; with the proper Scenes belonging to the Musick. With several Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian by Mrs Tofts. With Dancing by Mrs Moss and others.

COMMENT. Virtually nothing is known of *The Young Coquet*, but this ad says explicitly that it is "Reviv'd" rather than new. A date of 1699 or earlier is implied.

Saturday 16
DL

DOCUMENT. In the *Diverting Post* of 9-16 June was published "An Epilogue for the Theatre Royal." ("May we not well complain for want of Pence.") No date, play, occasion, or speaker is specified. The epilogue is reprinted with commentary by Danchin, I, 278. Even more strongly than Danchin, we doubt that this epilogue was spoken at Drury Lane, or ever intended to be.

It bewails small audiences; smears Estcourt (one of the company's featured performers); says the actors are "divided" about whether they should agree to a union; calls some of them "R—h-Ridden"; and concludes by saying that "L'Epine, and Tofts sneak off with all our Gains." The piece seems manifestly hostile to Drury Lane, and we take it as a journalistic attack launched in conjunction with Vanbrugh's escalating campaign for a union of the two companies under his own direction.

Monday 18
Queen's

THE VIRTUOUS WIFE: or, Good Luck at Last [Durfey]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these many Years.

COMMENT. There is no record of revival between the original production of 1679 and this one. The last known performance occurred on 22 June this month.

Tuesday 19
DL

THE ROYAL MERCHANT; or Beggar's Bush [Fletcher and Massinger]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these 20 Years. For the Benefit of Mr Baggs and Mr Hall. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian by Mrs Tofts, and variety of Dancing.

Wednesday 20
Queen's

THE VIRTUOUS WIFE: or, Good Luck at Last [Durfey]. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these many Years.

Thursday 21
DL

ARSINOE, QUEEN OF CYPRUS [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Composer. . . . With several Entertainments of Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss, and others.

Friday 22
Queen's

THE VIRTUOUS WIFE: or, Good Luck at Last [Durfey]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but twice these many Years. . . . With variety of Singing and Dancing between the Acts.

Saturday 23
DL

THE TENDER HUSBAND: or, The Accomplish'd Fools [Steele]. His own part [Humphry Gubbin]—Pinkethman. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the desire of several Persons of Quality, For the Benefit of Mr Bullock. . . . Being the last time of Acting it this Season. . . . With several new Entertainments of Singing in English and Italian by Mrs Tofts, particularly a Trumpet Song, it being the last time (but twice) of her performing till Winter. And several Entertainments of Dancing in and between the Acts.

Monday 25
Queen's

LOVE FOR LOVE [Congreve]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there before. . . . Acted all by Women. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.

Tuesday 26
DL

THE NORTHERN LASS: or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Northern Lass [Constance]—Mrs Cross (and see 8 November). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Fairbank and Mr Bickerstaffe. . . . The Part of the Northern Lass to be perform'd by Mrs Cross, in which she both Sings and Dances several times. The Songs new Set by Mr Clark. With Singing in English and Italian by Mrs Tofts. Being the last time (but once) of her Performance till Winter. Also Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, Mrs Lindsey and the new Boy, Compos'd of Comical Dialogues and two-part Songs. With Dancing by

Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Moss and others.

