

Thursday 29
City COMMENT. The Lord Mayor's Show. Pepys, *Diary*: Creed and I went away, and took coach and through Cheapside, and there saw the pageants, which were very silly.

November 1663

Monday 2
IT THE BROTHERS. [By James Shirley.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. By the King's Company. The fee paid the players was the customary £20. See *A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, ed. Inderwick, III, 16: To Drake, the upholsterer, for a serge Curtain and for hire of a screen on All Hallows day, £1.

Tuesday 3
Bridges FLORA'S VAGARIES. [By Richard Rhodes.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. *Flora's Figarys* appears in Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 148, under this date. As *Flora's Vagaries*, it had been acted at Christ Church, Oxford, on 8 Jan. 1663. The play was not published before 1670, and the entry in Herbert's list has sometimes been regarded as the date of licensing, sometimes as the date of a performance in London. Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 427, assigned it to ca. January 1662/3 at Vere St, presumably because "Mr Bird" in the cast in the quarto of 1670 referred to Theophilus Bird, who died before 3 Nov. 1663. But the cast in the edition of 1670 is presumably that for 5 Oct. 1667, when Pepys saw the play and referred to Nell Gwyn and Mrs Knepp as acting in it; they, too, are listed in the quarto of 1670 but could hardly have played in it in 1663. If the cast in the 1670 edition is not that for 3 Nov. 1663 and if the "Mr Bird" is Theophilus Bird Jr, then the obstacles to considering 3 Nov. 1663 as the date of a performance rather than of licensing are less formidable. [I am indebted to Professor John Harold Wilson for much of this argument.]

Mid-November
Bridges THE EXPOSURE. *Author not known. Cast not known.*
COMMENT. In Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 138, the entry following that for *Flora's Figarys* is: A Pastorall called the Exposure. This unknown play was possibly presented in November 1663.

December 1663

Thursday 10
At Court [THE STEP MOTHER. By Sir Robert Stapylton.] See mid-October 1663.
COMMENT. Charles II to Madame, 10 Dec. 1663: I am iust now going to see a new play (C. H. Hartmann, *Charles II and Madame* [1934], p. 89). The Duke's Company. W. J. Lawrence, in a review of Boswell, *The Restoration Court Stage*, in *Modern Language Review*, XXVIII (1933), 103, suggests that it was *The Step-Mother* which was given on this occasion. The edition of 1664 lists: The Prologue to the King at the Cockpit at White-Hall. The Epilogue to the King.

LIF COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: Calling at Wotton's . . . he tells me . . . that Harris is come to the Duke's house again; and of a rare play to be acted this week of Sir William Davenant's; the story of Henry the Eighth with all his wives.

Tuesday 22
LIF HENRY VIII. [Adapted by Sir William Davenant (?) from William Shakespeare.] Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 24): King – Betterton; Wolsey – Harris; Duke of Buckingham – Smith; Norfolk – Nokes; Suffolk – Lilliston; Cardinal Campeius and Cranmur – Medburn; Bishop Gardiner – Underhill; Earl of Surry – Young; Lord Sands – Price; Queen Catherine – Mrs Betterton.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. On Thursday 10 Dec. 1663, Pepys reported that this play was to be acted the following week, but the date of the first performance is uncertain. But—except for the holidays—it was probably acted on consecutive days until 1 Jan. 1663/4, when Pepys saw it. The play is also in Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 138, as a “Revived Play.” Pepys, *Diary*: I perceive the King and Duke and all the Court was going to the Duke's playhouse to see “Henry VIII.” acted, which is said to be an admirable play. But, Lord! to see how near I was to have broken my oathe, or run the hazard of 20*s*. losse, so much my nature was hot to have gone thither; but I did not go.

Tuesday 22
LIF

Downes (p. 24): *King Henry the 8th*, This Play, by Order of Sir William Davenant, was all new Cloath'd in proper Habits: The King's was new, all the Lords, the Cardinals, the Bishops, the Doctors, Proctors, Lawyers, Tip-staves, new Scenes: The part of the King was so right and justly done by Mr Betterton, he being Instructed in it by Sir William, who had it from Old Mr Lowen, that had his Instructions from Mr Shakespear himself, that I dare and will aver, none can, or will come near him in this Age, in the performance of that part: Mr Harris's performance of Cardinal Wolsey, was little Inferior to that, he doing it with such just State, Port, and Mein, that I dare affirm, none hitherto has Equall'd him: . . . Every part by the great Care of Sir William, being exactly perform'd; it being all new Cloath'd and new Scenes; it continu'd Acting 15 Days together with general Applause.

HENRY VIII. See 22 Dec.

Wednesday 23
LIF

HENRY VIII. See 22 Dec.

Saturday 26
LIF

COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*, 24 Dec.: By and by comes in Captain Ferrers to see us, and, among other talke, tells us of the goodness of the new play of “Henry VIII,” which makes me think it long till my time is out.

[KNAVERY IN ALL TRADES; or, The Coffee-House.] *Author not known*. Edition of 1664 lists no actors' names, no prologue, no epilogue.

COMMENT. Edition of 1664: A Comedy. As it was Acted in the Christmas Holidays by several Apprentices. With great Applause. With License.

HENRY VIII. See 22 Dec.

Monday 28
LIF

HENRY VIII. See 22 Dec.

Tuesday 29
LIF

HENRY VIII. See 22 Dec.

Wednesday 30
LIF

HENRY VIII. See 22 Dec.

Thursday 31
LIF

January 1664

POMPEY THE GREAT. [By Edmund Waller, Sir Charles Sedley, Edward Filmer, Sidney Godolphin, and Charles Sackville.] Edition of 1664: No actors' names. Prologue At the House. Epilogue at the House. Epilogue to the King at Saint James's. Epilogue To the Dutchess at Saint James's. [One Epilogue was written by Sir Edward Deering.] At the end: After which a grand Masque is Danc'd before Caesar and Cleopatra, made (as well as the other Dances and the Tunes to them) by Mr John Ogilby.

At Court

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of performance is uncertain. The play was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 15 Feb. 1663/4, and its publication