

Season of 1708-1709

For most of this season the two theatres operated in a quiet and seemingly orderly way. Drury Lane enjoyed a monopoly on straight plays (performed six nights a week without any additional entertainments of music and dance) while the Queen's Theatre, Haymarket, gave Italian operas (in English)—generally only two nights a week. Because plays had been suppressed at Bartholomew Fair, Drury Lane started its season unusually early, though without its leading actors until October. Acting was suspended between 28 October and 14 December on account of mourning for Queen Anne's husband, Prince George of Denmark. The season is remembered for three things: the hiring of the celebrated Nicolini from Italy to head the troupe of singers at the opera; Betterton's much-publicized benefit of 7 April 1709; and the silencing of Drury Lane on 6 June. The last of these was to have important long-term effects on the organization and management of the theatre in London.

No figures have come to light for the opera company. As proprietor-manager, Owen Swiney retained most of the singers engaged by Vanbrugh the year before but enormously increased public interest by hiring Nicolini, one of the greatest castratos of the age. To judge from the negotiations of circa April 1709 for an extension of the contract, Nicolini probably cost the mind-boggling sum of 800 guineas per annum, plus perquisites and bonuses of various sorts. This was double the salary ever paid to any regular performer in London (operatic or otherwise), but Nicolini was apparently worth the money. Advertisements promising to limit the number of pit and box tickets to 460 to avoid crowding (e.g., 25 January 1709) suggest that the opera was enjoying some full houses.

Meanwhile at Drury Lane, unsurprisingly, the actors were increasingly unhappy about being at the tender mercies of Christopher Rich. The plea that Richard Norton should "Buy out these sordid Pattent-Masters, and make a Free Gift of it to the Actors" (reported in August 1708) suggests that even before this season started the actors were looking for a way out. We do not

know at what point the plot was hatched that was finally to topple Rich. The precipitating event was Anne Oldfield's benefit on 3 March. The total receipts were £134 3s.; by contract, Oldfield should have paid £40 house charges and received £94 3s. What she received was only £62 7s. 8d.: Rich detained one-third of the profits beyond charges. Oldfield filed a vigorous protest with the Lord Chamberlain on 4 March, which Rich answered almost immediately (see ca. early March). He claimed that his contract with Oldfield of 1703 called for no benefit at all, and that he had no responsibility for fulfilling any contract she might have made with Vanbrugh or Swiney—at best a tortuously self-serving argument to make against his leading actress.

The Lord Chamberlain made no response and took no public action for almost two months, so Rich proceeded to "tax" other performers' benefits in like manner. Kent's seeming lack of concern was a ruse. In actuality, he was in cahoots with the actors. Just six days after Oldfield's protest Swiney signed a partnership contract with Wilks, Cibber, and Doggett (10 March). Such a document could not have been conceived and executed at this time if the principals had not received assurances from Kent that he was going to silence Rich and permit the creation of a new United Company that would be licensed for both plays and operas. On 30 March Swiney secretly started to sign up Drury Lane actors to perform at the Queen's Theatre in 1709-10. John Mills signed on 30 March, William Bullock on 4 April, Benjamin Johnson on 11 April, Anne Oldfield on 21 April, William Pinkethman on 30 April—all before the Lord Chamberlain had made any official response to Oldfield's protest.

On 30 April Kent issued a bland, straightforward order to the effect that the Drury Lane management was "to pay to the respective players who have had benefitt plays the full receipts of Such plays deducting only from such the sume of £40 for the charges of the house pursuant to their Articles." The point was clearly to lead Rich on into breaching a formal order from the Lord Chamberlain: the order contained no threats or warnings even of the sort customary in such directives. Rich naturally presumed that the matter was open for stalling and discussion and went right on helping himself to a large cut from benefit proceeds. Kent could have moved at any time after early March. His long quiescence must have been deliberate: the actors wanted their salaries paid through the spring and felt that part of a benefit was better than none. On 6 June—close to the usual end of the regular season—Kent issued a terse order silencing Drury Lane for ignoring his directions about the payment of benefit profits. Rich probably saw this as no more than an attention-getting device. Virtually all orders of silence since 1660 had been rescinded within three days, and this one said merely that the company was not to perform "till further order." On such occasions the managers were accustomed to apologize, promise reform, and duly receive the Lord Chamberlain's blessing to resume operations. Only a few insiders can have realized that Kent had no intention of lifting his prohibition at all.

Because the newspapers of the time are almost totally silent about theatrical matters, there is no source of information about actors' and

proprietors' dawning realization of the true state of affairs. Some of the actors had already gone off to perform at Greenwich under Pinkethman.¹ Those who had expected to earn their keep from a summer season in London were upset and petitioned sometime in June for the right to perform—without effect. (The petition is lost.) On 8 July 1709 Kent formally terminated his genre separation order of 31 December 1707 by granting the Queen's Theatre management the right to hire any actors it chose to employ in order to perform comedies and tragedies "four days in the week" during the next season. On the same day Rich's treasurer, Zachary Baggs, printed a little pamphlet entitled *Advertisement Concerning the Poor Actors, who under Pretence of hard Usage from the Patentees, are about to desert their Service*. Baggs gives salary figures for six major performers, plus estimates of their take from benefits.² The most senior actors were indeed making substantial amounts of money, but this was not the issue. Rich was a twister; the actors did not want to work for him; and Kent had decided to put him out of business.

By mid-summer the patentees and building shareholders had started to take alarm. A petition from the numerous actors who had not been invited to move to the Haymarket shows signs of advice and perhaps assistance with drafting from the proprietors (see ca. late July 1709). At an unknown date the building shareholders submitted their own petition—not to Kent, but to the Queen (see August or later 1709). They complained bitterly that Kent's orders were not only "extraordinary" but that he never called them in and had failed to respond to their numerous appeals and protests. Legally, they had a point. What Kent did was at best highhanded, and it infringed the property and patent rights of the proprietors. In the event, however, protest proved largely unavailing. Rich did not regain the right to use his patents until after the accession of George I in 1714.³

At the end of the summer of 1709 the theatrical future remained cloudy in the extreme. Rich was aggressively harassing some of the senior actors in the courts, claiming breach of contract.⁴ This cannot have made the prospect of returning to work for him attractive. Even assuming that the joint theatre-and-opera company at the Queen's Theatre would flourish, however, the prospect was far from satisfactory. The actors could expect to lose two acting days per week to the singers for most of the season, effectively reducing their

¹ Only two of the Greenwich performances were advertised (6 and 20 June).

² A summary of Baggs' figures is printed under 8 July 1709 (taken from the British Library copy). For the full text of his (very rare) pamphlet, see Cibber's *Apology*, ed. Lowe, II, 78-84, from *Edwin's Eccentricities*.

³ For a full discussion of the maneuverings and legalities involved, see Judith Milhous and Robert D. Hume, "The Silencing of Drury Lane in 1709," *Theatre Journal*, 32 (1980), 427-447.

⁴ Cibber brought a suit against Rich in Chancery on 29 June to block an action against him in Queen's Bench (P.R.O. C10/537/22). William Bullock initiated a similar suit on 5 July (C10/528/3) and Benjamin Johnson on 30 July (C10/528/33). See *Document Register*, nos. 2026, 2027, and 2037.

incomes by one-third. Nor was there any possibility that Swiney and his actor-partners would find employment for everyone who had worked at Drury Lane in 1708-09. Rich had continued to maintain an oversized company (probably under pressure from Kent), and four acting days per week would furnish a very inadequate cash flow to support so large a group. If Drury Lane remained dark, a lot of actors would be forced out of work or into strolling.

As long as the Drury Lane theatre stayed vacant, its proprietors would agitate for permission to rent it out and unemployed actors would be eager to occupy it. Owen Swiney almost certainly realized that he needed to control the Drury Lane premises if he was to forestall competition. Back in the 1680s. and early 1690s. the United Company had paid rent on both Drury Lane and Dorset Garden as a way of keeping both sets of building proprietors happy. Swiney's advertisement of 11 August 1709 inviting the owners of shares in Drury Lane to a meeting was presumably a step towards trying to establish legal control over a potential rival venue. Nothing came of these overtures.

As of August 1709, six years of intrigue and reshuffling seemed finally to have created something very like the situation envisioned by Vanbrugh back in 1703 when he planned his new theatre: a single company with a monopoly on both plays and operas. With the benefit of hindsight, one can see that the double company was doomed by economics and the inevitable friction of joint occupancy. The experiment was not really tried: as events fell out, the new united company was to enjoy its monopoly less than three months.

DRURY LANE

The acting company opened its season on 26 August (unusually early) and had given 158 performances of 71 different plays before the theatre was silenced on 6 June. The relatively low total of performances was a result of losing more than six weeks of performances to royal mourning in the autumn. The single acting company was not only unusually large, but an exceptionally fine one, despite Elizabeth Barry's temporary retirement and Thomas Doggett's preferring to tour.⁵ Given the quality of the company and its monopoly, operations are likely to have been profitable, but little was gained from the five new plays they mounted. Only one of them can be accounted a success. Thomas Baker's *The Fine Lady's Airs* (14 December) survived only four nights, not helped by premièring on the same day as *Pyrrhus and Demetrius*, which opened the opera season with a new castrato. Colley Cibber's *The Rival Fools* (11 January) is an adaptation of Middleton and Rowley's *Wit at Several Weapons* that totalled only five nights this season and added only three further performances the rest of the century. John Dennis' *Appius and Virginia* (5 February) was a ponderous classical exercise that struggled

⁵ Barry and Doggett, together with Anne Bracegirdle, made special appearances on 7 April for Betterton's benefit.

through four nights. Thomas Durfey's *The Modern Prophets* (3 May) was a heavy-handed satire that died after its third night. The one success—by anecdotal accounts, totally unexpected—was Susanna Centlivre's *The Busie Body* (12 May), which enjoyed a total of seven performances and was to go on to a long and distinguished stage history.

PERSONNEL. *Actors*: Thomas Betterton; John Bickerstaff; Matthew Birkhead; Barton Booth; William Bowen; Christopher Bullock; William Bullock; James Carnaby; Colley Cibber; John Corey; Richard Cross; Thomas Doggett [guest 7 April only]; Richard Estcourt; Henry Fairbank; Benjamin Husband; Benjamin Johnson; Theophilus Keene; Francis Leigh; John Mills; Henry Norris; George Pack; William Pinkethman; George Powell; Thomas Smith; John Thurmond; John Thurmond Jun.; Cave Underhill;⁶ Robert Wilks. *Actresses*: Katherine Baker; Elizabeth Barry [guest 7 April only]; Margaret Bicknell; Anne Bracegirdle [guest 7 April only]; Lucretia Bradshaw; Susannah Cox; Letitia Cross; Katharine Finch; Mary Kent; Frances Maria Knight; Elizabeth Leigh;⁷ Margaret Mills; Henrietta Moore; Ann Norris; Sarah Norris; Anne Oldfield; Mary Porter; Mary Powell; Jane Rogers; Margaret Saunders; Elizabeth Willis; Mary Willis [on trial or as a guest?].⁸

Other Employees:⁹ Zachary Baggs (treasurer); John Downes;¹⁰ John Hall (sub-treasurer?); Thomas Newman (prompter); George Stockdale (house keeper).¹¹

Proprietors: Christopher Rich and Henry Brett.

Managers: Robert Wilks, Colley Cibber, and Richard Estcourt.¹²

QUEEN'S THEATRE, HAYMARKET

The opera company, owned and managed by Owen Swiney, appears to have enjoyed quite a successful season, greatly helped by public excitement over the advent of Nicolini. Despite opening the season late on account of the mourning for Prince George, the company managed to give 47 performances

⁶ Known only from his benefit performance, 3 June. He was old and unwell.

⁷ Known only from the July 1709 petition against the silencing.

⁸ Appearances on 5 January and 27 April are speculatively ascribed to her.

⁹ The *Biographical Dictionary*, XII, 166, tentatively places the dancer and dancing master Joseph Prince at Drury Lane "on 11 July 1709." In the *Daily Courant* of that date anyone interested in renting a house in Kent is asked to inquire of "Mr John Prince at the Playhouse in Drury-Lane on Drury-Lane side." Assuming that "John" is an error for "Joseph," this implies that Prince was lodging in one of the houses adjacent to the theatre—which had, of course, been silenced on 6 June. There is no record of Prince performing at Drury Lane in 1708-09, but he was a member of the company there in 1709-10.

¹⁰ Known only because he signed a petition against the silencing. Whether he was working for the DL company or only a pensioner is not clear.

¹¹ An ad about a lost bandbox in the *Daily Courant* of 30 May 1709 identifies Stockdale as "the House-keeper of Drury-Lane Play-house."

¹² See the agreement of 31 March 1708.

between 14 December and 28 May. The repertory consisted of only three operas. Swiney filled out the schedule with 13 performances of *Camilla*; the other two were new. The company opened their season with Alessandro Scarlatti's *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* (14 December) with text adapted by Swiney and the music arranged by Nicola Haym. The work enjoyed a startling 27 performances during the season, and its popularity was clearly vital to the company's successful season. Neri and Conti's *Clotilda* (2 March) managed only seven performances.

PERSONNEL. *Singers:* Mr Cook; Nicolini; Littleton Ramondon; Purbeck Turner; Valentini // Margarita de l'Epine; Joanna Maria Lindelheim (the Baroness); Mary Lindsey; Catherine Tofts.

Dancers: Mons. Dumirail // Hester Santlow.

Musicians: The members of the orchestra are not known with certainty this season, but for a list of what may be this year's orchestra, see the *Coke Papers*, no. 73.

Other Employees: Francis Champelon (treasurer?).

Proprietor: Owen Swiney.

UNPERFORMED PLAYS ASSOCIATED WITH THIS SEASON

ALARBAS. A DRAMATICK OPERA. Written by a Gentleman of Quality (London: M.F. for J. Morphew, 1709). Publication "This Day" was announced in the *Daily Courant* of 4 February 1709, though the Yale copy (reproduced by Readex) alters the title page date in MS to "1 Febr. 1708/9." The *Dramatis Personæ* gives no actors' names, and the Preface makes plain that the piece had not been performed. There is no record of later performance. A "Prologue by the Author" and an "Epilogue" are provided.

Preface: When I first design'd the following Sheets, I propos'd to my self Three Things viz. In *Eumenes* to represent a Lover mourning for the Loss of his Mistress; next, in *Altimera*, to give a tender Instance of the most sublime Friendship; 3dly, In the *Regisick Person of Alarbas*, to manifest the large Power of Beauty. But the Poem being some time since drawn according to the Model of our English Dramatick Opera's, any Person that is the least acquainted with the late Performances, will easily account for its appearing in this manner before it had pass'd the Stage, if they will be pleas'd to observe, that the nature of the Play will not admit of its Representation at either House: the Opera-Theatre being wholly taken up with Italian Airs, and the other totally excluding the Musical Part.

LOVE AND LIBERTY. Published as *Love and Liberty*. A Tragedy. As it is to be Acted at the Theatre Royal in Drury-lane. Written by Charles Johnson (London: Bernard Lintott, 1709). (Copy used: Readex.) The dedication is dated 25 November 1708. The *Dramatis Personæ* includes no actors' names. Prologue to be spoken by Mrs — in *Man's Cloaths*. Epilogue. Danchin, II, 417-418, points out that the prologue is identical to one printed in *Hypermnestra* (1703) and that the epilogue is adapted from one for *Lucius Junius Brutus* (1680) and reused in Mrs Pix's *The Czar of Muscovy* (1701). The play was

apparently never performed. Publication "This Day" was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 8 December 1708.

August 1708

Thursday 26
DL

BARTHOLOMEW-FAIR [Jonson]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. All the Comical parts to be perform'd by the principal Comedians. To begin between 5 and 6 a Clock, and no Persons to be admitted behind the Scenes.

COMMENT. Advertisements for this performance appeared in the *Daily Courant* from 23 to 25 August.

Saturday 28
DL

THE LONDON CUCKOLDS [Ravenscroft]. Wiseacre–Bullock; Doodle–Johnson; Dashwell–Norris; Townly–Husband; Ramble–Powell; Loveday–Keene; Roger–Carnaby // Eugenia–Mrs Bradshaw; Arabella [Arbella]–Mrs Rogers; Peggy–Miss Norris; Aunt–Mrs Willis; Engine–Mrs Powell; Jane–Mrs Cox; and the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. To begin half an Hour after 5 a Clock. And by her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

Tuesday 31
DL

BARTHOLOMEW-FAIR [Jonson]. Justice Overdo–Keene; Quarlous–Powell; Proctor John Little Wit–Norris; Bartholomew Cokes Esq–Bullock; Hump. Wasp or Numps–Johnson; Rabby Busy a zealous Puritan–Bickerstaffe; Winwife–Husband; Edgeworth a Pick-Pocket–Thurmond Junior; Nightingale a Ballad-Singer and his Accomplice–Fairbank; Leather-Head a Toyman–Carnaby; Crumplin a Costermonger–Leigh // Mrs Overdo–Mrs Cox; Mrs Grace–Mrs Moor; Mrs Little Wit–Mrs Saunders; Mrs Purecraft–Mrs Powell; Ursula the Pigwife–Cross. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Beadles, Officers, and Attendants belonging to Pye Powder Court. And by her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes.

COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 30 August, *The London Cuckolds* is advertised for this date with the same cast as 28 August.

September 1708

Friday 3
DL

THE EMPEROUR OF THE MOON [Behn]. Doctor Beliaro [Baliardo]–Johnson; Cinthia [Cinthio]–Powell; Scaramouch–Bullock; Harlequin–Bickerstaffe; Charmante–Carnaby; Officer–Fairbank; Clark–Burkhead; Kepler–Smith // Claria [Elaria]–Mrs Finch; Bellemante–Mrs Moore; Mopsophil–Mrs Powell; Florinda–Mrs Norris. And all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Saturday 4
DL

THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES [Shadwell]. Sir Edward Hartford–Keen; Belfort–Powell; Sir Jeffery Shakelhead–Bickerstaffe; Doubty–Cory; Sir Timothy Shakelhead–Norris; Teague O Devilly–Bullock; Tom. Shakelhead–Johnson; Young Hartford–Leigh; Clod–Fairbank; Constable–Cross // Isabella–Mrs Bradshaw; Lady Shakelhead–Mrs Powell; Theodosia–Mrs Cox. (*Daily Courant*)

- Tuesday 7*
DL **THE RECRUITING OFFICER** [Farquhar]. Justice Ballance–Keene; Capt. Plume–Thurmond; Capt. Brazen–Bickerstaff; Worthy–Powell // Belinda [Melinda]–Mrs Rogers; Silvia–Mrs Moore. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 4 September *The Heir of Morocco* is advertised for this day.
- Tuesday 7*
ADVERTISEMENT. The Playhouse in Little-Lincoln's-Inn-Fields is to be Let for a Tennis-Court, or any other use, (except a Playhouse.) Enquire of Mr John Hall next Door to the Sign of the Angel in Little-Russell street between Drury-Lane and the Rose Tavern near Covent Garden, and you may be further inform'd.
COMMENT. This notice was attached to the Drury Lane newspaper ad. We presume that John Hall was the Drury Lane house servant who shared a benefit on 7 October. Betterton had paid poor rates on LIF through 1704-05; no owner/tenant was listed for 1705-06; William Pinkethman was listed for 1706-07; "Rich Esq" for the period May 1708 to May 1709. Pinkethman's name reappeared for 1709-10, but from 1710-11 to Rich's death in 1714, the name that appears in the books is Rich. See Paul Sawyer, *The New Theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields* (London: Society for Theatre Research, 1979), pp. 9-10. We deduce that Rich had moved to take control of the little theatre (inadequate though it was) long before he was silenced and turned out of Drury Lane. No doubt he wanted to ensure that no one else could use it as a theatre.
- Thursday 9*
DL **HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK** [Shakespeare]. Hamlet–Thurmond, being the first time of his performing it in England; King [Claudius]–Keene; Laertes–Powell; Horatio–Husband; Lord Polonius–Cross; Grave-Digger–Johnson; Fop [Osric]–Thurmond, Junior // Queen [Gertrude]–Mrs Powell; Ophelia–Mrs Bradshaw. And all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . To begin at half an hour after 5 a Clock. And by her Majesty's Command, no Persons are to be admitted behind the Scenes. [And note about Lincoln's Inn Fields as 7 September.]
- Saturday 11*
DL **SOPHONISBA; or, Hanibal's Overthrow** [Lee]. Hanibal–Keene; King Massanissa–Powell; Massina–Miss Norris; Scipio–Husbands; Sophonisba–Mrs Rogers; Rosalinda–Mrs Bradshaw. And all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 14*
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF MACKBETH** [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. King [Duncan]–Keen; Mackbeth–Powell; Mackduff–Thurmond, who never yet perform'd it in England; Lady Mackbeth–Mrs Knight; [Lady] Mackduff–Mrs Rogers; Fleon [Fleance]–Miss Norris; the Comedy parts of Hecate and the 3 Wayward Sisters by Mr Johnson, Mr Leigh, Mr Fairbank, and Mr Cross; and the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 16*
DL **AMPHYTRYON; or, The two Socia's** [Dryden]. Jupiter–Powell; Amphytryon–Bickerstaffe; Phæbus–Fairbank; Mercury–Leigh; Socia–Cross; Gripus–Johnson // Alcmena–Mrs Knight; Bromia–Mrs Powell; Phædra–Mrs Saunders; and the rest of the parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 15 September Bickerstaff is listed as playing both Amphitryon and Phoebus, the latter clearly an error.