- Wednesday 27*
Queen's **LOVE FOR LOVE** [Congreve]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. As it was never Acted but once before. . . . Acted all by Women. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Wednesday 27* DOCUMENT. On this day Anne Gibbs Shadwell (former actress and widow of Thomas Shadwell) answered Sir Edward Smith's bill of complaint (see 30 May 1704) concerning profits in the patent company. She testified that she held a quarter share in the company, but had received no rent since the death of Queen Mary in 1694 and no payment since 1695 on her pension of 20s. per week as an actress. She admitted taking friends to plays without paying, "as it is usuall for other Sharers to doe." (P.R.O. C8/604/6)
- Thursday 28*
DL **THE YOUNG COQUET** [anonymous; lost?]. Young Coquet—Mrs Cross. **THE COUNTRY HOUSE** [Vanbrugh]. Madam Barnard—Mrs Mountfort. Two short Comedies of two Acts each. . . . To which will be added a Farce, call'd, **THE QUACKS**: or, Love's the Physician [Swiney]. Cast not advertised (but see 29 March). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, Mrs Lindsey, and the new Boy. And variety of Comick Dancing by Mrs Cross, Mrs Moss and others.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 27 June *Arsinoe* and *The Quacks* were advertised for this day.
- Friday 29*
Queen's **LOVE FOR LOVE** [Congreve]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. As it was never Acted but twice before. . . . Acted all by Women. With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing.
- Saturday 30*
DL **THE ROYAL MERCHANT**: or, Beggar's Bush [Fletcher and Massinger]. Cast not advertised (but see 12 June). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but twice these Twenty Years. For the Benefit of Mr Newman [prompter]. . . . With variety of Singing and Dancing by the best Performers, particularly the Musick in the third Act of the Opera, call'd, *King Arthur, or the British Worthy*, being the Frost Musick, with the proper Scenes and Habits belonging to it.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 29 June *The Committee* is advertised for this date, featuring Estcourt as Teague. The ad also mentions that Leveridge will sing the Frost Music and that tickets given out for *Hamlet* will be taken at this play.

July 1705

- Tuesday 3*
DL **SECRET LOVE**: or the Maiden Queen [Dryden]. Florimel—Mrs Cross. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, Mrs Lindsey, and the new Boy. Particularly a mad Dialogue, compos'd by the late Mr Henry Purcel. And Dancing by Monsieur La Forest, Mrs Cross, Mrs Moss, and others.
- Thursday 5*
DL **SHE WOU'D, IF SHE COU'D** (Written by the late Sir George Etheridge). Cast not advertised (but see 19 March). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Box-Keepers. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Leveridge, Mr Hughs, Mrs Lindsey and the New Boy. As will be exprest in the great Bills. And variety of Dancing by Mr Cherrier, Monsieur La Forest, Mrs Cross, Mrs Moss and others.

Saturday 7
DL **HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK** [Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised (but see 31 January). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Box-Keepers. . . . With several extraordinary Entertainments of Singing and Dancing. As will be exprest in the great Bills to Morrow [*sic*; phrase apparently retained from the ad of 6 July].

Tuesday 10
DL **ARSINOE QUEEN OF CYPRUS** [Motteux and Clayton]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 January). To which will be added a Farce, call'd **THE QUACKS**; Or, Love's the Physician [Swiney]. Cast not advertised (but see 29 March). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Being the last time of performing it this Season and the last time of Mrs Tofts's Singing till Winter. . . . With Dancing by Monsieur Cherrier, Mrs Mosse and others.

Friday 13
DL **THE HISTORY OF KING LEAR, AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS** [Tate, adapting Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing and Dancing between the Acts.

Saturday 14
RI W **CONCERT.** At Richmond Wells, will be an extraordinary Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, viz. Several Three-Part Songs, set by Mr Eccles and perform'd before the Queen on Her Birth-day. And a Two-Part song, set by Mr Henry Purcell, never printed nor perform'd in Publick. Also some Solo's on the Violin by a Scholar of Signior Gasparini's, who never perform'd in Publick before, With several other extraordinary Entertainments (by the best Masters) too long to be inserted here. To begin exactly at half an Hour after Six of the Clock, and for those whose Business requires their Return to London, the conveniency of the Tide will permit the same Night. Tickets may be had at Will's and Robin's Coffee-Houses near the Royal Exchange, at White's Coffee-House on Richmond-Green, and at the Wells; at half a Crown each Ticket. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 18
DL **THE RELAPSE: or, Virtue in Danger** [Vanbrugh]. Miss Hoyden—Mrs Cross (and see 26 February). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Ramondon, particularly a new Italian Trumpet Song: Also Singing by Mrs Hornbolt, who never perform'd but once on the Stage before. With Dancing by Monsieur la Forest, Mrs Cross and others.

