

Pepys, *Diary*: We made no long stay at dinner; for "Heraclius" being acted, which my wife and I have a mighty mind to see, we do resolve, though not exactly agreeing with the letter of my vowe, yet altogether with the sense, to see another this month, by coming hither instead of that at Court, there having been none conveniently since I made my vowe for us to see there, nor like to be this Lent, and besides we did walk home on purpose to make this going as cheap as that would have been, to have seen one at Court, and my conscience knows that it is only the saving of money and the time also that I intend by my oaths. . . . The play hath one very good passage well managed in it, about two persons pretending, and yet denying themselves, to be son to the tyrant Phocas, and yet heire of Mauricius to the crowne. The garments like Romans very well. The little girle is come to act very prettily, and spoke the epilogue most admirably. But at the beginning, at the drawing up of the curtaine, there was the finest scene of the Emperor and his people about him, standing in their fixed and different postures in their Roman habitts, above all that ever I yet saw at any of the theatres.

Tuesday 8  
[LIF]

## April 1664

PANDORA. [By Sir William Killigrew.] Edition of 1664: Prologue. Epilogue. No actors' names. LIF

COMMENT. The play was licensed 4 May 1664, entered in the *Stationers' Register* 21 May 1664, and announced in *The Intelligencer* 23 May 1664. It appeared in *Three Plays*, 1665.

Monday 4-Saturday 9  
PASSION WEEK

THE GERMAN PRINCESS. [By John Holden (?).] Princess - [Mary Carleton]. Friday 15  
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This play apparently was not printed. Pepys, *Diary*: And then with my wife by coach to the Duke's house, and there saw "The German Princess" acted, by the woman herself; but never was any thing so well done in earnest, worse performed in jest upon the stage; and indeed the whole play, abating the drollery of him that acts her husband, is very simple, unless here and there a witty sprinkle or two.

COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: Thence to Islington, and so to St John's to the Red Bull, and there saw the latter part of a rude prize fought. Monday 25  
Red Bull

LOVE IN A TUB. [*The Comical Revenge*, by Sir George Etherege.] See March 1663/4. Wednesday 27

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Evelyn, *Diary*: Saw a facecious Comedy Cald Love in a Tub.

## May 1664

THE LABYRINTH. *Author not known. Cast not known.* Monday 2  
Bridges

COMMENT. This play, possibly an adaptation from Corneille, was apparently not printed. It bears, however, some resemblances to Walter Hawkesworth's Latin comedy, *Labyrinthus* (which was first acted at Trinity College, Cambridge, in March 1602/3); and this Restoration play may be a variation on Hawkesworth's.

- Monday 2*  
Bridges      Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's Playhouse . . . my wife and I and Mademoiselle. I paid for her going in, and there saw "The Labyrinth," the poorest play, methinks, that ever I saw, there being nothing in it but the odd accidents that fell out, by a lady's being bred up in men's apparel, and a man in a woman's.
- Monday 30*  
Red Bull      COMMENT. A facsimile of a bill announcing "A Trial of Skill" at this playhouse, 30 May 1664, is in *Rariora*, ed. John Eliot Hodgkin (London, n.d.), III, 53-54. See also William Van Lennep, "The Death of the Red Bull," *Theatre Notebook*, XVI (1962), 133-34.

## June 1664

- Bridges      THE RIVAL LADIES. [By John Dryden.] Edition of 1664: No actors' names. Prologue. The Epilogue is in Bodleian MSS. Ashmol. 36, 37, f. 267.  
COMMENT. The King's Company. The play was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 27 June 1664. For the Epilogue, see R. G. Ham, "Dryden's Epilogue to *The Rival Ladies*, 1664," *Review of English Studies*, XIII (1937), 76-80.
- Wednesday 1*  
Bridges      THE SILENT WOMAN. [By Ben Jonson.] *Cast not known*, but see 7 Jan. 1660/1  
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: [Mrs Pepys] and I to the King's house, and saw "The Silent Woman"; but methought not so well done or so good a play as I formerly thought it to be, or else I am now-a-days out of humour. Before the play was done, it fell such a storm of hayle, that we in the middle of the pit were fain to rise; and all the house in a disorder.

## July 1664

- Thursday 14*  
At Court      [POMPEY THE GREAT.] See Jan. 1663/4.  
COMMENT. Charles II to Madame, 14 July 1664: I am iust now come from seeing a new ill play and it is almost midnight (C. H. Hartman, *Charles II and Madame* [1934], p. 108). W. J. Lawrence, in a review of Boswell, *The Restoration Court Stage*, in *Modern Language Review*, XXVIII (1933), 103, stated his belief that this play was acted at court this day.
- Wednesday 20*  
LIF      WORSE AND WORSE. [By George Digby, Earl of Bristol.] *Cast not known*.  
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The play apparently was never printed. Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 26: Made out of Spanish, by the Earl of Bristol. Pepys, *Diary*: Went to a play, only a piece of it, which was at the Duke's house, "Worse and Worse"; just the same manner of play, and writ, I believe, by the same man as "The Adventures of Five Hours"; very pleasant it was, and I begin to admire Harris more than ever.
- Thursday 28*  
LIF      THE BONDMAN. [By Philip Massinger.] [Bondman] - Betterton; [Cleora] - Mrs Betterton. See also 2 April 1662.  
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: And seeing "The Bondman" upon the posts, I consulted my oaths and find I may go safely this time without breaking it. . . . There I saw it acted. It is true, for want of practice, they had many of them forgot their parts a little; but Betterton and my poor Ianthe outdo all the world. There is nothing more taking in the world with me than that play.