- Saturday 18*
DL **THE FATAL MARRIAGE**; or, The Innocent Adultery [Southerne]. King [Count Baldwin?]-Keene; Fernando-Johnson; Villeroy-Thurmond; Biron-Husbands; Carlos-Powell; Frederick-Bickerstaff; Fabian-Corey; Jaquelin-Leigh; Sampson-Cross // Isabella-Mrs Rogers; Julia-Mrs Finch; Victoria-Mrs Moore; Nurse-Mrs Powell. And all the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 21*
DL **RULE A WIFE AND HAVE A WIFE** [Fletcher]. Leon-Powell; Michael Perez-Bickerstaff; Duke-Husbands; Juan de Castro-Corey; Alonzo-Smith; Cacafogo-Leigh // Margaretta-Mrs Knight; Estiphania-Mrs Bradshaw; Altea-Mrs Moore; Clara-Mrs Finch; and the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Wednesday 22*
ADVERTISEMENT. Musick Published. All the Overtures and Airs Compos'd for the Theatres by the late Mr Henry Purcell, viz. The Overtures and Airs in the Opera of *Dioclesian*, in the Opera of *King Arthur*, in the *Fairy Queen*, in the *Indian Queen*. The Overtures and Airs in the *Married Beau*, in the *Old Batchelor*, in *Amphitruon*, in the *Double Dealer*, in the *Princess of Persia*, in the *Gordian Knot unty'd*, in the Tragedy of *Ab[d]elazor*, in *Bonduca* and the *Vicious [recte Virtuous] Wife*. The whole consisting of [number mangled] Sets of Overtures and Airs for Violins, in four Parts. Price 8s. [Advertisement by J. Walsh, J. Hare, and P. Randal. Ad repeated in the next four issues from standing type, errors uncorrected.] *British Apollo*, no. 64, 17-22 September 1708. (Copy used: BL PP5351.ba)
- Thursday 23*
DL **THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE**; or, The Earl of Essex [Banks]. Essex-Powell; Southampton-Thurmond; Burleigh-Husbands // Queen [Elizabeth]-Mrs Knight; [Countess of] Rutland-Mrs Rogers; [Countess of] Nottingham-Mrs Bradshaw; and the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 25*
DL **THE RIVAL QUEENS**; or, The Death of Alexander the Great [Lee]. Alexander-Thurmond, being the first Time of his performing it in England; Clytus-Keene; Cassander-Husband; Polypeurhan [Polyperchon]-Bickerstaffe; Hephestion-Smith // Sysigambis-Mrs Powell; Statira-Mrs Rogers; Roxana-Mrs Knight; Parisatis-Miss Norris; and the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.
- Tuesday 28*
DL **THE LIBERTINE DESTROY'D** [Shadwell]. Don John-Husband; Antonio-Thurmond; Lopez-Bickerstaffe; Don Francisco-Keene; Jacomo-Johnson; Sheppard-Leigh; Ghost-Fairbank // Maria-Mrs Rogers; Leonora-Mrs Finch; Clara-Mrs Moore; Flavia-Miss Norris. (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 30*
DL **THE INDIAN EMPEROUR**; or, The Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards [Dryden]. Cortez-Thurmond, (being the first time of his performing it in England); Montezuma-Keene; Orbellan-Husbands; Guiomar-Bickerstaffe // Cydaria-Mrs Bradshaw; Almeria-Mrs Knight; Alibeck-Mrs Rogers; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Entertainment of several Foreigners lately arriv'd.

October 1708

- Saturday 2*
DL **THE SPANISH FRYAR;** or, The Double Discovery [Dryden]. Elvira—Mrs Oldfield, being the first time of her Acting since June last; Torrismond—Thurmond; Lorenzo—Bickerstaffe; Raymond—Keene; Gomez—Johnson; Dominick the Fryar—Leigh; Leonora—Mrs Knight; Teresa—Mrs Finch. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Monday 4*
DL ADVERTISEMENT. New Musick this Day publish'd, *The Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick*, containing a Cantata after the Italian Style, as also the newest Songs for September, price 6*d*. Likewise *Mercurius Musicus; or A Monthly Entertainment of Musick*, made and contriv'd for the Harpsicord or Spinnet, consisting of Preludes, Tocatos, Aires, Lessons, and the most favourite Song-Tunes in the Operas, publish'd for September. Note, The Lessons are proper for the Arch-Lute, Harp or Organ, price 6*d*. Printed for J. Walsh and P. Randall at the Harp and Hoboy in Catherine-street near Summerset-House without Temple-Bar, and J. Hare at the Golden-Viol and Flute in Cornhill near the Royal Exchange. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 5*
DL **SIR COURTLY NICE;** or, It cannot be [Crowne]. Sir Courtly—Cibber, being the first time of his Acting this Season; Surly—Keene; Testimony—Johnson; Hothead—Bullock; Crack—Leigh; Merchant—Fairbank // Leonora—Mrs Oldfield; Violante—Mrs Bradshaw; Aunt—Mrs Powell. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 7*
DL **LOVE FOR LOVE** [Congreve]. Valentine—Wilks; Sir Sampson Legend—Estcourt, being the first time of their Acting this Season; Jeremy—Bowen; Scandal—Booth; Trapland—Norris; Foresight—Johnson; Ben—Cibber; Tattle—Pack // Angelica—Mrs Oldfield; Mrs Foresight—Mrs Rogers; Miss Pru—Mrs Bignall. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Baggs and Mr Hall.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 6 October Thurmond is advertised in the role of Valentine ("being the first time of his performing it in England"), Husband as Scandal, and Bickerstaff as Ben. A benefit at this time of year is unusual, but Baggs and Hall did not have one the previous spring.
- Friday 8*
DL **THE STRATAGEM** [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Being the first time of Acting it this Season.
- Saturday 9*
DL **OTHELLO, MOORE OF VENICE** [Shakespeare]. Othello—Thurmond; Jago—Keene; Brabantio—Smith; Cassio—Husband; Lodovico—Corey; Roderigo—Bowen // Desdemona—Mrs Bradshaw; Emilia—Mrs Powell; Bianca—Mrs Finch; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Entertainment of his Excellence Don Joseph Dias, Ambassador from the Emperour of Morocco, lately arriv'd. . . . For Mr Thurmond's Benefit.
COMMENT. The advertisement in the *Daily Courant* of 8 October states that this will be Thurmond's first performance as Othello in England.

- Tuesday 12*
DL **LOVE MAKES A MAN;** or, The Fop's Fortune [Cibber]. Carlos–Wilks; Clodio–Cibber; Don Lewis–Pinkethman; Antonio–Bullock; Sancho–Norris; Don Duart–Mills; Governor–Bickerstaffe // Elvira–Mrs Oldfield; Louisa–Mrs Rogers; Angelica [Angelina]–Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The whole Company of Comedians being now in Town.
- Wednesday 13*
DL **THE CHANCES** [Buckingham, adapting Fletcher]. Duke–Booth; Don John–Wilks; Don Frederick–Mills; Antonio–Penkethman; Petruchio–Bickerstaffe; Anthony–Norris // Constantia–Mrs Bradshaw; 2d Constantia–Mrs Oldfield; Mother–Mrs Powell; Landlady–Mrs Willis; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The whole Company of Comedians being in Town.
- Thursday 14*
DL **THE JOVIAL CREW;** or, The Merry Beggars [Brome]. Esquire Old-Rents–Keen; Hearty–Pinkethman; Vincent–Wilks; Hilliard–Cibber; Springlove–Mills; Oliver–Booth; Randall–Johnson; Tallboy–Bullock; Justice Clack–Norris // Rachel–Mrs Bicknal; Meriel–Mrs Cross; and all the rest of the parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Friday 15*
DL **THE COMMITTEE;** or, The Faithful Irishman [Howard]. Collonel Careless–Wilks; Collonel Blunt–Mills; Mr Day–Penkethman; Abel–Bullock; Obadi-ah–Johnson; Teague–Estcourt; Bookseller–Norris // Arbella–Mrs Rogers; Ruth–Mrs Bradshaw; Mrs Day–Mrs Powell. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 16*
DL **MACKBETH** [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. Mackbeth–Betterton, being the first time of his Acting this Season; King [Duncan]–Keene; Macduff–Wilks; Lenox–Booth; Banquo–Mills; Lady Mackbeth–Mrs Knight; Lady Macduff–Mrs Rogers; Hecate and 3 Witches–Johnson, Pinkethman, Bullock, and Norris. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Monday 18*
DL **GREENWICH PARK** [Mountfort]. Lord Worthy–Mills; Sir Tho. Reveller–Penkethman; Young Reveller–Cibber; Mr Raisin–Johnson; Mr Sassafrass–Bullock // Florella–Mrs Oldfield; Violante–Mrs Moor; Mrs Raisin–Mrs Knight; Dorinda–Mrs Rogers; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 19*
DL **THE ROVER;** or, The Banish'd Cavaliers [Behn]. Rover [Willmore]–Wilks; Belvil–Husband; Frederick–Cibber; Ned Blunt–Estcourt; Stephano–Norris // Hellena–Mrs Oldfield; Florinda–Mrs Porter; Valeria–Mrs Moor; Angelica–Mrs Knight; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Thursday 21*
DL **THE TRUE AND ANCIENT HISTORY OF KING LEAR AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS** [Tate, adapting Shakespeare]. King Lear–Betterton; Edgar–Wilks; Edmund–Mills; Gloster–Cibber; Gent. Usher–Pinkethman // Cordelia–Mrs Bradshaw; Goneril–Mrs Kent; Regan–Mrs Finch; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Friday 22*
DL **THE NORTHERN LASS;** or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Sir Philip Luckless–Wilks; Tridewell–Mills; Sir Paul Squelsh–Johnson; Bullfinch–Estcourt; Widgin–Bullock; Nonsense–Norris; Anvill–Bowen; How-dee–Cibber //

Widow Fitchow—Mrs Knight; Northern Lass [Constance]—Mrs Bicknell; Trainwell—Mrs Powell; Hold-Up—Mrs Willis. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 22

ADVERTISEMENT. Musick and Dances just publish'd, The Dances for several Years Compos'd by Mr Isaac for Her Majesties Birth Day, engraved in Characters and Figures, for the use of Masters or others who desire to improve themselves in the Art of Dancing; the Rules by Monsieur Fivelet, done into English by Mr Weaver. The Dances done in Characters are the *Salteralla*, the *Union*, the *Britannia*, the *Spanheim*, the *Favourite*, the *Richmond*, the *Rigadoon* and *Rondeau*, all curiously engraven and sold at reasonable Rates. A Collection of choice Airs for a Violin, a Flute or Hoboy, consisting of Trumpet Tunes, Marches and Minuets; to which is added, several familiar and pleasant Aires in 2 parts, for the several Instruments. Price 6d. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall, and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)

Saturday 23
DL

THE TRAGEDY OF OEDIPUS KING OF THEBES [Dryden and Lee]. Oedipus—Powell; Adrastus—Booth; Creon—Mills; Tiresias—Cibber; Hæmon—Thurmond; Egeon—Keene // Jocasta—Mrs Knight; Eurydice—Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Monday 25
DL

THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA [Shadwell]. Sir Wm Belfond—Pinkethman; Sir Edw. Belfond—Keene; Belfond Sen.—Bullock; Belfond Jun.—Wilks; Truman—Mills; Cheatly—Fairbank; Shamwell—Bickerstaff; Capt. Hackum—Leigh; Lolpoop—Cross // Isabella—Mrs Moor; Teresa—Mrs Oldfield; Ruth—Mrs Powell; Lucia—Mrs Norris; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 26
DL

THE RELAPSE: Or, Virtue in Danger [Vanbrugh]. Lord Foppington—Cibber; Sir Tunbelly Clumsey—Bullock; Y. Fashion—Mrs Kent; Loveless—Wilks; Worthy—Mills; Lory—Penkethman // Amanda—Mrs Rogers; Berinthia—Mrs Knight; Miss Hoyden—Mrs Cross. And all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Thursday 28
DL

HENRY THE FOURTH, WITH THE HUMOURS OF SIR JOHN FALSTAFF [Shakespeare]. Falstaff—Beterton; King—Keene; Prince of Wales—Wilks; Hotspur—Powell; Glendower—Cibber; Mortimer—Cory; Douglas—Husband; Two Carriers—Johnson and Bullock // Lady Hotspur [Kate]—Mrs Bradshaw; Hostess—Mrs Powell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. This performance was advertised but probably cancelled. Baggs implies that the theatre was dark from 26 October to 14 December. Prince George died at 10 a.m. this day at Kensington Palace (*Daily Courant*, 29 October).

*The theatres were closed from 28 October to 14 December on
account of mourning for the death of Prince George,
husband of the Queen.*

Thursday 28

ADVERTISEMENT. New Musick this Day publish'd, *The Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick*; or The newest Songs made for the Theatre and other occasions, for October. Price 6d. *Mercurious Musicus*; or *A Monthly Entertainment of Musick*, made and contriv'd for the Harpsichord or Spinnet, consisting of Preludes, Tocatos, Aires, Lessons, and the most favourite Song Tunes in Operas, which will be continu'd Monthly for the Year 1709, publish'd for

October. Price 6d. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall, and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)

November 1708

ca. November DOCUMENT. An undated "List of ye Musick belonging to Operas" may be tentatively dated at about this time. It comprises the names of 29 orchestral players with a per diem salary for each of them, totaling £19 9s. 9d. Nineteen of the names have checks by them; twelve have plus signs. An accompanying list of instruments totals only 21 persons (8 violins, 2 tenors, 2 hautboys, 3 bassons, 1 double bass, 1 harpsicord, 3 bass viols, 1 trumpet). Both the size and the membership of the opera orchestra may have been undecided at this time. For a complete transcription and a discussion of the date, see *Coke Papers*, no. 73.

COMMENT. The assignment of the document to this season seems virtually certain to us, but because the actual size of the orchestra and identity of its members is not known we have not listed the names here or entered them in the company roster.

Friday 12 ADVERTISEMENT. New Musick this Day publish'd, The 2d Book of the *Lady's Entertainment or Banquet of Musick*, being a choice Collection of the newest and most airy Lessons for the Harpsicord or Spinnet; together with several excellent Preludes, Tocatas, and the most favourite Song Tunes in the Operas, all family engraven, pr. 2s. 6d. The yearly Collection of *Monthly Masks of Vocal Musick*, containing all the choicest Songs by the best Masters made for the Play-house, Publick Consorts, and other Occasions, for the year 1708. With a thorough Bass to each Song, and most of them within the Compass of the Flute, pr. 5s. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall, and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)

Monday 15 DOCUMENT. On this day a Chancery order was issued for an audit of the Patent Company's books to determine whether Charles Killigrew was owed arrears. If such an audit was completed, it has not been found. (P.R.O. C33/311, fols. 130-131)

COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 196.

December 1708

Wednesday 8 ADVERTISEMENT. New Musick this Day publish'd, Six Sonatas with an Overture and Aires, in 4 Parts, for Violins and Hoboys, with a Trumpet, Flute de Almain, and a thorough Bass for the Bass, Violin, Bassoon or Harpsicord. Compos'd by Mr Wm Corbett. Likewise a new set of Tunes for Violins, in Parts, made for the Theatre. 24 new Country Dances for the 3 last Years. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall, and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)

Thursday 9
Queen's CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Lady Wentworth to her children on 10 December: Yesterday I had lyke to have been ketched in a trap, your Brother Wentworth had almost parswaded me to have gon last night to hear the fyne muisick, the famous Etallion sing att the rehersall of the Operer, which he assured me it was soe dark none could see me. Indeede musick was the greatist temtation I could have, but I was afraid he deceived me, soe betty

only went with his wife and him; and I rejoysed I did not, for thear was a vast deal of company and good light—but the Dutchis of Molbery had got the Etallian to sing and he sent an excuse, but the Dutchis of Shrosberry made him com, brought him in her coach but Mrs Taufs huft and would not sing because he had first put it ofe; though she was thear yet she would not, but went away. I wish the house would al joyne to humble her and not re-ceav her again. This man out dus Sefashoe, they say that has hard both. (*Wentworth Papers*, p. 66)

Saturday 11
Queen's

COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 6 December the première of *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* is advertised for this date, but it was apparently deferred until 14 December.

Tuesday 14
DL

‡ **THE FINE LADY'S AIRS**; or, An Equipage of Lovers [Thomas Baker]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Cibber, Mr Mills, Mr Johnson, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Norris, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, and Mrs Bradshaw. (For assignment of the parts, see below.) (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *The Fine Lady's Airs: or, an Equipage of Lovers*. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane. Written by the Autor of the *Yeoman of Kent* (London: Bernard Lintott, n.d. [1708]). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Sir Harry Sprightly—Mills; Brigadier Blenheim—Wilks; Mr Nicknack—Cibber; Major Bramble—Johnson; Master Totty—Bullock; Knapsack—Pinkethman; Shrimp—Norris // Lady Rodomont—Mrs Oldfield; Lady Toss-up—Mrs Porter; Mrs Lovejoy—Mrs Bradshaw; Mrs Flimsy—Mrs Saunders; Orange-Woman—Mr Pack. Prologue Written by Mr Motteux. Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Bradshaw.

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

COMMENT. Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 23 December. Advance advertisements for the play indicate some animosity between the publisher and playwright. An ad in the *Daily Courant* of 10 December states, "The Booksellers are to know that at present the Author is in his Airs, and designs to sell his Copy once more." On 11 December, however, the ad concludes, "Note, All Differences between the Author and Bookseller are amicably Accomodated." Baker received £21 10s. from Lintot for the copyright on 10 December 1708 (Nichols, VIII, 293). Act music by John Barrett is preserved in British Library G.15.a.4 (Price, *Music in the Restoration Theatre*, pp. 168-169). Barrett's "How happy are we" in Act IV (sung by Pack) is Day and Murrie 1413.

Tuesday 14
Queen's

‡ **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [English text adapted by Owen Swiney; music arranged by Nicola Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *Pyrrhus and Demetrius*. An Opera. As it is Perform'd at the Queen's Theatre at the Hay-Market (London: Jacob Tonson, 1709). Copy used: British Library 1493.w.65. Dramatis Personæ: Pyrrhus—Signor Cavaliero Nicolino Grimaldi; Demetrius—Signor Valentino Urbani; Cleartes—Ramondon; Arbantes—Turner; Marius—Signora Margarita; Brennus—Cooke // Climene—Mrs Tofts; Deidamia—The Baroness. The libretto is in English save for the parts of Pyrrhus and Demetrius, sung by the two castratos in Italian. The libretto supplies the Italian text of their parts, followed by an English translation set off with double quotation marks in the left margin.

Dedication to Lady Ryalton. . . . I shou'd not have presum'd, Madam, to have laid this Translation at Your Feet, if it had not been for the Excellence of the Musick that attends it: Which having always been esteem'd the chief Work of Scarlatti, cannot fail, I hope, of having Your Ladiship's Approbation.

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . None to be admitted into the Pit or Boxes but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be delivered with Printed Books of the Opera, at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street, this Morning. Boxes upon the Stage 15s. First Gallery 5s. Upper Gallery 2s.

COMMENT. Tickets were also delivered on 13 December. Publication of the libretto was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 15 December. The Swiney-Haym adaptation is based on Alessandro Scarlatti's opera (Naples and Rome, 1694). No full score of the London version survives, but Walsh, Randall, and Hare printed the overture and 54 songs in *Songs in the Opera Call'd Pyrrhus and Demetrius* (Hunter, nos. 48a and b). Publication "This Day" of "All the Songs set to Musick in the last new Opera call'd *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 20 January. A second edition was advertised on 9 February, "with the Addition of the Italian Words to such Songs as are perform'd in that Language." (See Hunter, nos. 49-52.) Walsh attributed the overture and 21 of the songs to Haym. A rival edition of *The Songs in the Opera of Pyrrhus and Demetrius*, "with the Italian Words grav'd under the English, to such as are sung in Italian, and the Overture printed in Score," was advertised by John Cullen in the *Post Boy* of 12-14 May 1709 (see Hunter, nos. 57-58. On the publication history of the London version, see Lindgren, "The Accomplishments . . . of Nicola Francesco Haym," pp. 340-341.

Wednesday 15
DL

THE FINE LADY'S AIRS; or, An Equipage of Lovers [Baker]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Cibber, Mr Mills, Mr Johnson, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Norris, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, and Mrs Bradshaw. (For assignment of the parts, see 14 December.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once.

Thursday 16
DL

THE FINE LADY'S AIRS; or, An Equipage of Lovers [Baker]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Cibber, Mr Mills, Mr Johnson, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Norris, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, and Mrs Bradshaw. (For assignment of the parts, see 14 December.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but twice.

COMMENT. No author's benefit was advertised.

Friday 17
DL

THE FINE LADY'S AIRS; or, An Equipage of Lovers [Baker]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Cibber, Mr Mills, Mr Johnson, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Norris, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, and Mrs Bradshaw. (For assignment of the parts, see 14 December.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice.

Saturday 18
DL

EPSOM WELLS [Shadwell]. Rains—Powell; Bevil—Mills; Woodvil [Woodly]—Wilks; Clodpate—Johnson; Frible—Pinkethman; Biskett—Bullock; Kick—Pack; Cuff—Fairbank // Carolina—Mrs Oldfield; Lucia—Mrs Porter; Mrs Woodvil [Woodly]—Mrs Knight; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Ten Years.

COMMENT. The roles for Pack and Fairbank are reversed in advertisements on 20 December and thereafter. Either they swapped parts or this ad accidentally interchanged them—more likely the latter.

Saturday 18
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Persons to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be delivered this Day Morning at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street. [Prices as 14 December.] To begin exactly at 6 a Clock. And by Command, no Person to stand upon the Stage.

COMMENT. Tickets were also delivered on 17 December.

Monday 20
DL

EPSOM WELLS [Shadwell]. Rains–Powell; Bevil–Mills; Woodyly–Wilks; Clodpate–Johnson; Toby–Cross; Kick–Fairbank; Cuff–Pack; Fribble–Pinkethman; Biskett–Bullock // Mrs Woodyly–Mrs Knight; Carolina–Mrs Oldfield; Lucia–Mrs Porter; Mrs Fribble–Mrs Baker; Mrs Biskett–Mrs Saunders; Mrs Jilt–Mrs Moor. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted but once these Ten Years.

Tuesday 21
DL

ROLLO DUKE OF NORMANDY; or, The Bloody Brother [Fletcher and Massinger]. Rollo–Powell; Otto–Booth; Latorch–Keene; Hamond–Thurmond; Baldwin–Husband; Grand-pree–Bickerstaff; Aubrey–Corey; Cook–Leigh; Butler–Fairbank; Pantler–Pack; Yeoman–Norris // Sophia–Mrs Knight; Edith–Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted there these Seven Years.

Tuesday 21
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be delivered this Morning at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street. [Prices as 14 December.] To begin exactly at 6 a Clock. And by Command, no Person to stand upon the Stage.

COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 20 December.