COMMENT. "Mr Hornbolt" in the *Biographical Dictionary* (VII, 415) is a ghost. The *Daily Courant* ad clearly says "Mrs."

Friday 18
NWE ADVERTISEMENT. The New Wells, at Epsom, with variety of Raffling-Shops, Bowling-Green, and fine Consort of Musick are open every Day, from Six in the Morning, to Nine or Ten at Night. The Ladies Pay nothing. (*Observer*, 14-18 July)

Saturday 19 DOCUMENT. According to Charles Gildon, "The following Proposals [made by Vanbrugh to Christopher Rich] were sent from the Secretary [Sir John

Stanley] to the Lord Chamberlain the 19th of July, 1705.”

Proposals for Reducing the two Companies of Players into one.

1st. That the Patent Adventurers on their ceasing to act by Vertue of their Patent, be admitted to a Moyety of the clear Profits, which shall arise from the Company now establish'd by the Queen in the Hay-Market.

2d. That there shall no Regard be had to each Companies past Debts, Engagements, or Stock, their Concern together being forward, not backwards.

3d. That the Persons to be intrusted for the Management, be Nam'd by the Queen, to be at any Time chang'd, and remov'd, as she shall think fit.

4th. That if these three principal Heads be agreed to, the Settlement of the inferiour Matters, may be refer'd to my Lord Chamberlain. J. Vanbrugh. (*The Post-Boy Robb'd of His Mail*, 2nd edition (London: B. Mills for John Sprint, 1706), pp. 344-345)

COMMENT. The flagrantly self-serving nature of these proposals is obvious. For Rich's refusal, see 25 July.

Friday 20
LIF

AMPHITRYON: or, The Two Sosia's (Written by Mr John Dryden). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there before. . . . With proper Entertainments of Singing and Dancing in and between the Acts.

COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* ad of the 19th for this performance is an important special notice: "Note, That the Company will continue to Act there [Lincoln's Inn Fields] till Her Majesty's Theatre in the Hay-market be intirely finish'd." The return of Vanbrugh's company to their former quarters has excited surprise and speculation among some theatre historians, but this notice probably states the simple truth: the company had hastened to open its long-delayed new theatre late in the season, and now had to vacate it while Vanbrugh got it fully "finish'd" and rigged.

ca.
Monday 23

DOCUMENT. At a date probably between Vanbrugh's union proposal of 19 July and Rich's refusal of 25 July, 33 members of the Drury Lane company addressed a formal petition to the Lord Chamberlain, objecting to the proposed union. The full text and complete list of signatories follows.

To the Right Honourable the Earl of Kent; Lord Chamberlain of Her Majesty's Houshold. The Humble Petition of the Comedians Acting at the Theatre Royal In Drury-Lane. Sheweth,

That Mr Rich having from Sir John Stanley Receiv'd your Lordship's Commands to send his Proposals for an Union of the two Play Houses, according to Her Majesty's Royal Pleasure, Signify'd to your Lordship: It is with the utmost Reluctance, That your Petitioners make this their most Humble Address to your Lordship; But they having by their long Labour and Diligence (notwithstanding many Discouragements) Improv'd themselves into an Intire and Able Company, to the General Satisfaction of the Town, and being fully Content with the Terms and Conditions under which they now Act, and absolutely Convinc'd, That an Union of the two Companies cannot be without great Prejudice, if not utter Ruine, to them and their Numerous Families.

