

- Tuesday 14**
DG
THE COMICAL REVENGE; or, Love in a Tub. See 13 Nov. 1671.
COMMENT. Although Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 32) states that this play was acted two day "together," the certain performance on Wednesday 15 Nov. suggests either that Downes misstated the number of performances or that the play was given on Monday and Wednesday but not on Tuesday, a somewhat unlikely event.
- Tuesday 14**
At Court
SIR SOLOMON; or, The Cautious Coxcomb. [By John Caryl.] *Cast not known.*
For a previous cast, see April 1670.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This play is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 2. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 347. It is uncertain, however, just when this performance occurred. The L. C. lists at Harvard (see Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 19) suggest that the three performances at the head of this list belong to the spring of 1672 rather than the spring of 1671. If this is correct, this performance of *Sir Solomon* is out of place in the list, for it can hardly be placed at 14 Nov. 1672, yet it is surprising that, so soon after the opening of DG, the Duke's Company should act at Court, especially when the King and Queen attended DG on the following day, 15 Nov. 1671. This performance of *Sir Solomon* should be judged as an uncertain one.
- Wednesday 15**
DG
THE COMICAL REVENGE; or, Love in a Tub. See 13 Nov. 1671.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. lists at Harvard: th: King and Queen &c Two Boxes. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 18. See also Tuesday 14 Nov. 1671.
- Saturday 18**
LIF
THE SULLEN LOVERS; or, The Impertinents. [By Thomas Shadwell.] *Cast not known.* For a previous cast, see 2 May 1668.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. lists at Harvard. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 18. British Museum Add. Mss. 36916, folio 233: 18 Nov. 1671: The new playhouse in Salisbury Court opened on the 9th instant, since which his Majesty hath been often there, and likes it so well that he hath given the players £1000 towards the building of it.
- Late November**
DG
THE HISTORY OF CHARLES THE EIGHTH OF FRANCE; or, The Invasion of Naples by the French. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1672: The Prologue. Alphonso – Metbourn; Ferdinand – Harris; Prince of Salerne – Smith; Ascanio – Young; Trivultio – Sandford; Gonsalvo – Burford; Ghost – Cademan; Charles the Eighth – Batterton; Lewis – Crosby; Mompensier – Norris; Isabella – Mrs Batterton; Cornelia – Mrs Slaughter; Irene – Mrs Shadwell; Julia – Mrs Dixon. Epilogue.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 32) states: The first new Play Acted there, was King Charles the VIII. of France; it was all new Cloath'd, yet lasted but 6 Days together, but 'twas Acted now and then afterwards.
Two songs for this play, "Too justly alas," set by James Hart, and "O love if e'er thou'lt ease a heart," set by Pelham Humphrey, are in *Choice Songs and Ayres*, First Book, 1673.

December 1671

- Thursday 7**
Bridges
THE REHEARSAL. [By George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham.] Edition of 1672: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue. In spite of the fame of this work, the actors (with a few exceptions) associated with the principal roles are not known. Buckingham, however, taught John Lacy how to act Bayes in ridicule of John Dryden. According to *A Key to the Rehearsal* (1704), Anna Reeves acted Amaryllis. Several actors are named in the text: Abraham Ivory (an old actor who possibly did not

play in the work); William Wintershall; Joseph Haines, William Cartwright, and [George (?)] Shirley. John Littlewood (along with Joseph Haines) is referred to in a poem on the play—see 14 Dec. 1671—as though he performed in it.

Thursday 7
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. There is uncertainty as to the date of the first performance, but in *A Bibliography of John Dryden*, p. 193, Macdonald cites as evidence for this date, Wood's *Atb. Ox.*, IV, 209. The play was certainly first acted not later than this month, because John Evelyn saw it on 14 Dec. 1671. For further details, see 14 Dec. 1671.

THE REHEARSAL. See 7 Dec. 1671.

Thursday 14
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Evelyn, *Diary*: Whence to see the Duke of Buckingham's ridiculous farce & Rhapsody called the *Recital*, bouffoning all Plays yet prophane enough.

In a collection of broadsides (Bodleian Wood 417) *A Ballad* (on Buckingham and his son) has some lines which apparently refer to a performance:

*I confess the Dances were very well Writ,
And the Tune and the Time by Haynes as well Hit,
And Littlewood's Motion and Dress had much Wit:
But when his Poet John Bayes did appear,
'Tis known to more than half that were there,
The greatest part was his own Character.*

THE VILLAIN. [By Thomas Porter.] *Cast not known*. For an early cast, see 18 Oct. 1662. *Wednesday 27*
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. lists at Harvard: *The Villain*. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," pp. 18-19.

January 1672

COMMENT. Early in 1672 a group of French players may have acted in London, but the evidence is not precise or detailed. See W. J. Lawrence, "Early French Players in England," p. 142. At Court

COMMENT. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 8) gives a cast for *Julius Caesar* [by William Shakespeare] which includes Richard Bell, who died in the Drury Lane fire at the end of this month. It is not known when a performance of this play occurred, but a *Prologue to Julius Caesar* is in *Covent Garden Drollery*, 1672. Downes lists: Julius Caesar – Bell; Cassius – Major Mohun; Brutus – Hart; Anthony – Kynaston; Calphurnia – Mrs Marshal. [Downes adds Portia by Mrs Corbet, but this probably refers to a later performance.] Bridges

THE MISER. [By Thomas Shadwell.] Edition of 1672: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue. Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the premiere probably occurred during this month. The Preface states: This Play, as it was wrote in less than a moneth, and was the last Play that was Acted at the King's Theatre in Covent-Garden, before the fatal Fire there. [The Preface may mean that this was the last *new* play acted before the fire.] Two songs for this play, with music by Robert Smith, are in *Choice Songs and Ayres*, The First Book, 1673.

COMMENT. Anthony Devolto, an operator of puppet shows, was forced to petition the King against paying a fee for running a theatre, and the King granted his petition. See CSPD, 1672, 9 Jan. 1672; in Speaight, *The History of the English Puppet Theatre*, p. 76. *Tuesday 9*