Tuesday 21

DOCUMENT. On this day Zachary Baggs, treasurer at Drury Lane, agreed to comply with a court order of 17 January 1707 (in a suit initiated by Sir Edward Smith) and leave his books with the clerk in court for the complainants to peruse. (P.R.O. C8/620/35)

COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1997.

Wednesday 22
DL

LOVES LAST SHIFT; or, The Fool in Fashion [Cibber]. Loveless–Wilks; Elder Worthy–Booth; Young Worthy–Mills; Sir Novelty Fashion–Cibber; Sir Wm Wisewood–Johnson; Snap–Pinkethman // Amanda–Mrs Rogers; Narcissa–Mrs Oldfield; Hillaria–Mrs Bradshaw; Flare-it–Mrs Saunders; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the last time of Acting till after Christmas.

*Both theatres were apparently dark between 22 and 27 December
in observance of the Christmas recess.*

Thursday 23
Queen's

COMMENT. The opera company advertised a performance of *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* for this day in the *Daily Courant* of 22 December, but the ad for 28 December shows that it was deferred.

Monday 27
DL

EPSOM-WELLS [Shadwell]. Rains–Powell; Bevil–Mills; Woodyly–Wilks; Clodpate–Johnson; Toby–Cross; Kick–Fairbank; Cuff–Pack; Fribble–Pin-

kethman; Bisket–Bullock // Mrs Woodly–Mrs Knight; Carolina–Mrs Oldfield; Lucia–Mrs Porter; Mrs Fribble–Mrs Baker; Mrs Bisket–Mrs Saunders; Mrs Jilt–Mrs Moor. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but twice these Ten Years. . . . And by her Majesty's Command no Persons are to be Admitted behind the Scenes.

Tuesday 28
DL

THE COUNTRY-WIT; or, Sir Mannerly Shallow [Crowne]. Ramble–Booth; Merry–Mills; Sir Tho. Rash–Norris; Sir Mannerly Shallow–Pack; Lord Dry-bone–Fairbank; Booby–Bullock; Tho. Rash–Johnson // Lady Fadle–Mrs Powell; Christina–Mrs Porter; Betty Frisk–Mrs Bradshaw; Goody Rash–Mrs Willis; Isabella–Mrs Saunders; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 28
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be delivered this Morning at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street. The Tickets which were deliver'd out for Thursday last will be taken this Day. [Prices as 14 December.] To begin at 6 a Clock. And by Command, no Person to stand upon the Stage.

COMMENT. The deferred performance of the opera was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 22 December. Tickets for this evening's performance were also delivered on 27 December.

Wednesday 29
DL

GREENWICH PARK; or, The Merry Citizens [Mountfort]. Lord Worthy–Mills; Sir Tho. Reveller–Penkethman; Young Reveller–Cibber; Raison–Johnson; Sasaphras–Bullock; Sir Wm Thoughtless–Bowen; Beau–Pack; Bounce–Fairbank // Florella–Mrs Oldfield; Violante–Mrs Moor; Dorinda–Mrs Rogers; Mrs Raison–Mrs Knight; Aunt–Mrs Powell. (*Daily Courant*)

Thursday 30
DL

THE OLD BATCHELLOR [Congreve]. Old Batchellor [Heartwell]–Betterton, who has not acted it these Ten Years; Vainlove–Booth; Belmour–Wilks; Sharper–Mills; Sir Jos. Wittol–Bullock; Capt. Bluff–Johnson; Setter–Fairbank; Fondle-Wife–Cibber // Belinda [Melinda]–Mrs Rogers; Araminta–Mrs Bradshaw; Silvia–Mrs Porter; Letitia–Mrs Knight; Lucy–Mrs Saunders; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. Betterton was advertised as Heartwell as recently as 15 March 1708.

Thursday 30
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be delivered this Morning at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street. [Prices as 14 December.] To begin exactly at 6 a Clock. And by Command, no Person to stand upon the Stage.

COMMENT. Tickets were also delivered on 29 December.

Friday 31
DL

BURY-FAIR [Shadwell]. Lord Bellamy–Husband; Wildish–Mills; Oldwit–Johnson; Noddy–Bullock; Trim–Cibber; La-Roch–Bowen; Valet–Norris // Gertrude–Mrs Bradshaw; Philadelphia–Mrs Porter; Lady Fantast–Mrs Powell; Miss Fantast–Mrs Moor; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

January 1709

- Saturday 1*
DL **HENRY THE 4TH, WITH THE HUMOURS OF SIR JOHN FALSTAFF** [Shakespeare]. Falstaff–Betterton; King Henry–Keene; Prince of Wales–Wilks; Hotspur–Powell; Vernon–Booth; Glendower–Cibber; Dowglas–Husband; Two Carriers–Johnson and Bullock; Hostess–Mrs Powell; Drawer [Francis]–Norris; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 1*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. [Admission as 30 December. Prices as 14 December.]
- Monday 3*
DL **THE SCORNFUL LADY** (Written by Beaumont and Fletcher). Elder Loveless–Powell; Young Loveless–Mills; Welford–Booth; Savil–Johnson; Morecraft–Bullock; Roger–Cibber // Scornful Lady–Mrs Knight; Martha–Mrs Bradshaw; Widow–Mrs Moor; Abigail–Mrs Willis; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 4*
DL **THE SILENT WOMAN** (Written by Benj. Johnson). Morosse–Johnson; Dauphine–Booth; Clerimont–Mills; True-wit–Wilks; Sir John Daw–Cibber; Sir Amorous La-Fool–Bullock; Otter–Estcourt; Cutbert [Cutbeard]–Norris // Mrs Epicæne–Mrs Knight; Lady Haughty–Mrs Saunders; Lady Centaure–Mrs Mills; Mrs Mavis–Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Wednesday 5*
DL **THE RECRUITING OFFICER** [Farquhar]. Capt. Plume–Wilks; Serjeant Kite–Estcourt; Worthy–Mills; Justice Ballance–Keene; Brazen–Cibber; Bullock–Bullock // Melinda–Mrs Rogers; Silvia–Mrs Oldfield; Rose–a Young Woman that never appear'd before [identity unknown, but see below]. (*Daily Courant*)
COMMENT. We offer the speculation that this was a trial appearance for Mary Willis (cf. 27 April).
- Wednesday 5*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Boxes 8s. Two Benches in the Pit next the Boxes rail'd in, the same Price. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. Beginning exactly at 6 a Clock.
- Thursday 6*
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH** [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. Macbeth–Betterton; Macduff–Wilks; King [Duncan]–Keene; Malcolm–Corey; Lenox–Booth; Seyton–Bickerstaff // Lady Macbeth–Mrs Knight; Lady Macduff–Mrs Rogers; Three Witches–Pinkethman, Bullock, Norris; Hecat–Johnson. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality.
- Friday 7*
DL **THE INDIAN EMPEROUR**, or, the Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards (Written by the late Mr Dryden). Montezuma–Betterton; Cortez–Powell;

Odmar—Mills; Guyomar—Booth // Almeria—Mrs Knight; Alibeck—Mrs Rogers; Cydaria—Mrs Bradshaw. (*Daily Courant*)

Saturday 8
DL

THE CARELESS HUSBAND [Cibber]. Lord Foppington—Cibber; Lord Morelove—Mills; Sir Charles Easy—Wilks // Lady Betty Modish—Mrs Oldfield; Lady Easy—Mrs Knight; Lady Grave-Airs—Mrs Rogers; Edging—Mrs Saunders. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Saturday 8
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. [Admission as 5 January.]

Monday 10
DL

THE LIBERTINE DESTROY'D [Shadwell]. Don John—Powell; Antonio—Cibber; Lopez—Mills; Jacomo—Johnson; 1st Shepherd—Norris; 2d Shepherd—Leigh // Maria—Mrs Porter; Clara—Mrs Bradshaw; Flavia—Mrs Moore. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With an Epilogue spoken by Mr Penkethman, Riding on an Ass.

Tuesday 11
DL

‡ **THE RIVAL FOOLS**; or, Wit at several Weapons [Colley Cibber, adapting Middleton and Rowley]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Booth, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Cibber, Mr Norris, Mr Keene, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, Mrs Willis. (For assignment of parts, see below.) (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *The Rival Fools*. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane by Her Majesty's Sworn Comedians. Written by Mr Cibber (London: Bernard Lintott, n.d. [1709]). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Sir Oliver Outwit—Pinkethman; Young Outwit—Wilks; Cunningham—Booth; Sir Gregory Goose—Bullock; Samuel Simple—Cibber; Sir Threadbare Gentry—Pack; Priscian—Keene // Lucinda—Mrs Oldfield; Mirabel—Mrs Porter; Governess—Mrs Willis; Lady Gentry—Mrs Finch. [No part is given for Norris in the Dramatis Personæ, but Sprague, p. 112, suggests that he took the part of Credulous—a very plausible conjecture.] Prologue. Epilogue (Pinkethman taking Bullock by the Sleeve, speaks).

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before. . . . All new Written. . . . The Prologue Spoken by Mr Cibber. And the Epilogue by Mr Pinkethman, and Mr Bullock.

COMMENT. Publication was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 26 January. The claim "All new Written" notwithstanding, this is an adaptation of Middleton and Rowley's *Wit at Several Weapons* (ca. 1609-1620). Genest comments, "The changes Cibber has made are not very material, they consist chiefly in the dialogue, which he has reduced from blank verse to prose, putting in and leaving out, as he thought proper—on the whole the alteration is not a bad one, it deserved to have met with more success" (II, 412-413).

Wednesday 12
DL

THE RIVAL FOOLS; or, Wit at several Weapons [Cibber, adapting Middleton and Rowley]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Booth, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Cibber, Mr Norris, Mr Keene, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, Mrs Willis. (For assignment of parts, see 11 January.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once. . . . All new Written. . . . The Prologue Spoken by Mr Cibber. And the Epilogue by Mr Pinkethman, and Mr Bullock.

Wednesday 12
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit.

Thursday 13
DL

THE RIVAL FOOLS; or, Wit at several Weapons [Cibber, adapting Middleton and Rowley]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Booth, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Cibber, Mr Norris, Mr Keene, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, Mrs Willis. (For assignment of parts, see 11 January.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but twice. . . . All new Written. . . . The Prologue Spoken by Mr Cibber. And the Epilogue by Mr Pinkethman, and Mr Bullock.

COMMENT. The advance advertisement for *Rival Fools* that appeared in the *Daily Courant* of 10 January announced "The Third Day being for the Advantage of Mr Cibber."

Friday 14
DL

THE RIVAL FOOLS; or, Wit at several Weapons [Cibber, adapting Middleton and Rowley]. The Principal Parts to be perform'd by Mr Wilks, Mr Booth, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Cibber, Mr Norris, Mr Keene, Mr Pack, Mrs Oldfield, Mrs Porter, Mrs Willis. (For assignment of parts, see 11 January.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice. . . . All new Written. . . . And the Epilogue by Mr Pinkethman, and Mr Bullock.

Saturday 15
DL

THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE; or, The Earl of Essex [Banks]. Essex—Wilks; Southampton—Mills; Burleigh—Keen // Queen—Mrs Knight; [Countess of] Rutland—Mrs Rogers; [Countess of] Nottingham—Mrs Bradshaw. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Saturday 15
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. [Prices and admission as 12 January.] And (at the Desire of several Persons of Quality) Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi's Benefit-Day is deferr'd till next Wednesday. Note, The Tickets which were deliver'd by him for this Night, will be taken that Day.

Monday 17
DL

THE SOLDIER'S FORTUNE [Otway]. Beaugard—Powel; Courtine—Wilks; Sir Jolly Jumble—Bullock; Sir David Dunce—Johnson; Fourbin—Bowen // Lady Dunce—Mrs Knight; Silvia—Mrs Rogers; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 18
DL

THE REHEARSAL (Written by the late Duke of Buckingham). Bayes—Estcourt; Johnson—Wilks; Smith—Mills; Prettyman—Powell; Volscius—Cibber; and the several Comical Parts by Mr Johnson, Mr Pinkethman, Mr Bullock, Mr Norris, Mr Leigh, and Mr Fairbank. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 19
DL

THE HEIR OF MOROCCO, with the Death of Gayland [Settle]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 19
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. . . . And (at the Desire of several Persons of Quality) the Boxes are to be open'd to the Pit, and none to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which are deliver'd by him.

Note, The Tickets which were deliver'd for Saturday last, will be taken this Night.

RECEIPTS: According to Charles Dering, "Our famous Nicolini got 800 guineas for his day" (see 17 March). The accuracy of this estimate is impossible to judge. Since a full theatre at the regular opera prices would have produced only about a third of this sum, many of the patrons would have had to pay premium prices.

- Thursday 20*
DL **EPSOM WELLS** [Shadwell]. Rains–Powell; Bevill–Mills; Woodyly–Wilks; Justice Clodpate–Johnson; Fribble–Penkethman; Bisket–Bullock // Carolina–Mrs Oldfield; Lucia–Mrs Porter; Mrs Woodyly–Mrs Knight; Mrs Fribble–Mrs Baker; Mrs Bisket–Mrs Saunders; Mrs Jilt–Mrs Moore; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Friday 21*
DL **THE SPANISH FRYAR**; or, The Double Discovery [Dryden]. Torrismond–Powell; Bertran–Mills; Raymond–Keene; Lorenzo–Wilks; Gomez–Norris; Father Dominic–Estcourt // Queen [Leonora]–Mrs Knight; Elvira–Mrs Oldfield; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 22*
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET, PRINCE OF DENMARK** [Shakespeare]. Hamlet–Wilks; King [Claudius]–Keene; Horatio–Mills; Ghost–Booth; Grave-Maker–Estcourt; Polonius–Cross // Queen [Gertrude]–Mrs Knight; Ophelia–Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 22*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Mrs Tofts performing her own Part [Climene] (and see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea.
- Monday 24*
DL **THE RIVAL FOOLS**; or, Wit at several Weapons [Cibber, adapting Middleton and Rowley]. Sir Oliver Out-wit–Penkethman; Young Out-wit–Wilks; Cunninggame [Cunningham]–Booth; Sir Gregory Goose–Bullock; Samuel Simple–Cibber; Priscian–Keene; Sir Threadbare Gentry–Pack // Lucinda–Mrs Oldfield; Mirabel–Mrs Porter; Governess–Mrs Willis. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 25*
DL **THE LONDON CUCKOLDS** [Ravenscroft]. Ramble–Powell; Townley–Mills; Doodle–Johnson; Wise-Acre–Bullock; Dashwell–Pinkethman; Loveday–Keene // Eugenia–Mrs Porter; Arbella–Mrs Bradshaw; Engine–Mrs Powell; Aunt–Mrs Willis; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 25*
Queen's **CAMILLA** [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto–the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which will be delivered by the Box-keepers this Morning, at Half a Guinea each Ticket, the Number not to exceed 460. Stage Boxes Half a Guinea. First Gallery 5s. Upper Gallery 2s. To begin exactly at 6 of the Clock. And by Command, No Person to stand upon the Stage.
COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 24 January.
- Wednesday 26*
DL **KING HENRY THE 8TH**, with the Fall of Cardinal Woolsey [Shakespeare and Fletcher]. King Henry–Beterton; Duke of Norfolk–Mills; Duke of Buckingham–Booth; Cardinal Woolsey–Keene; Lord Surry–Powell; Lord Sands

–Bullock; Cranmer–Cibber; Gardiner–Johnson // Queen Katherine–Mrs Knight; Anna Bullen–Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Thursday 27
DL **THE TENDER HUSBAND**; or, The Accomplish'd Fools [Steele]. Sir Humphrey [i.e., Sir Harry] Gubbin–Bullock; Young Gubbin [Humphry Gubbin]–Pinkethman; Mr Tipkin–Norris; Mr Clerimont–Mills; Capt. Clerimont–Wilks; Pounce–Estcourt // Mrs Clerimont–Mrs Cross; Bidy–Mrs Oldfield; Aunt–Mrs Powell; Fainlove–Mrs Porter. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Thursday 27
Queen's **CAMILLA** [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto–the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes Half a Guinea.

Thursday 27 ADVERTISEMENT. This Day is Publish'd, *Camilla*, an Opera, (the Part of Prenesto being printed in Italian) as it is perform'd at the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market. Printed for Jacob Tonson at Gray's-Inn-Gate. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 28
DL **LOVE MAKES A MAN**; or, The Fop's Fortune [Cibber]. Carlos–Wilks; Clodio–Cibber; Antonio–Bullock; Don Lewis–Penkethman; Don Duart–Mills; Sancho–Norris // Angelina–Mrs Bradshaw; Louisa–Mrs Rogers; Elvira–Mrs Oldfield. (*Daily Courant*)

Saturday 29
DL **THE MAN OF MODE**; or, Sir Fopling Flutter [Etherege]. Dorimant–Wilks; Medley–Mills; Sir Fopling–Cibber; Old Bellair–Norris; Young Bellair–Booth; Shoemaker–Bowen // Mrs Loveit–Mrs Oldfield; Harriet–Mrs Bradshaw; Belinda [Melinda]–Mrs Rogers; Emilia–Mrs Porter; Orange-Woman–Pack; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Saturday 29
Queen's **CAMILLA** [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto–the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla–Mrs Tofts. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. [Prices as 27 January.]

Both theatres were dark on 31 January in observance of the annual Fast Day for the Martyrdom of King Charles I (30 January).

February 1709

Tuesday 1
DL **THE FATAL MARRIAGE**; or, The Innocent Adultery [Southerne]. Count Baldwin–Keene; Carlos–Powell; Biron–Booth; Villeroy–Thurmond; Frederick–Bickerstaffe; Fernando–Norris; Jaquelin–Bowen; Sampson–Bullock // Isabella–Mrs Rogers; Victoria–Mrs Porter; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 1 DOCUMENT. On this day Sir Thomas Skipwith filed a bill of complaint against Henry Brett, claiming that the document he had signed on 6 Octo-

ber 1707 (concerning the shares he owned in the patent company) was intended to be a trust, not an outright transfer of interest. Brett replied that he had viewed the transaction as a gift. See P.R.O. C8/481/66.

COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 1999. Hotson prints a complete transcription, pp. 386-396. For a further answer, see C10/545/39. Since Sir George Skipwith inherited the disputed shares in the patent company in June 1710, we deduce that Brett returned them.

Wednesday 2
DL

THE RELAPSE; or, Virtue in Danger [Vanbrugh]. Lord Foppington—Cibber; Loveless—Wilks; Worthy—Mills; Sir Tunbelly Clumsey—Bullock; Coupler—Johnson; Young Fashion—Bickerstaff; Lory—Pinkethman; Surgeon [Serlinge]—Norris // Amanda—Mrs Rogers; Berinthia—Mrs Knight; Miss Hoyden—Mrs Cross; Nurse—Mrs Powell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 2
Queen's

CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla—Mrs Tofts. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. [Prices as 27 January.]

Thursday 3
DL

THE COMMITTEE; or, The Faithful Irishman [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt; Careless—Wilks; Blunt—Mills; Mr Day—Penkethman; Abel—Bullock; Obadiah—Johnson; Bookseller—Norris // Mrs Day—Mrs Powell; Arbella—Mrs Porter; Ruth—Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Friday 4
DL

SIR COURTLY NICE; or, It cannot be [Crowne]. Sir Courtly—Cibber; Surly—Keene; Lord Belguard—Mills; Farewell—Booth; Hothead—Bullock; Testimony—Johnson; Crack—Penkethman // Leonora—Mrs Oldfield; Violante—Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 4

ADVERTISEMENT. This Day is Publish'd, A new Opera call'd, *Alarbas*: Written after the Manner of the Late Dramatick Opera's, by a Gentleman of Quality. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall, and most Booksellers. Pr 1s. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. On this work see the season headnote.

Saturday 5
DL

‡ **APPIUS AND VIRGINIA** [John Dennis]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *Appius and Virginia*. A Tragedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane by Her Majesty's Sworn Servants. Written by Mr Dennis (London: Bernard Lintott, n.d. [1709]). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Appius—Booth; Claudius—Keen; Virginius—Betterton; L. Icilius—Wilks; M. Icilius—Bickerstaff; Horatius—Thorman [Thurmond]; Valerius—Husbands; P. Numitorius—Carey [Corey]; C. Numitorius—Smith // Virginia—Mrs Rogers; Cornelia—Mrs Knight. Prologue. Epilogue.

Dedication to Sidney, Earl of Godolphin, Lord High Treasurer of Great Britain: This Dramatick Poem which was written in the Cause of Liberty, flies to Your Lordship for Protection. . . .

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

COMMENT. Publication on 22 February was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 19 February. Dennis received £21 for the copyright from Lintot on 10 November 1708

(Nichols, VIII, 295).

In a letter to Richard Norton dated 10 August 1708, Dennis states that he has written four acts of *Appius and Virginia*, shown them to Barton Booth, and proposes to send the play to Norton when complete. He adds a bitter complaint about "Persons, of the greatest Quality and the greatest Interest" who have been "endeavouring to banish the Drama from this Town and Island, and to introduce instead of it an effeminate Musick to emasculate the Minds of Men." (*Original Letters*, I, 115-118)

- Saturday 5*
Queen's
DL
CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla—Mrs Tofts. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With Dancing by Monsieur Dumirail lately arriv'd from the Opera at Paris. [Prices as 27 January.] No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit.
- Monday 7*
DL
APPIUS AND VIRGINIA [Dennis]. Cast not advertised (but see 5 February). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once.
- Tuesday 8*
DL
APPIUS AND VIRGINIA [Dennis]. Cast not advertised (but see 5 February). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but twice.
COMMENT. No author's benefit was advertised.
- Wednesday 9*
DL
APPIUS AND VIRGINIA [Dennis]. Cast not advertised (but see 5 February). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice.
- Wednesday 9*
Queen's
DL
PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. With Dancing by Monsieur Dumirail lately arriv'd from the Opera at Paris. Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s 6d. Stage-Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit.
- Thursday 10*
DL
EPSOM WELLS [Shadwell]. Woodly—Wilks; Rains—Powell; Bevil—Mills; Clodpate—Johnson; Fribble—Penkethman; Bisket—Bullock // Mrs Woodly—Mrs Knight; Carolina—Mrs Oldfield; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Friday 11*
DL
THE RIVAL QUEENS; or, The Death of Alexander the Great [Lee]. Alexander—Powell; Clitus—Booth; Cassander—Mills; Lysimachus—Husband; Hephestion—Bickerstaff // Roxana—Mrs Knight; Statira—Mrs Rogers; and all the other parts to the best advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 12*
DL
MARRIAGE A-LA-MODE; or, The Comical Lovers [Cibber, adapting Dryden]. Palamede—Wilks; Rhodophil—Booth; Celadon—Cibber // Florimel—Mrs Oldfield; Melantha—Mrs Cross; Doralice—Mrs Porter; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 12*
Queen's
DL
CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the Famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla—Signiora Margaritta de L'Epine. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage-Boxes half a Guinea. No Per-

son to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. To begin exactly at 6 of the Clock. And by Command, No Person to stand upon the Stage.

COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 10 and 11 February *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* is advertised for this date.

Monday 14
DL

THE ROVER; or, The Banish'd Cavaliers [Behn]. Rover [Willmore]—Wilks; Collonel Belvil—Husband; Frederick—Cibber; Ned Blunt—Estcourt // Helena—Mrs Oldfield; Florinda—Mrs Porter; Valeria—Mrs Moor; Angellica—Mrs Knight. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Tuesday 15
DL

THE CHANCES [Buckingham, adapting Fletcher]. Duke—Booth; Don John—Wilks; Don Frederick—Mills; Petruccio—Bickerstaff; Antonio—Penkethman; Anthony—Norris; Peter—Leigh // 1st Constantia—Mrs Bradshaw; 2nd Constantia—Mrs Oldfield. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 16
DL

THE FOND HUSBAND; or, The Plotting Sisters [Durfey]. Rashly—Powell; Ranger—Mills; Fumble—Johnson; Bubble—Bullock; Sneak—Penkethman; Petulant—Leigh // Emilia—Mrs Rogers; Maria—Mrs Knight; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 16
Queen's

CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the Famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla—Signiora Margaritta de L'Epine. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Signior Valentini. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which will be delivered this Morning at Mr White's Chocolate-House, at St James's Coffee-house, and by the Box-keepers at the Theatre in the Hay-Market, at half a Guinea each Ticket. Stage-Boxes half a Guinea. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Note, The Tickets delivered for *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* will be taken to Day.

COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 15 February.

The theatres were dark Thursday 17 February in observance of a day of Public Thanksgiving proclaimed by the Queen (British Library 21.h.4 [59]).

Friday 18
DL

THE NORTHERN LASS; or, The Nest of Fools [Brome]. Sir Philip Luckless—Wilks; Tridewell—Mills; Bulfinch—Estcourt; Squelch—Johnson; Widgin—Bullock; Nonsense—Norris; Anvil—Bowen; Howdee—Cibber // Widow—Mrs Knight; Constance—Mrs Bicknell; Trainwell—Mrs Powell; Holdup—Mrs Willis. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Saturday 19
DL

THE ALCHEMIST (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Subtle the Alchymist—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surley—Mills; Drugger—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Lovewit—Bickerstaff; Angry-Boy—Bullock; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Six Years.

Saturday 19
Queen's

CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the Famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla—Signiora Margaritta de L'Epine. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. [Prices and

admission as 12 February.]

- Monday 21*
DL **THE ALCHEMIST** (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Subtle the Alchymist—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surley—Mills; Drugger—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Lovewit—Bickerstaff; Angry Boy—Bullock; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these Six Years.
- Tuesday 22*
DL **THE ALCHEMIST** (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Subtle the Alchymist—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surley—Mills; Drugger—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Lovewit—Bickerstaff; Angry Boy—Bullock; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but twice these Six Years.
- Wednesday 23*
DL **THE JOVIAL CREW; or, The Merry Beggars** [Brome]. Old-Rents—Keene; Hearty—Pinkethman; Springlove—Mills; Vincent—Wilks; Hilliard—Cibber; Oliver—Booth; Randal—Johnson; Poet—Norris // Rachel—Mrs Bicknell; Meriel—Mrs Cross; and all the rest of the parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Wednesday 23*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. [Prices and admission as 12 February.]
- Thursday 24*
DL **THE RECRUITING OFFICER** [Farquhar]. Capt. Plume—Wilks; Serjeant Kite—Estcourt; Capt. Brazen—Cibber; Ballance—Keene; Worthy—Mills; Bullock—Bullock; Apple-tree—Leigh; Pearmain—Norris // Silvia—Mrs Oldfield; Melinda—Mrs Rogers; Rose—Mrs Bicknell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Wilks.
RECEIPTS: According to Zachary Baggs (see 8 July 1709), Wilks netted £90 13s. 9d. calculated at standard prices, plus an estimated £40 from tickets sold above face value. Since the patentees presumably detained one-third of the net profit, and Wilks had to pay £40 house charges, the total receipts were probably about £175.
- Friday 25*
DL **THE INDIAN EMPEROUR; or, The Conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards** [Dryden]. Montezuma—Keene; Odmar—Mills; Guyomar—Booth; Cortez—Powell; Orbellan—Husband; Vasquez—Corey // Almeria—Mrs Knight; Alibech—Mrs Rogers; Cydaria—Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 26*
DL **VOLPONE; or, The Fox** (Written by the famous Ben Jonson). Volpone—Powell; Mosca—Wilks; Voltore—Keene; Corbaccio—Johnson; Corvino—Mills; Sir Politick Wou'd-be—Norris; Bonario—Booth; Peregrine—Bickerstaff // Celia—Mrs Rogers. (*Daily Courant*)
EDITION. Further cast details for the Drury Lane production this year are supplied by a new edition. *Volpone* . . . As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal by Her Majesty's Servants (London: J. Tonson, 1709). Dramatis Personæ: Volpone—Powell; Mosca—Wilks; Voltore—Keene; Corbaccio—Johnson; Corvino—Mills; 1 Avocatore—Corey;

2 Avocatore—Carnaby; 3 Avocatore—Smith; 4 Avocatore—Cross; Politick Would-be—Norris; Peregrine—Fairbank; Bonario—Booth // Madame Would-be—Mrs Kent; Celia—Mrs Rogers.

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

Saturday 26
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. [Prices as 12 February.]

Monday 28
DL

THE ALCHEMIST (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Subtle the Alchymist—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surley—Mills; Drugger—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Lovewit—Bickerstaff; Angry Boy—Bullock; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

March 1709

Tuesday 1
DL

THE SILENT WOMAN (Written by the famous Ben. Johnson). Morose—Johnson; Truewit—Wilks; Clerimont—Mills; Dauphine—Booth; Sir John Daw—Cibber; Sir Amorous La-Fool—Bullock; Otter—Estcourt; Cutbert [Cutbeard]—Norris // Mrs Epicæne—Mrs Knight; Lady Haughty—Mrs Saunders; Mrs Mavis—Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 2
DL

AMPHITRYON; or, The Two Socia's [Dryden]. Jupiter—Powell; Amphitryon—Bickerstaff; Mercury—Estcourt; Socia—Pack; Phœbus—Fairbank; Gripus—Johnson // Alcmena—Mrs Knight; Phædra—Mrs Bicknell; Bromia—Mrs Powell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Wednesday 2
Queen's

‡ **CLOTILDA** [libretto by G. B. Neri, music by Francesco Conti]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *Clotilda*. An opera humbly inscrib'd to the most noble the marchioness of Kent (London: Tonson, 1709). Dual-language edition. Dramatis Personæ: Fernando—Valentino Urbani; Alphonso—Cavaliero Nicolino Grimaldi; Sancho—Ramondon; Roderigo—Lawrence // Clotilda—Mrs de l'Epine; Isabella—Mrs Tofts; Leonora—Mrs Lindsey. The music is said to be by Scarlatti, Bononcini, Pollaroli, Fago, Conti, Gasperini, Albinoni, and Caldara. Publication by Tonson was advertised in the *Term Catalogue* of May-June 1709 (III, 644).

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit, and no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be deliver'd this Morning, at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-Street. Boxes upon the Stage 15s. First Gallery 5s. Upper Gallery 2s. To begin exactly at 6 a Clock.

COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 1 March. Publication of "All the Songs set to Musick in the last new Opera call'd, *Clotilda*, both in Italian and English, as they are perform'd at the Queen's Theatre" was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 14 April. *Songs in the new Opera, Call'd Clotilda* was issued by Walsh and Hare and included the overture and 43 songs (Hunter, nos. 53, 54, and 59).

Thursday 3
DL

THE STRATAGEM [Farquhar]. Aimwell—Mills; Archer—Wilks; Sullen—Keene; Bonniface—Bullock; Gibbet—Cibber; Scrub—Norris; Foigard—Bow-

en // Mrs Sullen–Mrs Oldfield; Dorinda–Mrs Bradshaw; Cherry Boniface–Mrs Bicknell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Oldfield.

RECEIPTS: Total receipts were £134 3s., according to Rich's answer to Oldfield's complaint (see 4 March). Oldfield claimed £94 3s. at £40 house charges. Rich paid her only £62 7s. 8d. (a figure confirmed by Baggs), detaining not only house charges but one-third of the clear profits. Baggs estimates that Oldfield collected an additional £120 from tickets sold above face value.

Friday 4
DL

EPSOM-WELLS [Shadwell]. Rains–Powell; Bevill–Mills; Woodyly–Penkethman; Bisket–Bullock // Carolina–Mrs Oldfield; Lucia–Mrs Porter; Mrs Woodyly–Mrs Knight; Mrs Fribble–Mrs Baker; Mrs Bisket–Mrs Saunders; Mrs Jilt–Mrs Moore; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 4

DOCUMENT. Mrs Oldfield Complains. That when she Acted at the Queens Theatre in the Haymarket: She had an Agreement for ffour pounds per Week sallery, and a Benefit-Play every year paying only out of the Receipt Forty-pounds, which Agreement was Enter'd in the Lord Chamberlain's Office: That upon my Lords assurance of his Protection, and for her being continu'd at the same Sallery, and terms of a Benefit-Play at the Theatre Royall, she return'd to Act there: but Mr Rich, having consented to have a Play Acted for her Benefit the 3d of this instant March, refuses to pay her the profits exceeding ffourty pounds of such Play, He absolutely demanding seventy one pounds for the Use of the Patent, & insists upon her having only the remainder. Mrs Oldfield therefore Humbly hopes, the Lord Chamberlain will use his Authority to Oblige Mr Rich to keep the Agreement she had at the Hay-Market. Ann Oldfield March ye 4th 1708/9. (LC 7/3, fol. 104)

ca. early
March

DOCUMENT. The Answer of Mr Rich, the Patentees & Adventurers, to a Paper intituled Mrs Oldfields Complaint. That Mrs Oldfield the 20th March 1703 sealed Articles with Mr Rich to Act during the terme of five years at his direction for 50s. a Week, And no Agreement for a Benefit Play, to which Articles he refers himself, which are not yet expired, during which time, as she could not legally or fairly Act at the Hay Market some others who broke their Articles & went thither & Acted, have been sued for such Breach, & Judgements recovered against them in Westminster Hall.

As to any Agreement made with her by Mr Vanbrugh, or Mr Swiny at the Hay Market, Mr Rich says, he is a Stranger to, and the Patentees & Adventurers of the Theatre in Drury Lane cannot think themselves obliged to make good any Articles to which Mr Rich or any of them were not Parties or consenting.

Mrs Oldfield since her return has had £4 a Week allowed her (altho' no woman 'till of late years had above 50s.) Which great salary to her & others with the Benefit Plays (being more than twenty the last year) thereby Reduced the clear Profitts so, that it amounted on 10th June last to no more then £15 6 for all the Patentees and Adventurers which was not half so much as their Cloaths and scenes were dampnified, whereas Six of the chief Players from 10th January to 11th June last (being five Months) by their salaries & Benefit Playes, got above Nine hundred & fifty Pounds, besides what was given them by Guineas & Moneys over and above the

Prices set on the Bills, which to some of them was very considerable, & Mr Betterton knows, that it was the Rule & Custom for the Patentees and Adventurers to have so much as Six Chief Sharing Actors had amongst them tho' in different Proportions.

That Mrs Oldfield desiring to have the *Stratagem* Acted for her Benefit on 3d instant, wee consented thereto on Condition that after £40 taken out of the Receipt for charges of that day, she to have two thirds of the Remainder, with which she seemed well contented, and the Receipt (at raised prices) being £134 3s., her two thirds came to £62 7s. 8d. which Mr Baggs the Treasurer was, and is ready to pay her, she in her complaint is pleas'd to say That Mr Rich demands £71 for the use of the Patent, which is a great mistake, for £40 of it goes to defray the Charges of the Day (whereof she herself has a part) and the other £31 is made Received in the General Receipts to make good Deficiencies that may happen between this & the 10th July next, the usual time of Leaving off Playing, and to Pay for Scenes and Cloaths.

Wee Pray Leave to observe to your Lordship, That when benefit Plays were Granted, it was to make up several Dayes Salaries, which the Receipts fell short to Answer, & no such Benefits usually given till May, or June; But now the Players being punctually Paid for every day there is acting, wee humbly conceive no Benefit Play is due at all; However wee do not now Refuse them two thirds of the Profits even in the best Season of the yeare for their greater Incouragements.

And wee further observe to your Lordship, That if Mr Vanbrugh to inctice over our Actors to the Hay Market took but £40 out of Benefit Playes: Our charge is really much greater than his was, by reason of both Companies coming together.

And the said Mr Rich Patentees, and Adventurers hope it may be thought Reasonable That they, whose Estates & Interests cost them many thousand Pounds, & Run a hazard, & are Lyable to great Rents & all Debts, may make such reasonable agreements concerning their Rights & Properties as they are Intitled to, by their Letters Patents, to which they referr. [Signed by] Thos. Skipwith, Chr Rich, Tho: Goodall, John Metcalfe, Richd Middlemore, Wm East. (LC 7/3, fol. 175)

COMMENT. For discussion, see the season headnote.

Saturday 5
DL

THE 2ND PART OF . . . THE CONQUEST OF GRANADA; with the Love of Almanzor and Almahide [Dryden]. Almanzor—Powell; Boubdelin [Boabdelin]—Husband; Ozmin—Wilks; Abdelmelech—Mills // Lydoraxa [Lyndaraxa]—Mrs Knight; Almahide—Mrs Rogers; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. The advance advertisement for this performance in the *Daily Courant* of 4 March adds "at the desire of several Persons of Quality."

Saturday 5
Queen's

CLOTILDA [Neri and Conti]. Cast not advertised (but see 2 March). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. [Admission and prices as 2 March.]

COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 4 March.

Monday 7
DL

THE RECRUITING OFFICER [Farquhar]. Capt. Plume—Wilks; Serjeant Kite—Estcourt; Worthy—Mills; Capt. Brazen—Cibber; Ballance—Keene // Melinda—Mrs Rogers; Silvia—Mrs Oldfield; Rose—Mrs Bicknell; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

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

- Tuesday 8*
DL
THE EMPEROUR OF THE MOON [Behn]. Doctor Baliardo—Johnson; Scaramouch—Estcourt; Don Cynthio—Powell; Don Charmante—Bickerstaff; Harlequin—Pinkethman // Elaria—Mrs Knight; Bellamante—Mrs Moor; Mopsophil—Mrs Powell. (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 8*
Queen's
PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Mrs Tofts performing her own Part [Climene] (and see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . [Prices as 12 February.] No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. To begin exactly at 6 a Clock. And by Command, No Person to stand upon the Stage.
- From Wednesday 9 March the theatres did not perform
on Wednesdays and Fridays until after Easter.*
- Thursday 10*
DL
HENRY THE 4TH, with the Humours of Sir John Falstaff [Shakespeare]. Cast not advertised (but see 1 January). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Two Benches of the Pit being Rail'd in to the Boxes for the Conveniency of the Persons of Quality who have taken Bounty Tickets. The Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. Middle Gallery 2s. First Gallery 1s.
RECEIPTS: According to Baggs, Estcourt received £51 8s. 6*d.*, plus an estimated £120 from tickets sold above face value.
COMMENT. From 5 to 8 March advance advertisements for this performance in the *Daily Courant* add "For the Benefit of Mr Estcourt." He presumably took the role of Falstaff.
- Thursday 10*
DOCUMENT. On this day Owen Swiney signed an agreement with Robert Wilks, Colley Cibber, and Thomas Doggett by which the three actors joined him in a partnership to manage a joint company for plays and operas at the Haymarket Theatre. Swiney was to receive 50 percent of the profits, each of the actors was to get a one-sixth share. The original MS is apparently lost, but the agreement is recited in P.R.O. C7/668/31.
COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 2002. Less than a week after Mrs Oldfield's complaint to the Lord Chamberlain (see 4 March), Swiney and others clearly knew that Kent had decided to shut Rich down and permit a drastic reorganization of theatrical affairs in London.
- Saturday 12*
DL
LOVE FOR LOVE [Congreve]. Sir Sampson Legend—Estcourt; Valentine—Wilks; Scandal—Booth; Tattle—Pack; Foresight—Johnson; Ben—Cibber; Trapland—Norris; Jeremy—Bowen // Angellica—Mrs Oldfield; Mrs Foresight—Mrs Rogers; Mrs Frail—Mrs Porter; Miss Prue—Mrs Bicknell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 12*
Queen's
CLOTILDA [Neri and Conti]. Cast not advertised (but see 2 March). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit, and no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be deliver'd this Morning, at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-Street.
COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 11 March.
- Monday 14*
DL
THE CONSTANT COUPLE; or, A Trip to the Jubilee [Farquhar]. Sir Harry Wild-Air—Wilks; Collonel Standard—Mills; Clincher Sen.—Pinkethman; Clincher Jun.—Bullock; Smugler—Johnson; Dicky—Norris // Lady Lurewell

—Mrs Oldfield; Angellica [Angelina]—Mrs Rogers; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Rogers.

Tuesday 15
DL

THE PILGRIM [Vanbrugh, adapting Fletcher]. Alphonso—Johnson; Pedro—Wilks; Roderigo—Mills; Jaquez—Bowen; Lopez—Bullock; Mad-Schollar—Keene; Mad-Englishman—Cibber; Mad-Taylor—Pinkethman; Mad-Parson—Pack; Mad-Welshman—Norris // Alinda—Mrs Oldfield; Juletta—Mrs Moor; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

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

Tuesday 15
Queen's

CLOTILDA [Neri and Conti]. Cast not advertised (but see 2 March). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. [Admission and prices as 5 March.]

COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 14 March.

Wednesday 16

ADVERTISEMENT. Whereas a very Neat and Correct Edition of Mr Wm Shakespear's *Works* in 6 Volumes in Octavo, Adorn'd with Cutts, is now so near finish'd as to be publish'd in a Month, to which is design'd to be prefix'd as exact Account of the Life and Writings of the said Author as can be Collected. If therefore any Gentlemen who have Materials by them that may be Serviceable to ths design will be pleas'd to transmit the same to Jacob Tonson at Gray's-Inn-Gate, it will be a particular Advantage to the Work, and acknowledg'd as a favour by the Gentleman [Nicholas Rowe] who hath had the care of this Edition. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. For the announcement of publication, see 6 June 1709.

Thursday 17
DL

THE GAMESTER [Centlivre]. Gamester [Young Valere]—Powell; Lovewell—Booth; Sir Thomas Valere—Norris; Count Cogg-Dye—Cibber; Marquis of Hazard—Bowen; Sir Benjamin Nick-it—Johnson; Squire Lose-all—Bullock; Rattle-Box—Carnaby; Hector—Pack; Dorante—Cory; Boxkeeper—Leigh // Angellica—Mrs Bradshaw; Security—Mrs Willis; Favourite—Mrs Mills; Betty—Mrs Cox; Topknot—Mrs Baker; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there before. For the Benefit of Mr Powell. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.

Thursday 17
Queen's

CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi // Camilla—Mrs Tofts. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. To begin exactly at 6 a Clock.

COMMENT. Charles Dering (see next entry) reports this performance “acted expressly for Lord Marlborough.”

Thursday 17

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Charles Dering to Sir John Percival: “I am growing in love very fast with operas, which I own I did not relish at first, and we have now three—namely *Pyrrhus and Demetrius*, *Camilla*, and now *Clotilda*—and this very day *Camilla* is acted expressly for Lord Marlborough. Our famous Nicolini got 800 guineas for his day [see 19 January], and it is thought Mrs Tofts, whose turn it is on Tuesday next, will get a vast deal. She was only sunday last at the Duke of Somerset's, where there was about thirty gentlemen, and every kiss was a guinea. Some took three,

others four, others five kisses at that rate, but none less than one. A pretty trade, if it would only last all the year. How many would Sir John Percival have taken had he been there? (HMC, Egmont, II, 236)

Saturday 19
DL

VENICE PRESERV'D, or, a Plot Discover'd [Otway]. Jaffair–Thurmond; Bedamar–Booth; Pierre–Mills; Priuli–Keen; Renault–Cibber; Antonio–Penkethman // Belvidera–Mrs Rogers. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. And the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage.

Saturday 19
Queen's

CLOTILDA [Neri and Conti]. Cast not advertised (but see 2 March). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit, and no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be deliver'd this present Friday and to Morrow Morning, at Mr White's Chocolate House in St. James's-Street. Boxes upon the Stage 15s. First Gallery 5s. Upper Gallery 2s. To begin exactly at 6 a Clock.

COMMENT. The company ran the same ad on Friday and Saturday, forgetting to adjust the text as needed.

Monday 21
DL

OROONOKO [Southerne]. Oroonoko–Booth; Aboan–Powell; Governour–Keene; Blanford–Bickerstaff; Capt. Driver–Johnson; Daniel–Pinkethman // Imoinda–Mrs Rogers; Widow Lack-it–Mrs Knight; Charlot Welden–Mrs Bradshaw; Lucy Welden–Mrs Bicknell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Booth.

COMMENT. This is Booth's first recorded appearance as Oroonoko, a role Wilks had been playing (see 19 April 1708).

Monday 21

ADVERTISEMENT. From the Theatre Royal. The Tickets, that were given out for *Othello Moor of Venice*, to be Acted on Thursday the 24th Instant, for the Benefit of Mr Betterton, will be taken on Monday the 4th of April next, his Play being chang'd, At the desire of several Ladies of Quality, and deferr'd till that Day.