Your Petitioners therefore most Humbly Pray, That your Lordship will be pleas'd to Represent to her Majesty, the many unavoidable Hardships which they Conceive will be brought upon them, in Case your Lordship should Exert your Power, to unite them to the other Company, who having never shewn the same Diligence, Industry, nor Disposition to please their Audiences, (that we presume to think we have done;) now seek to support themelves by the Successfull labours of your Petitioners (contrary as we

have reason to believe) to the intention of the Nobility and Gentry, who Subscrib'd to the Building of a New Theatre, and to the frequent Encouragements given by them for the support of two Houses. And your Petitioners shall ever Pray, &c.

Rob Wilks, Phil. Griffin, Rich. Estcourt, Jos. Williams, Wm. Bullock, Hen. Norris, John Bickerstaffe, Rich. Cross, Tho. Kent, James Carnaby, Colley Cibber, John Mills, Wm. Pinkethman, Wm. Toms, Hen. Fairbank, Theop. Keen, Rene Cherrier, La Forest, Littlet. Ramondon, Fran. M. Knight, Jane Rogers, Mary Powell, Henrieta Moor, Diana Temple, Eliz. Sapsford, Mary Kent, Anne Oldfield, Lett. Cross, Mary Lindsey, Su. Mountfort, Marg. Mills, Mariana Smith, Kath. Finch. (Chetham's Library, Halliwell-Phillips Collection, no. 884)

COMMENT. This printed petition is reproduced in facsimile with annotation and commentary in Judith Milhous and Robert D. Hume, "The Drury Lane Actors' Petition of 1705," *Theatre Notebook*, 39 (1985), 62-67. See also *Document Register*, no. 1814. The date of the petition has been the subject of great confusion, being variously placed in August 1706 and December 1707.

Wednesday 25
DL

THE LOYAL SUBJECT (Written by those Ingenious Authors, Beaumont and Fletcher) [actually by Fletcher]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. This play was republished ca. January 1706 with the following cast, all members of which were available at Drury Lane in July 1705. For bibliographical details, see 4 January 1706. Czar—Williams; Archas—Mills; Theodore—Wilks; Putsky—Griffin; Alinda—Mrs Rogers; Burris—Bickerstaffe; Borosky—Keen; Ensign—Johnson; Olimpia—Mrs Finch; Honoria—Mrs Temple; Viola—Mrs Norris; Petesca—Mrs Cox; Lady—Mrs Tapsford [i.e., Sapsford].

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Twenty Years. . . . All the Parts being Play'd to the best Advantage. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Ramondon. And Dancing by Monsieur la Forest, Mrs Cross and others.

Wednesday 25

DOCUMENT. On this day, replying to letters of 7 and 21 June (now lost) and Vanbrugh's formal proposal of 19 July, Christopher Rich point-blank refused to consider a new theatrical union. About the 25th of July, Mr Rich sent the following Answer to Sir John St—ly [Stanley]: Sir, I Receiv'd from you two Letters, one on the 7th, and the other on the 21st of June, last, intimating my Lord Chamberlain's Pleasure, That I shou'd bring in Proposals for uniting the two Companies; I shall ever be ready to pay the utmost duty and Obedience to his Lordships Commands, and wou'd sooner have return'd an Answer to the Letters, but that I have waited for Opportunity of speaking with the Parties concern'd: Many of whom being still out of Town, cannot as yet be summon'd together; and it is impossible for me to bring any Proposals without all their respective Consents. For I beg leave to represent, that I am concern'd with above forty Persons in number, either as Adventurers under the two Patents granted to Sir William Davenant, and Tho. Killigrew, Esq; or as Renters of Covent-Garden [i.e., Drury Lane] and Dorset-Garden Theatres; and tho I have hitherto manag'd for all with an equal Regard to their Interest, as to my own, and have done it to my own Expencc and Hazard, and with infinite Pains, to raise a New Sett of Actors, Singers, and Dancers, and to keep the Company together; yet to receive any Persons (other than Actors, Singers, Dancers, and Performers) into any Part, Interest or Share, with the Proprietors, under the Patents, is not in my Power, without a Breach of Trust, which I cannot answer to the rest of

