

- Thursday 29* COMMENT. Henry Muddiman, 29 Nov. 1666: The Players have upon great proffers of disposing a large share to charitable uses prevailed to have liberty to act at Both Houses, which they begin this day (CSPD, Charles II, clxxvii, 6, in Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 250). A manuscript prologue for the opening of the theatre in Bridges Street is in J. Payne Collier's MS *Restoration Stage History*, Part I, p. 106, in the Houghton Library, Harvard. *The Diary of John Milward, Esq.*, ed. Caroline Robbins (Cambridge, 1938), p. 49: This day at my coming to the House [of Commons] it moved that plays might be tolerated and acted in the common theatres, and whether any members of the House of Commons should be admitted to go to acts of the playhouses, but it was not resolved.

December 1666

- Monday 3*
At Court THE ADVENTURES OF FIVE HOURS. [By Sir Samuel Tuke.] *Cast not known.*
For a previous cast, see 8 Jan. 1662/3.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125: Adventure of five houres at Court. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346.
- Friday 7*
Bridges THE MAID'S TRAGEDY. [By Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] Pepys: [Evadne] – Rebecca Marshall. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 5): King – Winterset; Melantius – Mohun; Amintor – Hart; Calianas – Shatterel; [Aspatia – Mrs Boutel, but she probably did not come on the stage until 1670]. See also 17 Nov. 1660.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse, where two acts were almost done when I come in; and there I sat with my cloak about my face, and saw the remainder of "The Mayd's Tragedy"; a good play, and well acted, especially by the younger Marshall, who is become a pretty good actor, and is the first play I have seen in either of the houses since before the great plague, they having acted now about fourteen days publickly. But I was in mighty pain lest I should be seen by any body to be at a play.
Elegy on that Worthy and Famous Actor, Mr Charles Hart, who departed this Life Thursday August the 18th., 1683:
Such Pow'r He had o'r the Spectators gain'd,
As forc'd a Real passion from a Feign'd.
For when they saw Amintor bleed, straight all
The House, for every Drop, a Tear let fall;
And when Ar baces wept by sympathy,
A glowing Tide of Wo gush'd from each Eye.
[Reprinted in Thorn-Drury, *A Little Ark*, pp. 47ff; Spraguc, *Beaumont and Fletcher*, p. 38.]
- Saturday 8*
Bridges THE ENGLISH MONSIEUR. [By James Howard.] [Lady Wealthy] – Nell Gwyn.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: And myself to the King's playhouse, which troubles me since, and hath cost me a forfeit of 10s., which I have paid, and there did see a good part of "The English Monsieur," which is a mighty pretty play, very witty and pleasant. And the women do very well; but, above all, little Nelly, that I am mightily pleased with the play, and much with the House, more than ever I expected, the women doing better than ever I expected, and very fine women.
- Monday 10*
At Court THE SILENT WOMAN *or* THE SCORNFUL LADY. [By Ben Jonson *or* by Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] For *The Silent Woman* the cast may be

- that in Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 4): Morose – Cartwright; Truewit – Major Mohun; Cleremont – Burt; Dauphin – Kynaston; Sir Amorous – Winterset; Sir John Daw – Shatterel; Captain Otter – Lacy; Epicene – Mrs Knep; Lady Haughty – Mrs Rutter; Mrs Otter – Mrs Corey. For *The Scornful Lady* the cast may be that in Downes (p. 6): Elder Loveless – Burt; Younger Loveless – Kynaston; Welford – Hart; Sir Roger – Lacy; The Lady – Mrs [Rebecca (?)] Marshal; Martha – Mrs Rutter; Abigail – Mrs Corey.
- COMMENT. The King's Company. In L. C. 5/139, p. 129, the play is given on one list as *The Silent Woman*; on another list for the same day, *The Scornful Lady*. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 343.
- MACBETH.** [Adapted from William Shakespeare by Sir William Davenant.] *Cast not known*, but see 5 Nov. 1664. Monday 10
At Court
- COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is listed in the L. C. records, 5/139, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. See Pepys, *Diary*, for Mrs Pepys' attendance at an unnamed play in the afternoon.
- THE HUMOROUS LIEUTENANT.** [By John Fletcher.] *Cast not known*, but see 3 Dec. 1660. Thursday 20
Bridges
- COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is listed in the L. C. records, 5/139, p. 129: at the Theatre the Queenes Ma^{te} there. L. C. 5/12, p. 17 reads: King & Queene here.
- COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: Then out and walked alone on foot to the Temple, it being a fine frost, thinking to have seen a play all alone; but there, missing of any bills, concluded there was none, and so back home. Tuesday 25
- AN UNNAMED PLAY.** Wednesday 26
LIF
- COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: After dinner I put the women into a coach, and they to the Duke's house, to a play which was acted, "The [. . .]." It was indifferently done, but was not pleased with the song, Gosnell not singing, but a new wench, that sings naughtily.
- THE SCORNFUL LADY.** [By Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] Abigail – Mrs Corey; Widow – Mrs Knipp, but see also 10 Dec. 1666. Thursday 27
Bridges
- COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: And my wife, and by coach to the King's playhouse, and meeting Creed took him up, and there saw "The Scornfull Lady" well acted; Doll Common [Mrs Corey] doing Abigail most excellently, and Knipp the widow very well, and will be an excellent actor, I think. In other parts the play not so well done as used to be, by the old actors. Anon to White Hall by coach, thinking to have seen a play there to-night, but found it a mistake, so back again.
- MACBETH.** [Adapted from William Shakespeare by Sir William Davenant.] *Cast not known*, but see 5 Nov. 1664. Friday 28
LIF
- COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the Duke's house, and there saw "Macbeth" most excellently acted, and a most excellent play for variety.
- HENRY V.** [By Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.] *Cast not known*, but see 13 Aug. 1664. At Court
- COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To White Hall, and got my Lord Bellasses to get me into the playhouse; and there, after all staying above an hour for the players, the King and all waiting, which was absurd, saw "Henry the Fifth" well done by the Duke's people, and in most excellent habits, all new vests, being put on but this night. But I sat so high and far off, that I missed most of the words, and sat with a wind coming into my back and neck, which did much trouble me. The play continued till twelve at night.
- A Prologue for this play is in *A Letter from a Gentleman to the Honourable Ed. Howard* (London, 1668).