COMMENT. Betterton's benefit was further deferred until 7 April. (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 22
DL

THE SQUIRE OF ALSATIA [Shadwell]. Sir Wm Belfond–Pinkethman; Sir Edward Belfond–Keene; Belfond Senior–Bullock; Belfond Junior–Wilks; Truman–Mills; Cheatley–Fairbank; Shamwell–Bickerstaff; Scrapall–Norris; Capt. Hackum–Leigh; Lolpoop–Cross // Termagant–Mrs Knight; Isabella–Mrs Rogers; Teresa–Mrs Moor; Ruth–Mrs Powell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 22
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Tofts. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which will be deliver'd this Morning at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-street, and by the Box-keepers at the Office under the Piazza at the Theatre in the Hay-Market, at half a Guinea each Ticket. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. To begin exactly at 6 a Clock.

COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 21 March.

- Thursday 24*
DL
OTHELLO MOOR OF VENICE [Shakespeare]. Othello—Betterton; Jago—Cibber; Cassio—Booth; Roderigo—Bowen; Brabantio—Keene // Desdemona—Mrs Bradshaw; Emilia—Mrs Powell; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
COMMENT. This performance was originally planned as Betterton's benefit. See 21 March.
- Thursday 24*
Queen's
CLOTILDA [Neri and Conti]. Cast not advertised (but see 2 March). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. By Subscription. . . . The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit, and no Person to be admitted but by the Subscribers Tickets, which will be deliver'd this Morning, at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's-Street. [Prices as 19 March.] To begin exactly at 6 a Clock.
COMMENT. Tickets for this performance were also delivered on 23 March.
- Saturday 26*
DL
THE ALCHEMIST [Jonson]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Cibber. . . . All the parts play'd (as last time) to the best Advantage. With a new Epilogue spoken by Mr Cibber representing the Figure of Nobody.
RECEIPTS: According to Baggs, Cibber earned £51 0s. 10½*d.* at his benefit. At £40 and a one-third tax by the patentees, this implies a total receipt of about £116. Baggs speculates that Cibber earned about £50 more from tickets sold above face value.
COMMENT. The cast on 28 February was as follows: Subtle the Alchemist—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surley—Mills; Druggier—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Lovewit—Bickerstaff; Angry Boy—Bullock.
- Saturday 26*
Queen's
CLOTILDA [Neri and Conti]. Cast not advertised (but see 2 March). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6*d.* Upper Gallery 1s 6*d.* Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit.
- Monday 28*
DL
THE ROVER, or, the Banish'd Caviliers [Behn]. Wilmore—Wilks; Coll. Belvile—Husband; Frederick—Cibber; Ned Blunt—Estcourt; Sancho—Norris; Antonio—Pack // Helena—Mrs Bradshaw; Florinda—Mrs Porter; Valeria—Mrs Moore; Angelica—Mrs Knight; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Knight.
- Tuesday 29*
DL
THE GAMESTER [Centlivre]. Gamester [Young Valere]—Powell; Lovewell—Booth; Sir Thomas Valere—Norris; Count Cog Dye—Cibber; Marquis of Hazard—Bowen; Sir Benjamin Nick-it—Johnson; Squire Loose all—Bullock; Hector—Pack // Angellica—Mrs Bradshaw; Lady Wealthy—Mrs Porter; Mrs Security—Mrs Willis; and the rest of the parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there but once. For the Benefit of Mr Pack.
- Tuesday 29*
Queen's
PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Bene-

fit of the Baroness. . . . Boxes 8s. Two Benches in the Pit rail'd in, the same Price. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. To begin exactly at six a Clock.

Wednesday 30

DOCUMENT. On this day Owen Swiney signed the first of a series of contracts with Drury Lane actors, secretly retaining them for long-term engagements at the Queen's Theatre. The Lord Chamberlain did not silence Rich and Drury Lane until 6 June, but clearly Swiney was operating with foreknowledge—and permission to engage performers from the acting company. Eight contracts are recorded in LC 7/3, fols. 105-120. John Mills signed on 30 March for five years at £100 per annum plus a benefit in March at £40 charges; William Bullock signed on 4 April for five years at £80 and a benefit in April at £50 charges; Benjamin Johnson signed on 11 April for five years at £100 and a benefit in April at £40 charges; Anne Oldfield signed on 21 April for thirteen years at £200 plus a benefit in February from which she would get the "entire receipts whereof, without any Deduction whatsoever"; William Pinkethman signed on 30 April for five years at £100 and a benefit in March at £40; Benjamin Husband signed on 10 May for five years at £65 and a benefit in April at £50 charges; Mary Porter signed on 24 May for five years at £80 plus a benefit in March at £50 charges; William Bowen signed on 20 June for five years at £75 plus a benefit in April at £50 charges.

COMMENT. Swiney presumably made agreements with numerous other performers, but these are the only contracts of which copies survive. See *Document Register*, nos. 2004, 2006, 2007, 2011, 2016, 2019, 2022, and 2015.

Thursday 31
DL

THE FUNERAL, or, Grief A-la-Mode [Steele]. Lord Brumpton—Keen; Lord Hardy—Cibber; Campley—Wilks; Trusty—Mills; Lady Brumpton—Mrs Rogers; Lady Harriot—Mrs Oldfield; Lady Sharlot—Mrs Bradshaw; Madam d'Peingle—Mrs Willis; Puzzle—Estcourt; Sable—Johnson; Trim—Penkethman; Fardingale—Norris; Kate Matchlock—Bullock. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Mills. . . . And all the Comic parts to be perform'd by the principal Comedians. . . . And at the request of some Persons of Quality, 2 Benches of the Pit will be Rail'd into the Boxes at the same Price.

RECEIPTS: According to Baggs, Mills received £58 1s. 4d. from his benefit. At £40 charges and a one-third tax by the patentees, this implies a gross of about £127. Baggs estimates that Mills gained an additional £20 from tickets sold above face value.

Thursday 31

ADVERTISEMENT. *The Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick*, in which is contain'd a Cantate compos'd by Mr John Eccles, Master of her Majesty's Musick. Publish'd for March. Next week will be publish'd, A choice Collection of Italian and English Musick for 2 Flutes, containing the Overture of *Pyrrhus and Demetrius*; also several Overtures and Aires, by Mr Corbet and others, with the choicest Aires and Duets out of the last new Operas of *Love's Triumph*, *Pyrrhus*, and *Clotilda*; and 3 Sonatas for 2 Flutes: By the most Eminent Masters. Price 1s. 6d. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall, and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)

April 1709

- ca. April DOCUMENT. About this time Swiney gave Coke a copy of his proposals to Nicolini for a three-year contract extension. The terms are that Nicolini will not perform any where else that money is taken; he will have a benefit each season on the same terms he enjoyed in 1708-09; if the theatre is closed by mourning or official order, or if Nicolini is sick and unable to perform, his salary will be proportionally abated; he must perform three new parts each year "if required" but "shall have the liberty of Choosing his parts"; he will receive an additional £150 "for a fair Score with the words & parts of an Opera to be by him fitted for the English stage every Season, if such Opera's shall be approved of"; he will receive a salary of 800 guineas in six installments, the first to be 300 guineas on 10 December; "he shall not be obliged to attend the businesse of the house" between 1 June and the last day of October in any year. For a full transcription, see *Coke Papers*, no 74.
- Saturday 2*
DL **AURENG-ZEBE**; or, *The Great Mogul* [Dryden]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Keene. . . . Note, The Tickets deliver'd out for the 14th will be taken this Day.
- Saturday 2*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With an entire set of new Scenes, Painted by two famous Italian Painters, (lately arriv'd from Venice) and all the other Decorations which were represented in the Opera of *Clo-tilda*. Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit.
- Monday 4*
DL **THE ALCHEMIST** (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Subtle—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surly—Mills; Lovewit—Bickerstaffe; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Abel Druggier—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Angry Boy—Bullock. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Penkethman. . . . With a new Epilogue spoken by Mr Penkethman and Jubilee Dicky, Representing the Figures of Some-body and No-body, Mr Penkethman hoping himself to be Somebody that Night, (or Nobody) it being his Jubilee-Day. Boxes 5s. Pit 3s. First Gallery 2s. Upper Gallery 1s.
- Tuesday 5*
DL **THE RIVAL QUEENS**: or, *The Death of Alexander the Great* [Lee]. Alexander—Powel; Clitus—Booth; Hephestion—Bickerstaffe; Lysimachus—Husband; Cassander—Mills; Polyperchon—Keene // Roxana—Mrs Porter; Statira—Mrs Bradshaw. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Porter. . . . And all the other Parts to the best Advantage.
- Tuesday 5*
Queen's **CAMILLA** [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicholini Grimaldi. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Lindsey. . . . [With scenes, prices, and admission as 2 April.]

Thursday 7
DL

LOVE FOR LOVE [Congreve]. Valentine–Betterton; Ben–Dogget // Angelica–Mrs Bracegirdle; Mrs Frail–Mrs Barry. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Betterton. . . . With a new Prologue to be spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle, and a new Epilogue by Mrs Barry. The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit, and no Person to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which will be deliver'd at Mr White's Chocolate-House in St. James's Street, at Mr Butler's at the Indian Man in Little Russell Street, Covent Garden, and at Baker's Coffee House in Exchange-Alley, at half a Guinea each Ticket: Note, That the Tickets deliver'd out for the *Moor of Venice*, and *Great Mogul* [i.e., *Aureng-Zebe*], will be taken at this Play.

RECEIPTS: According to Baggs, Betterton received £76 4s. 5d. "At common Prices" besides what he got by high prices, on which Baggs adds, "Note, that Mr Betterton having had £76 4s. 5d. as above-mentioned for Two Thirds of the Profits by a Benefit Play, Reckoning his Tickets for the Boxes, at 5s. a piece, the Pit at 3s., the first Gallery at 2s. and the upper Gallery at 1s. But the Boxes, Pit and Stage, being laid together on his Day, and no Person admitted but by his Tickets, the lowest at half a Guinea a Ticket; Nay he had much more; for one Lady gave him Ten or Twenty Guineas, some 5 Guineas, some 2 Guineas, and most one Guinea, supposing that he designed not to act any more, and he deliver'd more Tickets out for Persons, than the Boxes, Pit, and Stage could hold; 'tis thought he clear'd at least £450 over and besides the said £76 4s. 5d." If Betterton received two-thirds of the face-value profits and paid £40 charges, total regular receipts would have amounted to about £154.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. On Thursday last was acted, for the Benefit of Mr Betterton, the Celebrated Comedy, call'd *Love for Love*. Those Excellent Players, Mrs Barry, Mrs Bracegirdle, and Mr Dogget, tho' not at present concern'd in the House, acted on that Occasion. There has not been known so great a Concourse of Persons of Distinction as at that Time; the Stage it self was cover'd with Gentlemen and Ladies, and when the Curtain was drawn, it discovered even there a very splendid Audience. This unusual Encouragement which was given to a Play for the Advantage of so Great an Actor, gives an undeniable Instance, That the True Relish for Manly Entertainment and Rational Pleasures is not wholly lost. All the Parts were acted to Perfection; the Actors were careful of their Carriage, and no one was guilty of the Affectation to insert Witticisms of his own, but a due Respect was had to the Audience, for encouraging this accomplished Player. (*Tatler*, no. 1, 12 April)

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. So splendid an Audience was hardly ever seen at the Theatre as on this Occasion; the Pit and Boxes were laid together at Half a Guinea a Ticket, one Gallery was a Crown, and the other Half a Crown, the middle Gallery Box at the same Price as Pit and Boxes below; and when the Curtain drew up, there was almost as large an Audience behind as appeared before it. But Mr Betterton being now past seventy years of Age, and lame with the Gout, seemed but to burlesque the Part of the youthful Valentine." ("Whincop," p. 175)

COMMENT. Danchin, II, 427-430, reprints the prologue and epilogue, pointing out that the prologue was actually the one written by Congreve for the first production in 1695, and tracing the complex textual history of the new epilogue by Rowe. Publication of the epilogue was advertised by Sanger and Curll in the *Daily Courant* of 13 April. Although some early printings of the epilogue describe it as "For the Benefit of Mr Betterton, At his leaving the Stage," this is entirely untrue. Betterton played two nights later at the company's next performance, and for the rest of the season. He returned to the company in 1709-10 and performed steadily right into the month of his death, April 1710. The 1709 benefit was clearly a special occasion, with Barry and Bracegirdle coming out of retirement to perform, but the notion that it was a "farewell" benefit is a sentimental fabrication.

- Thursday 7* ADVERTISEMENT. "From the Queen's Theatre in the Hay-Market. Note, That Miss Santlow's Benefit-Day being chang'd from this present Saturday the 9th to Tuesday the 12th Instant, her Tickets deliver'd out for Pyrrhus and Demetrius for this Day will be taken on Tuesday at the same Opera." (*Daily Courant*) [Ad repeated on 9 April.]
- Saturday 9*
DL **DON SEBASTIAN KING OF PORTUGAL** [Dryden]. Dorax–Betterton; Don Sebastian–Wilks; Muley-Moluch–Mills; Bembucar [Benducar]–Keene; Muffi–Johnson; Antonio–Booth; Mustapha–Estcourt // Almeyda–Mrs Knight; Morayma–Mrs Porter; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Johnson.
- Saturday 9*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Signiora Margareta de l'Epine. . . . [With scenes as 2 April.] Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. To begin exactly at Six a Clock.
- Monday 11*
DL **THE HUMOROUS LIEUTENANT** [Fletcher]. Leontius–Betterton; Antigonus–Cory; Demetrius–Booth; Selucus–Keene; Lieutenant–Powell; Menippus–Norris; Charinthus–Bullock; Celia–Mrs Bradshaw; Governess–Mrs Powell; Leucippe–Pack. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Bradshaw.
- Tuesday 12*
DL **THE RECRUITING OFFICER** [Farquhar]. Captain Plume–Wilks; Serjeant Kite–Estcourt; Captain Brazen–Cibber; Justice Ballance–Keene; Mr Worth–Mills; Bullock–Bullock; Thomas Appletree–Leigh; Caster Pearmain–Norris // Silvia–Mrs Moor; Melinda–Mrs Rogers; Rose–Mrs Bicknell. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality.
COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 8 April *Caius Marius* is advertised for this date with Old Marius by Betterton, Marius Junior by Wilks, Sylla by Mills, Gravius by Booth, Merellus by Cibber, Cinna by Keene, Sulpitius by Johnson, Lavinia by Mrs Rogers, Nurse by Bullock, "and the rest of the parts to the best Advantage."
- Tuesday 12*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Miss Santlow. . . . [With scenes as 2 April.] Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. To begin exactly at Six a Clock.
- Thursday 14*
DL **THE COUNTRY WIFE** [Wycherley]. Country Wife [Margery Pinchwife]–Mrs Bicknell; Horner–Wilks; Harcourt–Mills; Sparkish–Cibber; Sir Jasper Fidget–Bullock; Pinchwife–Powell; Quack–Estcourt; Alithea–Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Not Acted these Six Years. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Bicknell.
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. April 14. This Evening, the Comedy call'd the *Country*

Wife was acted in Drury-Lane, for the Benefit of Mrs Bignall. The Part which gives Name to the Play, was perform'd by her self. Through the whole Action, she made a very pretty Figure, and exactly enter'd into the Nature of the Part. Her Husband, in the Drama, is represented to be one of those Debauchees who run through the Vices of the Town, and believe, when they think fit they can marry, and settle at their Ease. His own Knowledge of the Iniquity of the Age, makes him chuse a Wife wholly ignorant of it, and place his Security in her Want of skill how to abuse him. The Poet, on many Occasions, where the Propriety of the Character will admit of it, insinuates, That there is no Defence against Vice, but the Contempt of it: And has, in the Natural Ideas of an Untainted Innocent, shown the Gradual Steps to Ruin and Destruction, which Persons of Condition run into, without the Help of a good Education how to form their Conduct. The Torment of a jealous Coxcomb, which arises from his own False Maxims, and the Aggravation of his Pain, by the very Words in which he sees her Innocence, makes a very pleasant and instructive Satyr. The Character of Horner, and the Design of it, is a good Representation of the Age in which that Comedy was written; at which Time, Love and Wenching were the Business of Life, and the Gallant Manner of pursuing Women, was the best Recommendation at Court. To which only it is to be imputed, that a Gentleman of Mr Wicherley's Character and Sense, condescends to represent the Insults done to the Honour of the Bed, without just Reproof; but to have drawn a Man of Probity, with Regard to such Considerations, had been a Monster, and a Poet had, at that Time, discover'd his Want of knowing the Manners of the Court he liv'd in, by a Virtuous Character, in his fine Gentleman, as he would show his Ignorance, by drawing a Vitious One to please the present Audience. Mrs Bignall did her Part very Happily, and had a certain Grace in her Rusticity, which gave us Hopes of seeing her a very Skilful Player, and in some Parts, supply our Loss of Mrs Verbruggen. (*Tatler*, 16 April 1709)

Saturday 16
DL

THE STRATAGEM [Farquhar]. Mrs Sullen—Mrs Oldfield, being the last time of her Acting this Season; Aimwel—Mills; Archer—Wilks; Sullen—Keene; Boniface—Bullock; Gibbet—Cibber; Foigard—Bowen; Scrub—Norris; Lady Bountiful—Mrs Powell; Dorinda—Mrs Bradshaw; Cherry Boniface—Mrs Bicknell. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Bickerstaffe. . . . Being the last time of Acting till Easter Monday. Note, The Tickets given out for *Love for Love* will be taken at this Play.

COMMENT. In the advance advertisement for this play in the *Daily Courant* of 14 April Husband is listed as playing Freeman. Joanne Lafler plausibly suggests that Mrs Oldfield was pregnant with Arthur Maynwarding this spring. See *The Celebrated Mrs Oldfield* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois Univ. Press, 1989), p. 70.

Saturday 16
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the last time of Performing till after Easter. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . [With scenes, prices, and admission as 2 April.]

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Letters from the Hay-market inform us, That on Saturday Night last the Opera of *Pyrrhus and Demetrius* was perform'd with great Applause. This Intelligence is not very acceptable to us Friends of the Theatre; for the Stage being an Entertainment of the Reason and all our Faculties, this Way of being pleas'd with the Suspence of 'em for Three Hours together, and being given up to the shallow Satisfaction of the Eyes and Ears only, seems to arise rather from the Degeneracy of our Understanding, than in Improvement of our Diversions. That the Understanding has no Part in the Pleasure is evident, from what these Letters very positively assert, to wit, That a great Part of the Performance was done in *Italian*:

And a Great Critick fell into Fits in the Gallery, at seeing, not only Time and Place, but Languages and Nations confus'd in the most incorrigible Manner. His Spleen is so extremely moved on this Occasion, that he is going to publish a Treatise against Opera's. (*Tatler*, 19 April 1709)

COMMENT. Donald F. Bond, editor of *The Tatler*, comments that "the allusion is unmistakably to Dennis"—who had already published a very hostile *Essay on the Opera's after the Italian Manner* in 1706.

Monday 18-Saturday 23 April

PASSION WEEK

Monday 25
DL

EPSOM WELLS [Shadwell]. Mr Bisket the Foolish Hen-peck'd Confectioner—Bullock; Rains—Powell; Bevill—Mills; Woodly—Wilks; Clodpate—Johnson; Toby—Cross; Kick—Fairbank; Cuff—Pack; Fribble—Pinkethman // Mrs Woodly—Mrs Knight; Carolina—Mrs Bradshaw; Lucia—Mrs Porter; Mrs Fribble—Mrs Baker; Mrs Bisket—Mrs Saunders; Mrs Jilt—Mrs Moor. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Bullock.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. April 25. This Evening, the Comedy call'd *Epsom-Wells* was acted for the Benefit of Mr Bullock, who, tho' he is a Person of much Wit and Ingenuity, has a peculiar Talent of looking like a Fool, and therefore excellently well qualified for the Part of Biskett in this Play. I cannot indeed sufficiently admire his Way of bearing a Beating, as he does in this Drama, and that with such a Natural Air and Propriety of Folly, that one cannot help wishing the Whip in one's own Hand; so richly does he seem to deserve his Chastisement. Skilful Actors think it a very peculiar Happiness to play in a Scene with such as Top their Parts. Therefore I cannot but say, when the Judgment of any good Author directs him to write a Beating for Mr Bullock from Mr William Penkethman, or for Mr William Penkethman from Mr Bullock, those excellent Players seem to be in their most shining Circumstances, and please me more, but with a different Sort of Delight, than that which I receive from those Grave Scenes of Brutus and Cassius, or Anthony and Ventidius. The whole Comedy is very just, and the Low part of Humane Life represented with much Humour and Wit. (*Tatler*, 26 April 1709)

Monday 25
ENW

ADVERTISEMENT. The new Wells at Epsom, with variety of Raffling-Shops, will be open'd on Easter-Monday next, and attended with good Musick every Day during the Season. (*Daily Courant*, 22 April)

Monday 25
HW GR

ADVERTISEMENT. These are to acquaint all Persons, That on Monday, the 25th instant, in the great Room at Hampstead-Wells, will be extraordinary Musick for Dancing, and continue so every Monday for the Season. Also all convenient Accommodation for Water-Drinkers, of both Sexes, with a very good Ordinary every Day, a good Bowling-Green, good Stables and Coach-houses. (Supplement, 20-22 April)

Tuesday 26
DL

THE LONDON CUCKOLDS [Ravenscroft]. Ramble—Powel; Townley—Mills; Loveday—Keene; Doodle—Johnson; Wiseacre—Bullock; Dashwell—Norris // Arabella [Arbella]—Mrs Bradshaw; Eugenia—Mrs Porter; Engine—Mrs Powel; and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. April 2. The Play of *The London Cuckolds* was acted this Evening before a suitable Audience, who were extremely well diverted with that Heap of Vice and Absurdity. . . . [Steele proceeds to a fierce denunciation of plays

that force actors, “who must be Men of good Understanding to be capable of being such . . . to repeat and assume proper Gestures for representing Things, of which their Reason must be ashamed, and which they must disdain their Audience for approving.” Steele recommends that “People of Condition” encourage “the Presentation of the Noble characters drawn by Shakespear and others, from whence it is impossible to return without strong Impressions of Honour and Humanity.”] (*Tatler*, 28 April 1709)

Wednesday 27
DL

THE TRUE AND ANCIENT HISTORY OF KING LEAR AND HIS THREE DAUGHTERS [Tate, adapting Shakespeare]. King Lear—Betterton, at the desire of several Persons of Quality, being the last time of his acting it this Season; Edgar—Wilks; Edmund—Husband; Gloster—Cibber; Kent—Keene // Cordelia—a young Gentlewoman for her Diversion [see below]. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Husband and Mrs Willis.