the Proprietors, who may tear me to pieces with Law-Suits, if they shou'd see me go about an Act, which in the Consequence of it, may in their Apprehension, conclude, or prejudice their Rights and Properties purchas'd for a valuable Consideration, on which divers Marriages, Settlements, Mortgages, Contracts, and the Support of many Families depend. And I suppose it is not unknown to you, how many Troubles and Vexatious Suits, both at Law and Equity, I have already drawn upon me, from several of the Proprietors, by my Endeavours to preserve them and my self. Sir, I am a Purchaser under the Patents, to above the value of two Thousand Pounds, (a great part of which was under the Marriage-Settlements of Dr. Davenant) and am not only accountable to the rest of the Proprietors, and lyable to several New Debts, but also under Covenants with several Actors, Singers, and Dancers, for the whole Undertaking. And when after ten Years Employment, Expence, and Diligence, I have (notwithstanding many Difficulties) succeeded; so that the Company has the good Fortune to please the Town, and the Profits begin to reimburse, and pay the Monies and Debts contracted: If I shall now be depriv'd of reaping the Benefit of such my Labour and Charges, what must the Effect be, but the undoing of my self, and of the Interests of those engag'd with me, to raise great Estates to Mr Vanbrugh, and a few others, on our Ruins?

Before Mr Vanbrugh and Mr Congreve had obtain'd Her Majesty's License for a Company of Actors, I did humbly offer to his Lordship (the Company of Actors in Lincoln's-Inn-Fields) that I wou'd receive them all at such Salaries as his Lordship shou'd think reasonable; but his Lordship was pleas'd to declare, That Her Majesty intended to have two Companies, and he wou'd not permit me to entertain them. And afterwards, in compliance with his Lordship's Pleasure, I did not insist upon my right, so far as I was advis'd I might, of keeping those Actors, whom his Lordship has been lately pleas'd to command from me in order, as his Lordship then declared, for the keeping up of two Companies that might Emulate one another.

And now, Sir, with Submission, I do not see upon the whole Matter, how such an Union, as seems to be intended, can have a good Effect, if one considers either the Inclination of the Quality, and Gentry, who have always declared for the keeping up of two Companies (and to that purpose, subscribed to the Building of a New Theatre) or the Management of the New Theatre, since it was open'd, which has not been such, with all the Advantages of setting forth, as wou'd invite others to put the whole under the same Government, in order to pay a very large Rent to Mr Vanbrugh, for that which cost him little or nothing, beyond the Subscriptions received by him. And, with regard to the Players themselves, since they have already, in a Petition to his Lordship [see ca. Monday 23 July], declared themselves content with the Terms, under which they act here, and apprehensive of great Hardships, if not utter Ruin, which they conclude will be brought upon them by such a Union. It wou'd be very hard, that those who desire only to subsist by their Labour, shou'd be forc'd into the other Company, who have not taken the same Care to entertain the Town, notwithstanding the many Favours, and large Subscriptions they have receiv'd, whereof three or four have engross'd the whole Benefit.

These, Sir, are some of the Reasons, which I humbly offer against a Union in general; and having on Thursday last, receiv'd Mr Vanbrugh's Proposals in writing, I am the more confirm'd in my Opinion against it: For by the first, he wou'd have us cease to Act by virtue of our Patents; and in the second, he declares, That no Regard shall be had to the Companies past Debts, Engagements, or Stock, and how an Union can be either practicable, or safe, with respect to the Interest of all Parties upon this foot, I cannot

conceive. I am, Sir, [Christopher Rich]. Theatre-Royal, 25th July, 1705. (*The Post-Boy Robb'd of his Mail*, 2nd edn. [London: B. Mills for John Sprint, 1706], Letter XLII, pp. 345-347)

Thursday 26
LIF

THE ORPHAN: or, The Unhappy Marriage [Otway]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 25 July)

Friday 27
DL

THE LOYAL SUBJECT (Written by those Ingenious Authors, Beaumont and Fletcher) [actually by Fletcher]. Cast not advertised (but see 25 July). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these Twenty Years. . . . All the Parts being Play'd to the best Advantage. With several Entertainments of Singing by Mr Ramondon. And Dancing by Monsieur la Forest, Mrs Cross and others.

