

## September 1664

THE RIVALS. [By Sir William Davenant.] Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 23): Theocles – Harris; Philander – Betterton; Cunopes the Jailor – Underhill. Pepys: [Celia] – Mrs Gosnell. Edition of 1668 adds: Arcon – Young; Polynices – Smith; Provost – Sandford; Heraclia – Mrs Shadwell; Leucippe – Mrs Long. Prologue spoken by Price. Saturday 10  
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This apparently was not the first performance, but the time of the premiere is not known. Pepys, *Diary*: My wife and I and Mercer to the Duke's house, and there saw "The Rivalls," which is no excellent play, but good acting in it; especially Gosnell comes and sings and dances finely, but, for all that, fell out of the key, so that the musique could not play to her afterwards, and so did Harris also go out of the tune to agree with her.

Downes (p. 23): The Rivals, A Play, Wrote by Sir William Davenant; having a very Fine Interlude in it, of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, mixt with very Diverting Dances: Mr Price introducing the Dancing, by a short Comical Prologue, gain'd him an Universal Applause of the Town. . . . And all the Womens Parts admirably Acted; chiefly Celia, a Shepherdess being Mad for Love; especially in Singing several Wild and Mad Songs.

THE GENERALL. [By Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.] *Cast not known.* Wednesday 14  
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. On 31 Aug. or 1 Sept. 1664 Orrery wrote to Sir Henry Bennett: Ther was noe Play of myne Acted, they are now but Studyng it; I hope within less then a Fortnight twill be on y<sup>e</sup> Theater And if you are not surfetted, with what of mine you have already seene [Henry v], I will beg y<sup>e</sup> honour to wait on you when tis Acted (see *The Dramatic Works of Roger Boyle*, ed. W. S. Clark II [Cambridge, Mass., 1937], I, 102). The play is also on the list of Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 138. Boswell, *Restoration Court Stage*, p. 281, lists it among the plays given at Court, but Sir Heneage Finch's note (see below) seems to indicate an afternoon performance.

Sir Heneage Finch to Sir Edward Dering, 15 Sept. 1664: Yesterday was acted, in the Greatest and noblest presence w<sup>ch</sup> y<sup>e</sup> Court can make, before y<sup>e</sup> fullest Theatre, & with the highest applause imaginable, my Lo Orerys new play calld y<sup>e</sup> Generall formerly acted in Ireland by the name of Altamira, but much altered & improved. From thence the whole Court went to Wallingford house, where the Earl of Arran and the Lady Mary Stuart were that night before Supper marryd in the Gallery (*Dramatic Works of Roger Boyle*, I, 103, from Stowe MS 744f. 81).

THE GENERALL. See 14 Sept. 1664. Wednesday 28  
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: By coach to White Hall, thinking to have met at a Committee of Tangier, but nobody being there but my Lord Rutherford, he would needs carry me and another Scotch Lord to a play, and so we saw, coming late, part of "The Generall," my Lord Orrery's (Broghill) second play; but, Lord! to see how no more either in words, sense, or design, it is to his "Harry the 5th" is not imaginable, and so poorly acted, though in finer clothes, is strange. And here I must confess breach of a vowe in appearance, but I not desiring it, but against my will, and my oathe being to go neither at my own charge nor at another's, as I had done by becoming liable to give them another, as I am to Sir W. Pen and Mr Creed; but here I neither know which of them paid for me, nor, if I did, am I obliged ever to return the like.

COMMENT. Mrs Pepys attended a play, but the theatre and the play are not named by Pepys. Friday 30