COMMENT. The advance advertisement that appeared in the *Daily Courant* of 25 April indicates this play was performed “At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality” and also lists Albany by Bickerstaff, Cornwall by Fairbank, and “The Fox” [Gentleman Usher?] Pinkethman. Hogan (I, 246) offers the plausible speculation that the “young Gentlewoman” who played Cordelia was Mary Willis, daughter of Elizabeth Willis, who joined the company in 1709-10.

Wednesday 27
Queen’s

CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . Being the last time of performing it this Season. . . . Boxes 8s. Pit 5s. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit.

Thursday 28
DL

THE OLD-BACHELOR [Congreve]. Old-Bachelor [Heartwell]—Betterton, being the last Time of his Acting it this Season; Bellmour—Wilks; Vainlove—Booth; Sharper—Mills; Sir Joseph Wittal—Bullock; Capt. Bluff—Estcourt; Araminta—Mrs Bradshaw; Belinda—Mrs Cross; Silvia—Mrs Bignal; Lucy—Mrs Saunders; Setter—Fairbank; Fondle-Wife—Cibber; Leticia—Mrs Knight. And all the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Cross.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. April 28. This Evening we were entertain’d with *The Old Bachelor*, a Comedy of deserved Reputation. In the Character which gives Name to the Play, there is excellently represented the Reluctance of a Batter’d Debauchee to come into the Trammels of Order and Decency: He neither languishes nor burns, but frets for Love. The Gentlemen of more Regular Behaviour are drawn with much Spirit and Wit, and the Drama introduc’d by the Dialogue of the first Scene with uncommon, yet natural Conversation. The Part of Fondlewife is a lively Image of the unseasonable Fondness of Age and Impotence. But instead of such agreeable Works as these, the Town has this half Age been tormented with Insects call’d *Easie Writers*. (*Tatler*, 30 April 1709)

Thursday 28

DOCUMENT. On this day the Queen issued a proclamation strictly prohibiting plays, shows, music meetings, and other “Disorderly Assemblies” at May Fair. (Copy used: British Library 21.h.4[64].)

By the Queen, A Proclamation. Anne R. Whereas Our Royal father, King James the Second, did by his Letters Patents under the Great Seal of England, bearing Date the Twentieth Day of July, in the Fourth Year of His Reign, Grant to certain Persons therein named, the Liberty of holding a

Fair, which has been commonly called May-Fair, in Great Brookfield in the Parish of St. Martins in the Fields in the County of Middlesex, for the Buying and Selling of all Sorts of Goods and Merchandizes: And whereas We have been Informed, by several Presentments made by the Grand Jury of Our County of Middlesex, That the Original Design in Granting such Liberty has been Perverted, and in stead [*sic*] of Erecting Stalls and Sheds for the Sale of Goods and Merchandize, several Booths have been constantly Built and Made use of, during all the time of holding the said Fair, for Entertaining Loose, Idle, Disorderly People, with Plays, Interludes and Puppet-Shows, Gaming, and other disorderly Passtimes [*sic*], to the great Encouragement of all manner of Vice and Debauchery, insomuch that divers Murders, Felonies, Riots, Tumults, and Disorders, have frequently been Committed, to the Hindrance and Obstruction of all Trade and Traffick; And We being Desirous, as much as in us lies, to Prevent the like Inconveinencies and Mischiefs for the future, and having been Supplicated hereunto by divers of Our Loving Subjects, Justices of the Peace, and others, Inhabiting in Our City of Westminster, and County of Middlesex, have thought fit, by and with the Advice our Our Privy-Council, to Issue forth this Our Royal Proclamation, hereby strictly Enjoyning the Proprietors and Owners of the said Fair, That they do not Permit or Suffer any Booths to be Erected, or Stalls to be made use of, during such time as the said Fair shall be holden, for any Plays, Shows, Gaming, Musick-Meetings, or other disorderly Assemblies. And We strictly Charge and Command all Our Subjects not to Resort to the said Fair for any such Unlawful Purposes; And all Magistrates and other Officers are hereby Required to use their utmost Endeavours for the Preventing and Suppressing all Riotous Assemblies, and Tumultuous Meetings there, on Pain of Our Highest Displeasure, and Incurring such Punishment as the Laws may justly Inflict for all such Offences.

Given at Our Court at St. James's, this Twenty eighth Day of April, 1709. In the Eighth Year of Our Reign. God Save the Queen. (London, Printed by Charles Bill, and the Executrix of Thomas Newcomb, deceas'd; Printers to the Queens most Excellent Majesty. 1709.) [MS annotation in ink: 29 April 1709 (acquisition date?) Prohibiting ye Erecting or making Use of any Booths or stalls in May Fair for any plays, shows, gaming, Musick &c.]

COMMENT. This proclamation was mentioned in the Newdigate Newsletters on 30 April and reprinted in the *London Gazette* of 28 April-2 May 1709.

Friday 29
DL

THE COUNTRY WIFE [Wycherley]. Country Wife [Margery Pinchwife]—Mrs Bicknell; Horner—Wilks; Harcourt—Mills; Sparkish—Cibber; Dorilant—Bullock, Jun.; Pinchwife—Powell; Sir Jasper Fidget—Bullock, Sen.; Quack—Estcourt; Lady Fidget—Mrs Powell; Alithea—Mrs Bradshaw; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Acted but once these Six Years.

Saturday 30
DL

THE MARRIAGE-HATER MATCH'D [Durfey]. Sir Philip Freewit—Wilks; Sir Lawrence Limber—Johnson; Capt. Darewell—Mills; Van Grin—Pinkethman; Bias—Bullock; Solon—Norris; Lord Brainless—Pack; Callow—Bowen // Lady Subtle—Mrs Knight; Lady Bumfiddle—Mrs Powell; Lovewell—Mrs Rogers; Berenice—Mrs Bradshaw; La-Pupsey—Mrs Moor; and all the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Norris.

Saturday 30
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . Being the last time of performing it but once this Season. [With scenes, prices, and admission as 2 April.]

Saturday 30 DOCUMENT. Players to receive their full benefits pursuant to their Articles. Whereas by a Regulation made by me for the better Support of both her Majestys Theatres I did then direct that Operas and Musicall Entertainments should be only performed at the Playhouse in the Haymarket and that Comedy & Tragedy should be Acted only by her Majestys Comedians under the direction of the Patentees In Order to which I did then for the better encouragement of the said Patentees give leave to the Comedians at the Haymarket to Act with them & to Agree with their Manager or Managers upon promise of having the same Articles and conditions which they had from the Directors of the Company at the Haymarket which said articles were for the more due Observance entered in my Office

And Whereas severall of the said Players have lately represented to me that notwithstanding by the said Articles they were to have the profit of a benefitt play once a Year paying out of it £40 for the charges of the house yet that far greater sums of Mony have this Winter been Stopt from them under pretence that it ought to be detain'd for the use of the Patent & contrary to the express Articles of their Agreement

In consideration whereof These are to require you to Order your Treasurer to pay to the respective players who have had benefitt plays the full receipts of Such plays deducting only from such the sume of £40 for the charges of the house pursuant to their Articles & if you shall think fitt hereafter to make any New agreement with any Player you are to take care that such agreements be for ye better Observance thereof from time to time enter'd in my Office. . . . To the Manager or Managers of her Majesties Company of Comedians for the Patentees. Kent (LC 5/154, fol. 218)

May 1709

Monday 2
DL **ALL FOR LOVE; or, The World Well Lost** [Dryden]. Mark Anthony–Thurmond; Ventidius–Powell; Dollabella–Cory; Alexas–Thurmond, Jun.; Serapion–Keene // Cleopatria–Mrs Knight; Octavia–Mrs Finch; and all the rest of the Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Thurmond.

Monday 2 ADVERTISEMENT. To all Lovers of Musick. There being lately Printed a Spurious Edition of the Opera of *Thomyris*, with many faults, by Pippard and Cullen, viz. the Songs sold at 5s. and the Symphonys at 1s. 6d. This is to give notice to all Lovers of Musick, that to discourage such Practices, the Original Songs and Symphonys of the above-nam'd Opera are now sold at 5s. together, or the Symphonys or Instrumental Parts only at 1s. and the like shall be done for the future on all such Occasions. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall, and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)

Tuesday 3
DL

‡ **THE MODERN PROPHETS;** or, *New Wit for a Husband* [Thomas Durfey]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *The Modern Prophets: or, New Wit for a Husband*. A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, By Her Majesty's Servants. Written by Mr Tho' D'Urfey (London: Bernard Lintott, n.d. [1709]). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Lord Noble—Powell; Sir Charles Courtly—Mills; Squire Whimsey—Norris; Ned Whimsey—Booth; Zekiel Magus—Johnson; Father Marrogn [usually Marrogne or Marogne in the text]—Boen [Bowen]; Scire Facias—Cary [Corey]; Limbeck—Bullock; Sal Magottile—Fairbank; Solid—Birket; Cub Deviling—Pack // Fidelia—Mrs Porter; Clora—Mrs Bradshaw; Betty Plotwell—Mrs Bicknel; Kate Spunge—Mrs Powell; Mrs Guiacum—Mrs Willis. Prologue, Spoken by Mrs Bradshaw. Epilogue [spoken] by Mrs Bicknel and Mrs Porter.

Epistle Dedicatory: The Theme was altogether Novelty, and the ensuing Sheets Morally intended, as I have hinted in the Prologue, to ridicule the ridiculers of our establish'd Doctrine; and as it did not want your candid Approbation, neither did it the Encouragement of many considerable Persons, Clergy as well as others, who look'd with Contempt upon the abominable Impostures of those craz'd Enthusiasts, and with Satisfaction approv'd of a Satyrical Endeavour to expose them as they deserv'd.

Preface: I Should not trouble the Reader with any Preface, did I not lie under an Obligation to return my most humble and hearty Thanks to the Nobility, and the rest of my Friends for their obliging Condescension, and generous Kindness at the Presentation of this Piece on My Day. . . . The not timing its coming on the Stage, which was occasion'd by the late unhappy Mourning [for Prince George] and other Accidents, the Jest growing quite stale by the Dispersing and Absence of the Enthusiastick Imposters, was a great Hindrance to the Run of the Play, which otherwise had it been Acted when their Tryal was . . . might probably have lasted many Days longer.

The Plot and turns which you will find in the reading it are new, and entirely my own Invention: A thing of which nature in Playwriting is not in every Author's Power to perform. The Characters are drawn as near as with Decency and good Manners they could be; and being extremely heightened by the sprightly and uncommon Humor and Action of Mrs Bicknel, who did the Prophetess, gave extraordinary Satisfaction to the impartial Spectators in general.

My Intention in writing this Comedy was very serious and moral, and grounded on a Resolution, encourag'd by some, both wise and learned Persons, which was to expose the ridiculous Attempt of some Imposters, to set up for true Prophets, undermine reveal'd Religion, and covertly allure the Mob to favour the late Invasion, and the Pretender's Interest: To which End the Plot is drawn in a graver Method than usual; no loose Intriguing, cuckold-making, &c which generally stuff other Plays, and that way succeed with the Audience. . . . The Ladies I humbly thank 'em were very favourable to me. . . . The Plot was design'd modestly to divert them with a Novelty not seen before; for which reason I chang'd the lewd Character of Betty G—y (who the Play-house, and half the Town besides knew before her pretended Inspiration to be Scandalous and Abominable) into Betty Plotwell . . . which Alteration was wholly design'd and made, as fearing the original nauseous Character would shock the virtuous part of the Female Audience.

A couple of bloody Male Criticks I have met with too . . . The one [Thomas Baker] stiles himself the Author of *Tunbridge-Walks*, who dully forgetting the Plotless and trifling Quality of that, the worse Management of another Piece of his . . . [etc., etc.] yet in a Prologue given to another . . . has thought fit to shake his Dirt upon me; but I have Contempt enough to answer his Injustice, and so shall leave him. The other is a profound Coffee-house Wit whom I shall pretend to undecieve, at some hour of Leisure; and in the mean time assure him, that if ever the Town has the Honour to peruse any of his Dramatick Productions, which I very much doubt, he

will be in great danger of hanging down his Dogmatical Head. . . . The best Proof a Gentleman can give of his true judging a Play is by writing a Piece of that kind himself; but if his Capacity fails to do Justice in point of Poetry (let his Confidence brave it out as he please) he shall never make me believe that it can do right in point of Criticism.

The Kindness shewn by Mr Rich in letting me be the first to raise the Prizes for my Benefit, was not only advantageous to me, but a farther Encouragement to future Authors likewise.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. [The play] acted this Night is the newest that ever was writ. The Author is my Ingenious Friend Mr Thomas D—y. This Drama is call'd *The Modern Prophets*, and is a most unanswerable Satyr against the late Spirit of enthusiasm. The Writer had by long Experience observ'd, That in Company, very grave Discourses have been followed by Bawdry; and therefore has turn'd the Humour that Way with great success, and taken from his Audience all Manner of Superstition, by the Agitations of pretty Mrs Bicknel, whom he has, with great Subtilty, made a Lay-Sister, as well as a Prophetess; by which means, she carries on the Affairs of both Worlds with great Success. (*Tatler*, 5 May 1709)

COMMENT. Baker's prologue to Centlivre's *The Busie Body* (see 12 May) opens "Tho' modern Prophets were expos'd of late, / The Author cou'd not Prophesie his Fate," and the anonymous epilogue refers snidely to plays that have come off after the third night ("Some, in three Days, have been turn'd off, and dy'd"). The "trial" referred to is explained by Luttrell. Queen Anne "ordered the attorney general to prosecute Mr Lacy and Sir Richard Bulkley, with the rest of the pretended English prophets." Lacy had prophesied "that Dr Emes, who dyed about Christmas last [1707], should be raised from the dead" (VI, 243-244, 307).

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

COMMENT. Publication of the text was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 30 May. Durfey received £6 9s for the copyright from Lintot on 7 May (Nichols, VIII, 296). The songs were printed in *The Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick*, publication of which was advertised on 16 May.

Wednesday 4
DL

THE MODERN PROPHETS; or, New Wit for a Husband [Durfey]. Cast not advertised (but see 3 May). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once.

Wednesday 4
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Champelon. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . [With scenes, prices, and admission as 2 April.]

Thursday 5
DL

THE MODERN PROPHETS; or, New Wit for a Husband [Durfey]. Lord Noble—Powell; Sir Charles Courtly—Mills; Squire Crump [i.e. Squire Whimsey]—Norris; Capt. [Ned] Whimsey—Booth; Zechiell Maque—Johnson; Father Marogue—Bowen; Sal Maggottile—Fairbank; Limbeck—Bullock; Scirefacias—Corey; Cub Deviling—Pack // Fidelia—Mrs Porter; Clora—Mrs Bradshaw; Betty Plotwell—Mrs Bicknell; Mrs Guiarum [Guiacum]—Mrs Willis; Kate Sponge—Mrs Powell. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Author. Never Acted but twice. . . . With a New Song made by the Author on the ensuing Campaign, for the Entertainment of his Friends.

COMMENT. Solid was not given in the ad; cf. 3 May. Durfey's thanks to Rich in his preface for being allowed to raise prices on the night of his benefit (see 3 May) implies that prices were Boxes 5s, Pit 3s, First Gallery 2s. 6d. Second Gallery 1s. 6d.

- Friday 6*
DL **THE RECRUITING OFFICER** [Farquhar]. Serjeant Kite—Estcourt; Capt. Plume—Wilks; Capt. Brazen—Cibber; Justice Ballance—Keene; Mr Worthy—Mills; Tho. Apple-tree—Fairbank; Coster Pearmain—Norris; Bullock—Bullock // Melinda—Mrs Rogers; Silvia—Mrs Moor; Rose—Mrs Bicknell. (*Daily Courant*)
- Saturday 7*
DL **THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK** [Shakespeare]. Hamlet—Wilks; King [Claudius]—Keene; Polonius—Cross; Laertes—Powel; Horatio—Mills; Ghost—Booth; Grave Digger—Estcourt; Marcellus—Bickerstaffe; Ostryck—Cibber // Queen [Gertrude]—Mrs Knight; Ophelia—Mrs Bradshaw. And all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Moore. . . . Being the last time of Acting it this Season.
- Saturday 7*
Queen's **CAMILLA** [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the Famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the last time of Performing this Season [but see 21 May]. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of the Box-Keepers. . . . [With scenes, prices, and admission as 2 April.]
- Saturday 7*
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. It is now some Years, since several Revolutions in the Gay world, had made the Empire of the Stage subject to very fatal convulsions, which were too dangerous to be cured by the Skill of little King Oberon [Skipwith?], who then sat in the Throne of it. The Laziness of this Prince threw him upon the Choice of a Person who was fit to spend his Life in Contentions, an able and profound Attorney, to whom he mortgag'd his whole Empire. This Divito [Christopher Rich] is the most skilful of all Politicians: He has a perfect Art in being unintelligible in Discourse, and uncomeatable in Business. But he having no Understanding in this polite Way, brought in upon us, to get in his Money, Ladder-dancers, Rope-dancers, Juglers, and Mountebanks, to strut in the Place of Shakespear's Heroes, and Johnson's Humourists. When the Seat of Wit was thus mortgag'd, without Equity of Redemption, an Architect [Vanbrugh] arose, who has built the Muse a new Palace, but secur'd her no retinue; so that instead of Action there, we have been put off by Song and Dance. This latter Help of Sound has also began to fail for want of Voices; therefore the Palace has since been put into the Hands of a Surgeon [Swiney], who cuts any Foreign fellow into an Eunuch, and passes him upon us for a Singer of Italy. (*Tatler*, 7 May 1709)
COMMENT. This largely transparent little allegory seems designed principally as a put-down of Rich—negative publicity that may well have been arranged in connection with the silencing of Drury Lane that was to occur on 6 June.
- Monday 9*
HTG ADVERTISEMENT. Mr Pinkethman In order to divert and oblige the Gentry and others at Greenwich, Deptford, Wollwich, Lee, and other adjacent Places thereabouts, has remov'd the most Famous, Artificial and Wonderful Moving Picture that came from Germany, and was to be seen at the Duke of Marlborough's Head in Fleetstreet, is now to be seen at the Hospital Tavern in Greenwich, next Door to his new Play-House, where variety of Plays are Acted every Day as in London. The Prizes of this Picture being 1s. 6d. and 3d. Note, it is to be seen all Day long, the very Moment they come in without hindrance of Time. (*Daily Courant*)
COMMENT. Various manifestations of this ad appeared in the *Daily Courant* from 9 to 12 May and 16 May.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Advices from the upper End of Piccadilly say, that May-Fair is utterly abolish'd; and we hear, Mr Pinkethman has remov'd his Ingenious Company of Strolers to Greenwich: But other Letters from Deptford say, the Company is only making thither, and not yet settled; but that several Heathen Gods and Goddesses, which are to descend in Machines, landed at the King's-Head-Stairs last Saturday. Venus and Cupid went on Foot from thence to Greenwich; Mars got drunk in the Town, and broke his Landlord's Head; for which he sat in the stocks the whole Evening; but Mr Pinkethman giving Security that he should do nothing this ensuing Summer, he was set at Liberty. The most Melancholy Part of all, was, that Diana was taken in the Act of Fornication with a Boat-man, and committed by Justice Wrathful, which has, it seems put a Stop to the Diversions of the Theatre of Black-Heath [i.e., at a fair in Lewisham, Kent]. (*Tatler*, 19 April 1709)

COMMENT. Pinkethman's move to Greenwich was forced by the prohibition of plays at May Fair (see 28 April), but much of this account is pure whimsy.

Tuesday 10
DL

THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE; or, The Earl of Essex [Banks]. Earl of Essex—Wilks; Earl of Southampton—Mills; Burleigh—Keene; Sir Walter Rawleigh—Husband // Queen Elizabeth—Mrs Knight; Countess of Rutland—Mrs Rogers; Countess of Nottingham—Mrs Bradshaw; and the rest of the parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Fairbank. Being the last time of Acting it this Season.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. May 11. Yesterday we were entertain'd with the Tragedy of *The Earl of Essex*, in which there is not one good Line, and yet a Play which was never seen without drawing Tears from some Part of the Audience: A remarkable Instance, that the Soul is not to be mov'd by Words, but Things; for the Incidents in this Drama are laid together so happily, that the Spectator makes the Play for himself, by the Force which the Circumstance has upon his Imagination. Thus, in spite of the most dry Discourses, and Expressions almost ridiculous, with respect to Propriety, it is impossible for one unprejudic'd to see it untouch'd with Pity. I must confess, this Effect is not wrought on such as examine why they are pleas'd; but it never fails to appear on those who are not too learned in Nature, to be mov'd by her first Suggestions. It is certain, the Person and Behaviour of Mr Wilks has no small Share in conducing to the Popularity of the Play; and when an handsome Fellow is going to a more course Exit than beheading, his Shape and Countenance make ev'ry tender one relieve him with all her Heart, without waiting till she hears his dying Words. (*Tatler*, 12 May 1709)

Wednesday 11
DL

THE ALCHEMIST (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Subtle the Alchymist—Cibber; Face—Powell; Sir Epicure Mammon—Estcourt; Surley—Mills; Druggier—Penkethman; Dapper—Norris; Ananias—Johnson; Tribulation—Pack; Lovewit—Bickerstaff; Angry Boy—Bullock; and all the other parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the last time of Acting it this Season.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. This Comedy is an Example of Ben's extensive Genius and Penetration into the Passions and Follies of Mankind. The Scene in the Fourth Act, where all the cheated People oppose the Man that would open their Eyes, has something in it so inimitably excellent, that it is certainly as great a Master-piece as has ever appear'd by any Hand. The Author's great Address in showing Covetousness the Motive of the Actions of the Puritan, the Epicure, the Gamester, and the Trader; and that all their Endeavours, how differently soever they seem to tend, center only in that one Point of Gain, shows he had to great Perfection that Discernment of Spirit, which constitutes a genius for Comedy. (*Tatler*, 12 May 1709)

Thursday 12
DL

‡ **THE BUSIE BODY** [Susanna Centlivre]. Cast not advertised (but see below). (*Daily Courant*)

FIRST EDITION. *The Busie Body*: A Comedy. As it is Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury-Lane, By Her Majesty's Servants. Written by Mrs Susanna Centlivre (London: Bernard Lintott, n.d. [1709]). Copy used: Readex. Dramatis Personæ: Sir George Airy – Wilks; Sir Francis Gripe – Estcourt; Charles – Mills; Sir Jealous Traffick – Bullock; Marplot – Pack; Whisper – Bullock jun. // Miranda – Mrs Cross; Isabinda – Mrs Rogers; Patch – Mrs Saunders; Scentwell – Mrs Mills. Prologue by the Author of *Tunbridge-Walks* [Thomas Baker]. Epilogue.