Friday 27
LIF

SIR COURTLY NICE, or, It Cannot Be [Crowne]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 25 July)

August 1705

ca. August

DOCUMENT. About the beginning of August Charles Gildon wrote an account of Vanbrugh's proposal for a theatrical union and Rich's rejection of it (see 19 and 25 July).

[Following a rambling account of why "The Publick Diversions" should be controlled by "publick Magistrates," Gildon discusses the recent history of the London theatre.] The Play-house having been granted to private Hands, nothing was minded but private Advantages, Obscenity, Profaneness, Bombast, Farce, and what is more ridiculous and extravagant, Sing-song Operas were refus'd, and every thing without Judgment or Understanding, try'd to bring Money into their [the patentees'] Pockets. By Sale this patent comes into the Hands of those who know even less than the first Possessors of it; but how cou'd any Man go out of his way, when there was no fix'd Path to confine them. Money purchas'd the Business, and therefore the Business must be made to bring in the Money into the Purchaser's Pockets: But here was some sort of Right, and the Stage call'd a Property, even unalterable by the Crown who gave it. However, dayly Grievances and Complaints gave Capt. V——h hopes of succeeding, in setting them [the actors] free from the Slavery they daily murmur'd at. By his Address, and Acquaintance with the People of Quality, he got large Subscriptions for Building a New Theatre, on which he might Exercise his double Capacity of Poet, and Architect. And here Men of Sense were in hopes, that a Poet had publick Spirit enough to regard only the Publick Good of those who upheld the Diversion by their Writing, or their Acting, which might have brought the Stage soon to its antient Lustre, and gain'd him more Credit (and perhaps all things consider'd) not less Money. If he had call'd in many Men of Learning, and Art, into the Management, and sought no farther Advantage from the Business that cost him little, than others equally qualify'd, except a Reimbursement of what he had really expended more than the Subscriptions. Thus he wou'd have enlarg'd his Reputation, and made Friends of all the Men of Sense, Wit and Poetry, present, and to come; and wou'd have persuaded the World, that he was not so unpoetical a Lover of only his own sordid Interest, as to mind nothing else. The Inconveniencies he wou'd have avoided by this means, had been first his building a Theatre at the Fagg-

End of the Town, whither four parts in five, that make an Audience, cannot come without an insupportable Expence. Next, the building a Theatre in nothing better than what we had before, except in the Front, or Case, which signifies little to the Business of the Place. Thirdly, his taking no Care to engage the Players of Drury-lane, who kept out of Articles a long time in expectation of being sent to; but he, either through Pride, Negligence, or something worse, never minded till they were all engag'd; and then, without any manner of Justice, forc'd away one of them [identity uncertain] when he might fairly, and without Noise, have had the major Part, and the best. Fourthly, his taking the Direction and Advice of those very People in the Government of this new Company, who had before ruin'd two Companys, and brought them from the Admiration, to the Contempt of the Town. Fifthly, his attempting, contrary to all Reason or Justice in the World, to destroy the Patent, and unite the Companies, when he found his Hopes and Projects disappointed, contrary to the Pleasure and Will of his Benefactors, who gave him their Subscriptions to keep up two Companies, whose Emulation may the better divert the Town. But to judge of the Justice of this Design, I send you his Proposals of Union, and Mr Riche's Answer. [See 19 and 25 July.] *The Post-Boy Robb'd of his Mail*, 2nd edn., Letter XLII (London: B. Mills for John Sprint, 1706), pp. 243-244.