Dedication [to John Lord Sommers]: I was encourag'd by Reflecting, that Lelius and Scipio, the two greatest Men in their Time, among the Romans, both for Political and Military Virtues, in the height of their important Affairs, thought the Perusal and Improving of Terence's Comedies the noblest way of Unbinding their Minds. I own I were guilty of the highest Vanity, should I presume to put my Composures in Parallel with those of that Celebrated Dramatist.

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted before.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. This Play, when it was first offered to the Players, was received very coolly, and it was with great Difficulty that the Author could prevail upon them to think of acting it, which was not till very late in the Season. At the Rehearsal of it, Mr Wilks had so mean an Opinion of his Part, (of Sir George Airy) that one Morning in a Passion he threw it off the Stage into the Pit, and swore that no body would bear to sit to hear such Stuff; which shews how excellently the Actors commonly judge before hand. The poor frighted Poetess begg'd him to take it up again, which he did mutteringly; and about the latter End of April the Play was acted, for the first Time. There had been scarce any thing mentioned of it in the Town before it came out, and those who had heard of it, were told it was a silly thing wrote by a Woman, that the Players had no Opinion of it, and on the first Day there was a very poor House, scarce Charges. Under these Circumstances it cannot be supposed the Play appeared to much Advantage, the Audience only came there for want of another Place to go to, but without any Expectation of being much diverted; they were yawning at the Beginning of it, but were agreeably surprized, more and more every Act, till at last the House rung with as much Applause as was possible to be given by so thin an Audience. The next Day there was a better House, and the third crouded for the Benefit of the Author, and so it continued till the thirteenth. ("Whincop," pp. 189-190)

COMMENT. One can only guess how heavily embroidered this tale is. The play actually enjoyed a total of only seven nonconsecutive performances its first season.

COMMENT. Publication "to Morrow" was advertised in the *Daily Courant* of 30 May with the comment, "as it was Seven Days acted at the Queen's Theatre in Drury-Lane." Centlivre received £10 for the copyright from Lintot on 14 May (Nichols, VIII, 294).

Friday 13
DL

THE BUSIE BODY (Written by the Author of a Comedy call'd, The Gamester [Centlivre]). Cast not advertised (but see 12 May). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but once.

Saturday 14
DL

THE BUSIE BODY [Centlivre]. Cast not advertised (but see 12 May). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of the Author. Never Acted but twice.

Saturday 14
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . [With scenes, prices, and admission as 2 April.]

- Monday 16*
DL **THE BUSIE BODY** (Written by the Author of The Gamester) [Centlivre].
Cast not advertised (but see 12 May). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted but thrice.
- Monday 16*
ADVERTISEMENT. This Day is publish'd, *The Monthly Mask of Vocal Musick* for April; in which is contain'd the Comical and Diverting Songs in the last new Play call'd, *The Modern Prophets*, made by Mr Durfey. Price 6*d*. [Printed for J. Walsh, P. Randall and J. Hare.] (*Daily Courant*)
- Tuesday 17*
DL **LOVE MAKES A MAN**; or, The Fops Fortune [Cibber]. Carlos–Wilks; Don Cholerick Snap-Shorto de Teste [Don Lewis]–Pinkethman; Don Antonio–Bullock; Don Carno [Charino]–Cross; Don Dismallo Thick-Scullo de half Witto [Clodio]–Cibber; Governor–Bickerstaffe; Don Duart–Mills; Sancho–Norris; Jaquez–Fairbank // Angelina–Mrs Bradshaw; Louisa–Mrs Rogers; Elvira–Mrs Porter; Honoria–Mrs Moor. And by Way of Prologue (at the Desire of several Persons of Quality) will be presented, a Farce of one Act only, call'd, **THE STAGE-COACH** [Farquhar]. Micher–Norris; Squire Somebody–Pack; Basil–Booth; Landlord–Leigh; Macahone–Bowen; Tom Jolt–Bullock // Isabella–Mrs Bradshaw. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Carnaby and Mr Birkhead. . . . Being the last time of playing this Farce and Play this Season [but see 19 May].
COMMENT. Playing the farce before the mainpiece is highly unusual.
- Tuesday 17*
Queen's **PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS** [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . [With scenes as 2 April.] Boxes 8*s*. Pit 5*s*. First Gallery 2*s*. 6*d*. Upper Gallery 1*s*. 6*d*. Stage Boxes half a Guinea. No Person to be admitted to keep Places in the Pit. To begin exactly at Six a Clock.
- Wednesday 18*
DL **THE COMICAL REVENGE**; or, Love in a Tub (Written by Sir George Etheringe). Sir Frederick Frolick–Wilks; Lord Beaufort–Mills; Coll. Bruce–Booth; Lovis–Bickerstaff; Wheadle–Keen; Sir Nicholas Cully–Norris; Palmer–Estcourt; Dufoy–Bowen // Graciana–Mrs Rogers; Aurelia–Mrs Porter; Widow Rich–Mrs Knight; Betty–Mrs Mills. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Corey and Mrs Mills. . . . With a new Epilogue Spoken by Mr Wilks.
COMMENT. Danchin, II, 441, says "This epilogue is apparently not extant."
- Thursday 19*
DL **THE ROVER**; or, The Banish'd Cavaliers [Behn]. Rover–Wilks; Coll. Belvil–Husband; Frederick–Cibber; Ned Blunt–Estcourt; Sancho–Norris; Antonio–Pack // Angelica–Mrs Knight; Hellena–Mrs Bradshaw; Florinda–Mrs Porter; Valeria–Mrs Moor. To which will be added a short Farce of one Act only call'd, **THE STAGE-COACH** [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised (but see 17 May). (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Newman and Mrs Cox . . . and all the other Parts to the best Advantage. Being the last time of Acting it this Season.
- Thursday 19*
DG ADVERTISEMENT. The Play-house at Dorset Stairs [Dorset Garden] is now a pulling down, where there is Old Timber fit for Building or Repairs, and Old Boards, Bricks, Glaz'd Pantiles and Plain Tiles; also Fire Wood to be

sold reasonably. (Post Man, 17-19 May)

COMMENT. A virtually identical ad appeared in the *Daily Courant* on 1 June.

Friday 20
DL

THE TRAGEDY OF MACKBETH [Shakespeare, adapted by Davenant]. Mackbeth—Betterton; Mackduff—Wilks; King [Duncan]—Keene; Banquo—Mills; Lenox—Booth; Heccat—Johnson; 1st Witch—Pinkethman; 2d Witch—Bullock; 3d—Norris // Lady Mackbeth—Mrs Knight; Lady Mackduff—Mrs Rogers. And all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. J. Phillips at the Black-Bull in Cornhill advertised publication “This Day” of *Mackbeth: A Tragedy*, with all the Alterations, Amendments, Additions and new Songs, as it is now Acted at the Queen’s Theatre” in the *Daily Courant* of 19 September 1709.

Saturday 21
DL

THE BUSIE BODY (Written by the same Author of a Comedy call’d, The Gamester) [Centlivre]. Cast not advertised (but see 12 May). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Centlivre.

COMMENT. This was the sixth performance.

Saturday 21
Queen’s

CAMILLA [Swiney and Haym, adapting Bononcini]. Prenesto—the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. . . . Being the last time of performing it this Season. [Prices and admission as 12 April.]

COMMENT. Mrs Tofts probably had to be replaced in some of the opera company’s performances late this spring. *The Tatler*, of 26 May 1709 reports “the Distresses of the unfortunate Camilla, who has had the ill Luck to break before her Voice, and to disappear at a Time when her Beauty was in the Heighth of its Bloom. This Lady enter’d so thoroughly into the great characters she acted, that when she had finished her Part, she could not think of retrenching her Equipage, but would appear in her own Lodgings with the same Magnificence that she did upon the Stage. This Greatness of Soul has reduc’d that unhappy Princess to an involuntary Retirement, where she now passes her Time among the Woods and Forests, thinking on the Crowns and Scepters she has lost.” How the company covered her parts is not known.

Monday 23

ADVERTISEMENT. Whereas Wm. Bowen finds himself under a Necessity of asking his Friends Pardon, for deferring the *Beau’s Stratagem*, which was design’d to be acted on Wednesday the 25th of May, to Wednesday the 1st of June following: He does it in the most humble Manner, by acquainting them that the same Tickets which he has deliver’d out for the 25th of May shall pass current for the 1st of June; when, to make ‘em Amends, he designs to present ‘em with, *Scanerell; or, The Cuckold in Conceit*. Written by the famous Molier, a Farce of one Act, by way of Prologue. Being the last Time of Acting it this Season. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. This advertisement also appeared in the *Daily Courant* of 24 May.

Tuesday 24
DL

THE CONSTANT COUPLE; or, A Trip to the Jubilee [Farquhar]. Sir Harry Wild-Air—Wilks; Coll. Standard—Mills; Clincher Sen.—Penkethman; Clincher Jun.—Bullock; Smugler—Johnson; Dicky—Norris // Lady Lurewell—Mrs Knight; Lady Darling—Mrs Powell; Angelica—Mrs Rogers; Parly—Mrs Moor. At the end of which Play will be added a short Farce of one Act only call’d, **THE STAGE-COACH** [Farquhar], wherein Mr Norris, Mr Pack, Mr Booth, Mr Leigh, Mr Bowen, Mr Bullock, and Mrs Bradshaw, perform the chief parts. (For assignment of roles, see 17 May.) Being the last time of

Acting this said Comedy this Season. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mrs Finch and Mrs Kent.

Wednesday 25
DL

THE RECRUITING OFFICER [Farquhar]. Serjeant Kite—Estcourt; Captain Plume—Wilks; Capt. Brazen—Cibber; Justice Ballance—Keen; Worthy—Mills; Bullock—Bullock // Silvia—Mrs Moor; Melinda—Mrs Rogers; Rose—Mrs Bicknell. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. An advance advertisement for this performance in the *Daily Courant* of 23 May adds, "Being the last time of performing this Play by reason of the happy Peace concluded bidding a Farewell thereunto." An advertisement placed by Bowen in the *Daily Courant* on 23 and 24 May indicates that *The Beaux Stratagem* was originally scheduled for this date as his benefit.

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. May 25. This Evening was acted, *The Recruiting Officer*, in which Mr Estcourt's proper Sense and Observation is what supports the Play. There is not, in my humble Opinion, the Humour hit in Sergeant Kite; but it is admirably supply'd by his Action. If I have skill to judge, that Man is an excellent Actor; but the Crowd of the Audience are fitter for Representations at May-Fair, than at a Theatre-Royal. Yet that Fair is now broke, as well as the Theatre is breaking: But it is allow'd still to sell Animals there. Therefore, if any Lady or Gentleman have Occasion for a Tame Elephant, let them enquire of Mr Pinkethman, who has one to dispose of at a reasonable Rate. The Downfal of May-Fair has quite sunk the Price of this noble Creature. (*Tatler*, 26 May 1709)

COMMENT. Genest, II, 420, reports Costar Pearmain—Pinkethman, but without indicating his source.

Thursday 26
DL

THE COMMITTEE; or, The Faithful Irish-man [Howard]. Teague—Estcourt; Coll. Careless—Wilks; Coll. Blunt—Mills; Mr Day—Pinkethman; Abel—Bullock; Obadiah—Johnson; Bookseller—Norris // Mrs Day—Mrs Powell; Arbella—Mrs Porter; Ruth—Mrs Bradshaw. And all the other Parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs Powell.

Thursday 26
SH

CONCERT. In Stationer's Hall . . . will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, with several of the Principal Songs and Symphonys in the late Operas. Also some Trumpet Sonatas, Concertoes, and full Pieces of New Musick, compos'd by the greatest Masters, and never yet Play'd in Publick. To begin exactly at 6 of the Clock. Tickets are deliver'd at Denis's Coffee-house near Fleet-Bridge, Nando's Coffeeshouse near Temple-Bar, and at the Door of the Hall, at half a Crown each Ticket. (*Daily Courant*)

Friday 27
DL

VOLPONE; or, The Fox (Written by the famous Ben Johnson). Volpone—Powell; Mosca—Wilks; Corvino—Mills; Corbaccio—Johnson; Voltore—Keene; Bonario—Booth // Cælia—Mrs Rogers; and all the other parts to the best Advantage (and see 26 February). (*Daily Courant*)

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. This Night was acted the Comedy called, *The Fox*; but I wonder the Modern Writers do not use their Interest in the House to suppress such Representations. A Man that has been at this, will hardly like any other Play during the Season. Therefore I humbly move, That the Writings, as well as Dresses, of the last Age, should give way to the present Fashion. . . . (*Tatler*, 28 May 1709) [Steele goes on to deliver a number of caustic comments about contemporary comedy.]

Saturday 28
DL

THE BUSIE-BODY (Written by the Author of a Comedy call'd, The Gamester [Centlivre]). Cast not advertised (but see 12 May). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality. For the Benefit of Mrs PIXES Executor. . . . Being the last time of Playing it till after this Term.

COMMENT. An ad for this performance in the *Post Boy* of 26-28 May says: "At the Desire of several Ladies of Quality, for the Benefit of the Family of Mrs Mary Pix, deceas'd. This day at the Theatre Royal will be presented, the last new Comedy, call'd the *Busie Body*; the greatest part of which said Comedy, and also that of the *Gamester*, was wrote by the said Mrs Pix." We are aware of no other evidence connecting Pix with these plays. The charity benefit was of course an act of generosity on the part of the company, not the author.

Saturday 28
Queen's

PYRRHUS AND DEMETRIUS [Swiney and Haym]. Cast not advertised (but see 14 December). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Being the last time of performing this Season. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. . . . With an Addition of a whole new Scene, consisting of Three Songs, compos'd by Signior Scarlatti, and perform'd by the famous Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi. [With scenes as 2 April.] The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit. And no Person to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which will be deliver'd every Day at Mr White's Chocolate-house in St. James-street, and by the Box-Keepers at the Office in the Hay-Market, at half a Guinea each Ticket. Stage-Boxes half a Guinea. First Gallery 2s. 6d. Upper Gallery 1s. 6d. To begin exactly at Six a Clock.

Tuesday 31
DL

THE SILENT WOMAN [Jonson]. Truewit-Wilks; Morose-Johnson; Dauphine-Booth; Clerimont-Mills; Sir Amorous la Fool-Bullock; Sir John Daw-Cibber; Capt. Otter-Estcourt; Cutbeard-Norris // Epicæne-Mrs Knight; Dol Mavis-Mrs Bradshaw; Mrs Otter-Mrs Powell; Lady Haughty-Mrs Saunders; Lady Centaur-Mrs Baker; Trusty-Mrs Cox. To which will be added a Farce of one Act only call'd, **THE STAGE-COACH** [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised (but see 17 May). (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Mr Leigh. . . . Being the last time of Acting this Play and Farce this Season. And Mr Wm Penkethman will speak an Epilogue riding on an Ass.

COMMENT. In the *Daily Courant* of 28 May Lady Centaur is advertised as being played by Mrs Mills, Lady Constance by Mrs Finch, and Trusty by Mrs Baker. Danchin, II, 441, suggests that what Pinkethman spoke was "perhaps the old Haines epilogue?"

June 1709

Wednesday 1
DL

THE STRATAGEM [Farquhar]. Cast not advertised (but see 16 April). To which will be added, a Farce of one Act only call'd, **THE STAGE-COACH** [Farquhar]. Wherein the chief parts are perform'd by Mr Norris, Mr Pack, Mr Booth, Mr Bullock, Mrs Bradshaw, and your humble Servant Mr Bowen. (For assignment of parts, see 17 May.) (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. For the Benefit of Mr Bowen. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Entertainment of his Excellency Don Joseph Diaz, Ambassador extraordinary from Muley Ismael ben Shreif Elhosseney Emperour of Morocco, Sus, Taffilet, Dra, Fez, the Deserts of Numidia, the Algarbe or Western Coast of Affrica, &c. He being now upon his Departure out of England for Meckaness, the Court of the Emperour his Master. Being the last time of performing the said Play and Farce this Season. Note, That the Tickets given out for the 25th of May for this Play will pass this 1st of June.

COMMENT. Advance advertisements for this performance that appeared in the *Daily Courant* of 23, 24, 30 and 31 May indicate that Vanbrugh's farcical adaptation of Molière, *Sganarell; or The Cuckold in Conceit*, with Bowen as Sganarell, was originally intended as the afterpiece.

Thursday 2
DL

TROILUS AND CRESSIDA; or, Truth found too late [Dryden, adapting Shakespeare]. Thersites–Betterton; Troilus–Wilks; Hector–Powell; Agamemnon–Mills; Achilles–Booth; Ajax–Keene; Ulisses–Thurmond; Nestor–Corey; Priam–Fairbank; Diomedes–Husbands; Menelaus–Burkhead; Æneas–Bickerstaffe; Pandarus–Estcourt // Cressida–Mrs Bradshaw; Andromache–Mrs Rogers; and all the rest of the parts to the best advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

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

COMMENT. For a summary account of the Dryden adaptation, see Hogan, I, 451-452.

Friday 3
DL

THE TRAGEDY OF HAMLET PRINCE OF DENMARK [Shakespeare]. Hamlet–Wilks; King [Claudius]–Keen; Polonius–Cross; Laertes–Powell; Horatio–Mills; Ghost–Booth; Grave-Digger–Underhill; Marcellus–Bickerstaffe; Ostrick–Cibber // Queen [Gertrude]–Mrs Knight; Ophelia–Mrs Bradshaw; and the rest of the parts to the best Advantage. (*Daily Courant*)

ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For the Benefit of Cave Underhill the old Comedian. Being the last time of Acting it this Season. With a new Prologue and Epilogue [apparently not extant].

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. Will's Coffee-house, May 30. My chief Business here this Evening was to speak my Friends in Behalf of honest Cave Underhill, who has been a Comick for three Generations: My Father admir'd him extremely when he was a Boy. There is certainly nature excellently represented in his Manner of Action; in which he ever avoided that general Fault in Players, of doing too much. It must be confess'd, he has not the Merit of some ingenious Persons now on the Stage, of adding to his Authors; for the Actors were so dull in the last Age, that many of them have gone out of the World, without having ever spoke one Word of their own in the Theatre. Poor Cave is so mortified, that he quibbles, and tells you, he pretends only to act a Part fit for a Man who has one Foot in the Grave; viz. a Grave-digger. All Admirers of true Comedy, it is hop'd, will have the Gratitude to be present on the last Day of his acting, who, if he does not happen to please them, will have it even then to say, that it is his first Offence. (*Tatler*, 31 May 1709)

COMMENT. Underhill advertised the benefit in the *Tatler* of 26 May: "Mr Cave Underhill, the famous Comedian in the Reigns of K. Charles II. K. James II. K. William and Q. Mary, and her present Majesty Q. Anne; but now not able to perform so often as heretofore in the Playhouse, and having had Losses to the Value of near £2500 is to have the Tragedy of *Hamlet* acted for his Benefit . . . in which he is to perform his original Part, the Grave-Maker. Tickets may be had at the Mitre-Tavern in Fleet-street."

Saturday 4
DL

THE BUSY BODY [Centlivre]. Sir George Airy–Wilks; Sir Francis Gripe–Estcourt; Charles–Mills; Sir Jealous Traffick–Bullock; Busy Body–Pack // Miranda–Mrs Cross; Isabinda–Mrs Rogers; Patch–Mrs Saunders; Scentwell–Mrs Mills. To which (at particular desire) will be added, a farce of one Act only call'd, **SGANNARELL;** or, The Cuckold in Conceit [Vanbrugh adapting Molière]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)

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

- Saturday 4*
Queen's **CONCERT.** At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. For Signior Cavaliero Nicolini Grimaldi . . . A Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick entirely new, compos'd by the famous Scarlatti, Bononcini, and other the greatest Italian Masters. To which will be added, the new Scene which was perform'd on Saturday last in the Opera of *Pyrrhus and Demetrius*. The Vocal Part to be perform'd by Signior Nicolini and others. The Boxes to be open'd to the Pit, and no Person to be admitted but by printed Tickets, which will be deliver'd at Mr White's Chocolate-house and St. James's Coffee-house in St. James's-street, and by the Box-keepers at the Theatre in the Hay-Market, at 7s. 6d. a Ticket. First Gallery 2s. 6d. To begin exactly at 7 a Clock. (*Daily Courant*)
- Monday 6* **DOCUMENT.** Play House in Covent Garden [i.e., Drury Lane] Silenc'd. Whereas by an order dated the 30th day of April last upon the petition of severall Players &c I did then direct and require you to pay to the respective comedians who had benefit plays last winter the full receipts of such Plays deducting only from each the sume of £40 for the Charges of the House pursuant to the articles made with them at the Theatre in the Haymarket and which were promis'd to be made good upon their removall to the Theatre in Covent Garden
And whereas I am informed that in contempt of the said Order you still refuse to pay and detain from the said Comedians the profits of the said benefit plays I do therefore for the said Contempt hereby Silence you from further Acting & require you not to perform any Plays or other Theatrical entertainments till further order; And all her Majesties Sworn Comedians are hereby forbid to Act any Plays at the Theatre in Covent Garden or else where without my leave as they shall answer the contrary at their perill. . . . Kent (LC 5/154, p. 437)
CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. The Marquess of Kent Lord Chamberlain of the Queens Household has Silenced the Company of Commedians belonging to the Theatre in Drury Lane (Newdigate Newsletters, 9 June).
COMMENT. On the silencing, see the season headnote.
- Monday 6*
GR **THE FINE LADYS AIRS; or, An Equipage of Lovers** [Baker]. Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. At the Desire of several Ladies in Greenwich and from London. At Mr Penkethman's New Theatre. . . . Beginning exactly at 6 a Clock.
- Monday 6* **ADVERTISEMENT.** Just Publish'd . . . *The Works of Mr William Shakespear*, in 6 Vols. 8vo. adorn'd with Cuts, Revis'd and carefully Corrected: With an Account of the Life and Writings of the Author by N Rowe, Esq; Pr. 30s. . . . [Printed for Jacob Tonson.] (*Daily Courant*)
COMMENT. The publication of Rowe's edition of Shakespeare was unquestionably an important step in the evolution of the playwright's reputation. No complete edition had been published since the Fourth Folio of 1685, and Rowe made the plays far easier to read, adding act and scene divisions as necessary, supplying stage directions and locations, cleaning up the text, and modernizing considerably. The text was derived from the Fourth Folio and is crude, even by the standards of Theobald (let alone Malone). The biography is as rudimentary as most theatrical biography of the time—largely anecdotal. The 30-shilling price put the edition out of reach of most book buyers. But considering the relatively scanty remuneration (Rowe received £36 for his biographical and editorial work—Nichols, VIII, 301), the job was not badly done for the time. The edition attracted little publicity—there is no puff in the *Tatler*, for example—but it is a major landmark in the history of Shakespeare reception.

- Tuesday 7*
DL COMMENT. On this day Shadwell's *Epsom-Wells* was advertised for performance with the same cast that had appeared on 25 April. The performance was, however, prevented by the silencing of the theatre.
- Saturday 18*
H&P **CONCERT.** For the Benefit of Mr Kytch . . . a Consort of Musick. Tickets may be had at the Hand and Pen in St Alban's-street, at Half a Guinea each Ticket. Note, The Tickets delivered out for Wednesday the 15th, will be taken this Day the 18th. (*Daily Courant*)
- Monday 20*
GR **MITHRIDATES, KING OF PONTUS** (Written by the famous Mr Lee, Author of Alexander the Great). Cast not advertised. (*Daily Courant*, 17 June)
ADVERTISEMENT DETAILS. Never Acted there before.
- Wednesday 29* DOCUMENT. On this day Colley Cibber brought suit against Christopher Rich in Chancery, moving to block an action against Cibber by Rich in Queen's Bench. Cibber had breached a contract he signed with Rich on 9 November 1704 (five years at £3 10s. per week). Cibber claims a verbal agreement for an additional 30s. for managerial duties, and states that he is owed £60 in arrears, which he regards as a prior breach of contract by Rich. (P.R.O. C10/537/22)
COMMENT. For further details, see *Document Register*, no. 2026.

July 1709

- Tuesday 5* DOCUMENT. On this day William Bullock started a Chancery action to block a judgment Rich had received against him. Like other actors, Bullock had breached a multi-year contract he had signed with Rich and was now being legally harassed. (P.R.O. C10/528/3)
COMMENT. For details, see *Document Register*, no. 2027.
- Friday 8* DOCUMENT. Players to Act at the Theatre in the Haymarket. Whereas the Managers of her Majesties Playhouse in Drury Lane have refused to Obey my orders and still continue their contempt for which reason I have thought fitt to silence them from further Acting And Whereas her Majesties Sworn Comedians who acted in that Play House have Since petitioned me for leave to performe Comedy and Tragedy for their Maintenance they having no way been concernd in the breach of my orders
Pursuant therefore to her Majestys License for that purpose I do hereby give you full power & Authority to Act comedy & Tragedy in her Majesties Theatre in the Hay Market four days in the week and to receive & entertain as you shall think fitt all her Majesties Sworn Comedians a list of whose Names I have hereunto Anexd [not preserved]. . . . To the Manager or Managers of her Majesties Theatre in the Haymarket. Kent. (LC 5/154, p. 446)
COMMENT. This order was designed to permit Swiney to hire the Drury Lane actors to work at the Haymarket while preserving two days per week for the opera.
- Friday 8* DOCUMENT. *Advertisement Concerning the Poor Actors, who under Pretence of hard Usage from the Patentees, are about to desert their Service* [signed by Zachary Baggs, "Receiver and Treasurer at the Theatre Royal in Drury-

lane"; no place or publisher; dated 8 July 1709 by the author]. "Some Persons having industriously spread about amongst the Quality and others, what small Allowances the Chief Actors have had this last Winter from the Patentees of Drury-lane Play-house, as if they had receiv'd no more than so many poor Palatines; It was thought necessary to Print the following Account. The whole Company began to Act, on the 12th of Oct. 1708 and left off on the 26th of the same Month, by reason of Prince George's Illness and death; and begun again the 14th of December following, and left off upon the Lord Chamberlain's order on the 4th [*recte* 6th] of June last 1709. So Acted, during that time, in all 135 Days which is 22 Weeks and 3 Days, accounting Six Acting Days to a Week."

What follows is a composite summary of Baggs' statements of what the principal actors were paid in salary, what they earned at their benefits, and what he estimates they made from benefit tickets sold above face value. Wilks acted 100 times and received £168 6s. 8d. "by Salary, for Acting, and taking care of the Rehearsals"; plus £90 14s. 9d. at his benefit play (plus an estimated £40) for a grand total of £299 1s. 5d. Betterton acted 16 times and received £112 10s. "by Salary for Acting £4 a Week for himself, and £1 a Week for his Wife, although she does not Act"; plus £76 4s. 5d. at his benefit (plus an estimated £450) for a grand total of £638 14s. 5d. (on Betterton's extraordinary benefit, see 7 April). Estcourt acted 52 times and received £112 10s. "at £5 a Week Salary"; plus £51 8s. 6d. at his benefit play (plus an estimated £200) for a grand total of £363 18s. 6d. Cibber acted 71 times and received £111 10s. "at £5 a Week Salary"; plus £51 0s. 10½d. at his benefit (plus an estimated £50) for a grand total of £212 10s. 10½d. John Mills acted an unspecified number of times [Baggs leaves a blank] and received £112 10s. "at £4 a Week Salary for himself, and £1 a Week for his Wife for little, or nothing"; plus £58 1s. 4d. at his benefit play (plus an estimated £20) for a grand total of £190 12s. 4d. Mrs Oldfield acted 39 times and received £56 13s. 4d. "at £4 a Week Salary, which for 14 Weeks and one Day; she leaving off Acting presently after her Benefit . . . tho' the Benefit was intended for her whole 9 Months Acting, and she refused to assist others in their Benefits"; plus £13 5s. 9d. for special costume items; plus £62 7s. 8d. at her benefit play (plus an estimated £120) for a grand total of £252 6s. 7d. Baggs adds grumpily, "Had not Acting been forbid Seven Weeks on the Occasion of Prince George's Death, and my Lord Chamberlain forbid Acting about Five Weeks before the 10th of July Instant; Each of these Actors would have had Twelve Weeks Salary more than is above-mention'd."

COMMENT. Copy used: British Library 1344.n.62. See *Document Register*, no. 2031. This little pamphlet was clearly part of a public relations campaign staged by the patentees against their rebellious actors.

Saturday 16

CONTEMPORARY COMMENT. In *The Tatler* of 16 July 1709 appears a mock-notice of an auction of the theatrical stock at Drury Lane. "This is to give Notice, that a magnificent Palace, with great Variety of Gardens, Statues, and Water-works, may be bought cheap in Drury-Lane; where there are likewise several Castles to be disposed of . . . as also Groves, Woods, Forests, Fountains, and Country Seats . . . being the Moveables of Ch—r R—ch, Esq; who is breaking up House-keeping." The burlesque inventory that follows includes such items as "Three bottles and a half of Lightning . . . A Rainbow a little faded . . . Othello's Handkerchief . . . A Wild-Boar, kill'd by Mrs Tofts in *Dioclesian* . . . A Suit of Clothes for a Ghost," etc.

Saturday 18 DOCUMENT. Acting on a complaint from the vicar and churchwardens of the parish of Hampstead, the justices of the Middlesex Court Sessions ordered suppression of a playhouse lately erected in that town and directed the constables "to apprehend the players that they may be punished as rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars." (Greater London Record Office, Middlesex Court Sessions Books, MJ/SBB/671, p. 49)

ca. late July DOCUMENT. To the Queens Most Excellent Majesty. The Humble Petition of your Majesty's Comedians, under the Patentees at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane. Most humbly sheweth. That the right Honourable the Lord Chamberlain of your Majesty's Household having an unhappy difference with the Patentees, and managers of your Majesty's Theatre in Drury Lane Occasioned by the Intricate Proceedings of some particular dissatisfied Comedians did on the 6th of June last, by an Order directed to the Patentees silence them from further Acting, whereby your Majesty's most humble Petitioners are reduced to the lowest Want, and tho' they have applied themselves with all due respect and humility by several Petitions, One on the 10th June another on the 20th June, and another on the 5th July Instant [all three are lost] to his Lordship and to the Right Honourable the Vice Chamberlain of your Majesties Household, yet all the Pressing Instances of their Sufferings, have not been of force enough to obtain any hopes of Redress; So that your Majesties most humble Petitioners are under the necessity of Appealing to your most Sacred majesty, as their last and surest Refuge for Relief in their present Calamity.

That your Majesty's Petitioners have not any way incurred the Lord Chamberlain's disfavour (as his Lordship has been often pleased to Declare) nor broke the Rules of Decency, but in all things submitted to his Lordships orders and Directions.

That your Majesties Petitioners by complaint, or other Application, have not at all Contributed to the Controversy now depending between his Lordship and the Patentees, nor to the differences between the other dissatisfied Comedians, and the Patentees which Controversies are the sole occasion of the great hardships, your Majesties Petitioners now labour under.

That the Patentees (whom his Lordship declares to be the only Offenders) Sustain no Damage or Inconvenience whatever by Cessation at this time of the year, having in Effect neither Power nor Profit from the 10th of July to the 10th of October (as appears by their Articles of Agreement, that time of Acting being allowed and claimed by the young Comedians (most of them having but small salaries) under their own care and Direction to provide for themselves in the Summer Season.

That the Lord Chamberlain has been lately Pleased by way of redress to your majesties Petitioners to Give leave to the Managers of the Theatre in the Haymarket, to Receive and Employ such of your Majesty's sworn Comedians as they the said Managers shall think fit, but that your Majesty's Petitioners in their present Circumstance, cannot be concern'd in the Playhouse in the Haymarket, not only by Reason, that such an Engagement wou'd be intirely Opposite to their Interests and Inclinations, but wou'd be also a Forfeit of their Honesty to their Masters the Patentees, and Expose them to severe Penalties at Law upon breach of their Articles of Agreement, which were fairly and unanimously Entred into by your Petitioners For that your Majesty's Petitioners having Power and Authority from the Lord Chamberlain, by an Order bearing date the 31st of December 1707, to be Received taken in, and Employ'd by the Patentees in Drury Lane, did pur

suant to the said Order (of which, and Sir John Stanley's Letter Copies are annexd) make Articles of Agreement with the Patentees to act there, and in no other Place, or Theatre whatever, (unless Comanded by your Sacred Majesty to St James's, or any other of your Majesty's Royal Palaces) which said Articles of Agreement (being a necessary and firm security to your Majesties Petitioners for the Profits they are to Receive for their Labour and also the only means of securing the Patentees to the Performers, and the Performers to the Patentees) do bind and oblige your Majesties most humble Petitioners to serve out a certain Term of yeares under the direction of the Patentees; so that your Majesties poor Petitioners must be inevitably Ruined, unless permitted to Act at the Theatre Royal in Drury Lane.

That your Majesties most humble Petitioners are fully contented with the said Articles of Agreement, and also intirely satisfied with the Justice, and fair proceedings of their Masters the Patentees, and that the Patentees are Equally Contented, and Satisfied with your Majesty's Petitioners as Hired Servants; upon which Consideration your Majestys Petitioners most humbly presume that, (notwithstanding the Lord Chamberlain may have some Power over your Majesties Petitioners as being your Majesty's sworn servants) they may be permitted to Remain in a Circumstance so agreeable to their Inclinations, and Interests, and so proper for the maintenance of themselves and their Families; Your Petitioners being persuaded that your Majesty out of your Gracious & innate Goodness, will not Suffer your poor Petitioners by being sworn Servants to your majestie to be brought into a worse Condition, than others your Majesties subjects, who under your Majesties Glorious Reign, Enjoy their property and Benefit of all honest and lawful Bargains, which they make for their support and Livelihood.

That altho' your poor Petitioners are sworn servants to your Majestie yet they humbly Beg Leave to Inform your Sacred Majesty, that they reap no Advantage by salary, Livery, or any other consideration (as the Sworn Comedians formerly have done under your Majesties Royall Predecessors) so that your Majesties Petitioners look upon themselves as left to their own Liberties to make the best Provision they can for the Maintenance of themselves, and their Families, and do not at all despair of your Majesties Royal Favour, and Protection, while they shall behave themselves with Decency and Modesty in their several Capacities.

Your Majesties poor Petitioners therefore most humbly Pray, That your Majestie will Graciously please to take your Petitioners most deplorable Case into your wise and tender Consideration and That the Lord Chamberlain's displeasure (which the Patentees now lye under) may not Extend to the utter Ruine of your Majesties Innocent Petitioners and their Families, which must certainly follow, unless your Majesty's Gracious leave be speedily obtain'd by your Petitioners for acting in Drury Lane, untill the matters in dispute shall be decided, as 'tis Customary in Cases of like Nature, which is the only Expedient to Redress the heavy Grievances of your Majesties most humble Petitioners and will be a Deed of the Highest Charity to above an Hundred other Innocent Persons, who are daily sufferers of this late Suspension from acting. And your Petitioners as in Duty Bound shall ever Pray &c. B Booth, Theo: Keene, John Bickerstaffe, Fran Leigh, Henry ffairbank, Ja Carnaby Jo Downes, Geor: Powell, George Pack, John Corey, Tho: Newman, Mat Burkhead, Cave Underhill, Fran M Knight, M: Bicknell, Henrietta Moore, Kat ffinch, Susanna Cox, L: Bradshaw, Mary Powell, Eli Leigh, Eliz: Willis, M. Kent, Cath. Baker. (Copy in British Library Add. MS 20,726, fol. 20)

COMMENT. The principal actors and those Swiney had seen fit to put under contract at the Haymarket are missing from the list of petitioners. The presence of both

Downes and Newman in the list is surprising: Newman had replaced Downes as prompter.

Saturday 30
HW GR

CONCERT. In the Great Room at Hampstead-Wells . . . will be Perform'd a Consort of Musick, Vocal and Instrumental, the Vocal Part by Mrs Reading [Redding], Mr Teano [Tenoe], and others, the Symphonys on the Violins by Mr Dean and Mr Manshipp; Mr Dean will perform a Solo which he never did in Publick before, likewise a Trumpet Tune of his own, with several full Pieces of Musick, with a Trumpet and Hautboys, and without; to begin exactly at 5 a Clock. Tickets to be had at the Rainbow Coffee-house by Fleet-bridge, and at the Wells, at half a Crown each. (*Daily Courant*)

Saturday 30

DOCUMENT. On this day Benjamin Johnson brought suit against Christopher Rich to counter an action against him in Queen's Bench for breach of contract. Johnson signed a five-year contract for £3 per week on 18 November 1704; Rich short-paid him, so he moved to the Queen's Theatre in the autumn of 1706. (P.R.O. C10/528/33)

COMMENT. See *Document Register*, no. 2037, where the date is correctly reported as 31 July—but that was a Sunday.

August 1709

August
or later

DOCUMENT. [At some time between August 1709 and 18 February 1710 the Drury Lane patentees petitioned the Queen against the order of silence that had shut down the company on 6 June. After an extensive review of the 1660s patent grants and the history of the patent claimants, they made the following points.] That your Petitioners and the Persons claiming under the Patents did Quietly enjoy their respective Interests under the same according to Law, and their severall Purchases & Interests therein, untill about Lady Day 1695 without any Interruption; and the clear Profitts which came by acting and Entertainments of the Stage (after Payment of all Rents for the Theatres, Scene Roomes and Charges whatsoever) amounted one year with another to above one thousand Pounds; since which time they have been yearly considerable losers, yet have Quietly acquiesced under the same, rather than to give your Majesty the trouble of an Application, which they are now (with the greatest Reluctancy imaginable) under a necessity of doing, being brought into Danger of loosing their whole Estates in the said Premisses; yet with an humble Confidence hope that in a Reign so Glorious as your Majesty's, for Preserving the Rights and Liberties of your People, we shall not be disturbed in the Management thereof.

That the Right Noble the Marquess of Kent Lord Chamberlain of your Majesty's Household, hath been pleased to make several Orders, and given directions to his Secretary to make several significations of his pleasure, and Orders to the Patentees, and their Managers, and the Players, and performers belonging to them, and in particular.

1st Severall Orders in November, and December 1705 Relating to the Establishing another Playhouse, and Restreyning your Petitioners power to Treat and agree with such Actors and others, as they shou'd think necessary for their business.

2dly Severall Orders, and significations in December, and January 1707 for Restreyning your Petitioners from Acting any Operas, and from

Employing such Persons as they shou'd conceive fitt for singing and Dancing, under the Penalty of silencing.

3dly An Order of the 30th of April 1709 Ordering your Petitioners Treasurer to Pay Money's to their Actors, without any Agreement or Consent of your Petitioners and another of the 6th of June last, silencing your Petitioners and their Actors for not so doing.

Which Order, letters, and Significations, are not only Extraordinary in their own nature, and contradictory One to another, but were made without ever calling your Petitioners before his Lordship or ever hearing them in relation to the matters thereof; and as we are advised are contrary, and in prejudice to the powers, Privileges, Authorities rights, and Interests, Granted by your Royal Majesty's Predecessors, by the said respective Letters patents, and tend to the subversion of the same, and to the destruction of your Petitioners Estates, Rights, Properties, and Interests, and of those claiming under the said Patents.

And forasmuch as your Petitioners can have no Redress (tho' they have frequently with all due respect, and duty applied to the said Lord Chamberlain for the same) but from your Majesty's Goodness, and Great Justice Your Petitioners therefore most humbly Pray, That your Majesty will be Pleased to Admitt, that your Petitioners may be heard by their [*recte her?*] Councill as to the Legality of, and Releife against the said Orders; so that your Petitioners may under your Majestys Royal Protection, and Goodness Quietly enjoy, and Exercise the Powers, Priviledges, and Authorities Granted by the Letters Patents to the said Patentees, and their Heires, which your Petitioners and those under whom they respectively claime, did Quietly Enjoy for many Years, and untill of late yeares as aforesaid. And that your Majesty will be Pleased to Countenance and Support your Petitioners against all Disturbers of the Grants so made (which has been frequently done by several orders from your Majesty's Royal Predecessors) in such Manner now, as to your Majestys Royal wisdom, and goodness shall seem meet. And your Petitioners as in duty Bound shall ever Pray &c. [The petitioners were Lord Guilford, John Lord Harvey, Dame Alice Brownlow Widow, Anne Shadwell Widow, Sir Edward Smith Bart, Sir Thomas Skipwith Bart, George Sayer, Charles Killigrew, Christopher Rich, Charles Davenant, John Metcalf, Thomas Goodall, Ashburnham Toll, Ashburnham Frowd, William East, Richard Middlemore, Robert Gower, and William Collier.] (Copy in British Library Add. MS 20,726, fols. 22-23)

COMMENT. The petition makes no explicit mention of the events of 6 September, so it may predate those events, as we suggest in *Document Register*, no. 2038. But since this appears to be the petition presented in Council on 18 February 1710, an autumn or early winter date seems entirely possible.

Thursday 4
NWE

ADVERTISEMENT. The New Wells at Epsom, with variety of Raffling-Shops, a Billiard-Table, and a Bowling-Green, are open, and attended with a New Set of Musick and Trumpet playing every Day in the Week, beginning in the Morning at 8 or 9 a Clock and ending at 1, begins again at 4 in the Afternoon and continues till 10 at Night, all the Season.

Monday 8
York

CONCERT. York . . . During the Sizes will be perform'd a Consort of Musick, by Mr Holcomb, Mr Corbet, &c. Who will perform the same in Nottingham August the 16th, 17th, 18th and 19th, after the Races are over, viz All the choicest Songs out of all the new Operas, in Italian and English, with their proper Sinfoney's as they are play'd in the Queen's Theatre. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. Advertisements for this concert appeared in the *Daily Courant* of 1 and 2 August.

Thursday 11 ADVERTISEMENT. All Persons who have any concern or property in the Shares of Rent of Drury-Lane Playhouse, are desir'd to meet Mr Swiny at Nando's Coffee-house within Temple-Bar, (upon Tuesday next the 16th Instant, at 3 a Clock in the Afternoon,) who will make 'em very advantagious Proposals relating to the said House. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. This advertisement also appeared in the *Daily Courant* from 13 to 16 August.

Friday 12 ADVERTISEMENT. Any Persons who have a mind to be concern'd in, or to rent the Play-house in Little-Lincoln's Inn-Fields are desir'd to meet Mr Porcino and Mr Sniff, at Nando's Coffee house within Temple-Bar upon Tuesday next the 16th Instant, at 4 a Clock in the Afternoon; who will be there to make very reasonable Proposals relating to the said House, which may be seen in the mean Time: Enquire of Mr Colley next Door to the Scowrers under the said House, or at the Magpy. (*Daily Courant*)

COMMENT. This was evidently a joke made in response to Swiney's notice of 11 August.

Monday 22 **CONCERT.** At Cheshunt-House in Hartfordshire . . . will be perform'd a consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick by the best Masters; particularly several Solos by the famous Mr Dean, and the most celebrated Songs in the Operas with their Symphonys. The Entertainment will positively begin at 3 a Clock. Tickets may be had at the Raffling-Shop at North-hall, at the Rummer in Enfield, and of Mr Keene near the Church in Cheshunt, at 5s. each. (*Daily Courant*, 15 August)

CH H

Thursday 25 **CONCERT.** A Consort at Stationer's Hall, the Vocal part consisting chiefly of Opera-Songs by Mr Lawrence, Mr Cook, Mr Tenoe; a Solo by Mr Phillips, as also a Voluntary; some Lessons on the German Flute; a Concerto Grosso by Mr Baston's two Sons, who perform'd the same lately with great Applause. To begin exactly at Six. Tickets to be had at the Door, at half a Crown each. (*Daily Courant*)

SH

COMMENT. This is the first recorded performance by John and Thomas Baston. See *Biographical Dictionary*, I, 375-376.

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