Wednesday 1
LIF

‡ **THE CARES OF LOVE:** or a Nights Adventures [A. Chaves]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*, 31 July)

FIRST EDITION. *The Cares of Love, or, A Night's Adventure*. A Comedy. As it is now Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Little Lincolns-Inn Fields, By Her Majesties Servants (London: W. Davis and J. Chantry, 1705). Copy used: Readex. Personæ Dramatis: Florencio—Booth; Beltran—Powell; Don Pedro—Cory; Corillo—Weller; Antonio—Mynns; Host—Knapp; Julio—[Josias?] Miller; Two Alguazils—Freeman, Bright // Lucinda—Mrs Allison; Lucretia—Mrs Baker; Lisena—Mrs Bradshaw. The Prologue: Written and Spoken by Mr Booth. The Epilogue As it ought to have been Spoken [a burlesque of *Arsinoel*].

COMMENT. The dedication is signed by A. Chaves, who refers to it as his "first Dramatic Essay."

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never acted before. . . . Beginning exactly at six a Clock.

Friday 3
LIF

THE CARES OF LOVE [Chaves]. Cast not advertised (but see 1 August). This performance was not advertised, but is conjectured because the première occurred on Wednesday 1 August and the third night benefit was advertised on Tuesday 7 August. The LIF company had performed on the previous two Fridays but not on Saturday, so Friday 3 August seems the likeliest time for the second night.

Saturday 4
ST G

CONCERT. In the great Room at the Ship Tavern in Greenwich, will be an extraordinary Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, viz. Several Songs set by the best Masters: Particularly a Song of two Parts by Mr Henry Purcel, never perform'd but once before in Publick. As also a Three-Part Song perform'd on the Birth-day, compos'd by Mr Eccles. Likewise a Song and some Sonata's with a Trumpet, and other extraordinary Entertainments by the best Masters of all kinds, too long to be inserted here. Beginning exactly at half an Hour after Six of the Clock. Tickets are deliver'd out at Mr Blany's a Sword Cutler near the Royal Exchange, and at the abovesaid Ship Tavern at Greenwich, at half a Crown each Ticket. (*Daily Courant*)

- Tuesday 7*
LIF **THE CARES OF LOVE:** or a Nights Adventures [Chaves]. Cast not advertised (but see 1 August). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never acted but twice. . . . For the Benefit of the Author Mr Chaves; with Dancing by the little Girl, Mrs Elford's Scholar; and singing by Mrs Hodgson, with several other Entertainments.
- Saturday 10*
Windsor ‡ **THE LAWYER'S FORTUNE;** or, Love in a Hollow Tree [William Lord Viscount Grimstone]. Cast not known. For evidence of performance, see below.
FIRST EDITION. *The Lawyer's Fortune: or, Love in a Hollow Tree*. A Comedy (London: Bernard Lintott, 1705). Copy used: British Library 161.c.48. Dramatis Personæ: no actors named. No prologue or epilogue.
Preface: Of all kind of Scribling, sure Poetry is the most unprofitable. . . . He that writes a Play exposes himself without any Advantage to a parcel of fleering Criticks, who wonder at any Man for attempting so difficult a Business, and are only disappointed when he succeeds in't. . . . 'Twas wrote only for an Amusement in the Country, and never intended for the Stage. . . . [Readers should] excuse abundance of Faults they may justly find thro' the Unexperience of the Author.
COMMENT. This performance is known from a "This day is publish'd ad by Bernard Lintott in the *Daily Courant* of 18 August which specifies "as it was acted on Friday the 10th Instant at Windsor." Lintott advertised a "2d Edition" "In the Press" in the *Daily Courant* of 23 July 1706. Entirely reset and incorporating minor verbal changes, it appeared as *The Lawyer's Fortune: or, Love in a Hollow Tree*. A Comedy. Written by William Grimston, Esq. (London: Bernard Lintott, n.d.). Copy used: British Library 1346.e.12 (misdated 1705 in the BM Catalogue). Another edition was published in 1736, "Revis'd and Compar'd with the First Edition in 1705."
- Tuesday 14*
LIF **THE CITY POLITIQUES** [Crowne]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Twenty Years. . . . Beginning exactly at 6 of the Clock.
- ca. late August
LIF COMMENT. When the Lincoln's Inn Fields company advertised *City Politiques* on 12 September 1705 the ad read "Not Acted but thrice these Twenty Years." Since the performance of 14 August was billed as "Not Acted these Twenty Years," this implies that the play received two unrecorded performances between 14 August and 12 September—most probably before the closure for Bartholomew Fair on 23 August.
- Saturday 18*
HA W **CONCERT.** In the great Room at Hampstead-Wells . . . will be an extraordinary Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, viz. several Single Two and Three Part Songs with a Trumpet, and other Instruments; set by Mr Henry Purcel and Mr Eccles, and Sung by Mr Cook, Mr Davis and others, the best Masters of all kind: The particulars of which will be mention'd in the great Bills. To begin exactly at Six a Clock; Tickets may be had at Mr Blany's a Sword-Cutler near the Royal Exchange, and at North's Coffee-house at Hampstead Wells. [Price not stated.] (*Daily Courant*, 15 August)
- Thursday 23*
BF **ENTERTAINMENTS.** At the Widow Barnes's Booth, Over against the Cross Daggars in Smithfield, during the usual Time of Bartholomew Fair, are to be seen the most Famous Rope Dancers of Europe, who perform such strange and surprising Things on the Dancing Rope, as are incredible to relate; With great Variety of Encomparable fine Tumbling, Walking on the Slack Rope, and Vaulting, far surpassing all that has ever yet been seen. Together with the diverting Entertainment of your Old Friend Pickle Herring, the Chief of all his imitating Brethren. (*Daily Courant*)

Thursday 23
BF

THE DISTRESSED VIRGIN; or, The Unnatural Parents [anonymous; lost]. This title and performance are known from *The Wandering Spy, or the Way of the World inquired into*, 1-8 September [1705], as transcribed by Haslewood in "Collections Relating to the Drama," vol. IX, fol. 72 (British Library 11791.dd.18): . . . looking up I saw Doggets Booth, where you are presented with a new Droll called the *Distressed Virgin*; being a true history of the fair Maid of the West, with the comical Humours of poor Trusty in search of his Master's Daughter, &c. By this time Andrew and one of the actors (who I a little before took for a Lord) fell into a Discourse without Head or Tayl, and said many Things to very little purpose, and had much talk without any sense in it, when all of a sudden a whistle rattles within a Booth, upon which they all run in, in a mighty hurry, with a pray gentlemen walk in and take your places for upon my word we are just going to begin; and to close all, Andrew cries, do gentlemen be rul'd by a Fool for once, and come in all of you, do, there's good Boys, do now:—tho they were no more going to begin than I was about to eat a Toad; this was only to decoy people in, and to fill their Booth, for they all came out again presently, and told the same story over; and this is a method I perceive they observe all over the Fair. So I went from Booth to Booth, and found a gang of R[ogue]s and W[hore]s in every one of them, and every gang had its Fool or Merry Andrew, [a] Clown from Doggets Booth, to the *Creation of the World*, where they have Granny, a she Fool, and who is indeed a mere fool, well known all over the Town; there's the Rope Dancing Booth . . . and a Booth full of outlandish Monsters.

COMMENT. For discussion, see Rosenfeld, *Theatre of the London Fairs*, pp. 17-18, who cites an undated handbill for the droll in British Library Harleian 5931, which adds subtitle details: "or, The Loving Sisters. With the Comical Travels of Poor Trusty, in Search of his Master's Daughter, and his Encounter with Three Witches." Fancy scenes and machines "never seen before" were advertised.

September 1705

Saturday 8

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. In the *Observer* of 5-8 September is yet another rambling denunciation of plays and actors, produced as part of an argument for suppression of the theatre by the Queen.

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