

days and Fridays this Lent; and the play they did yesterday, being Wednesday, was so well-taken, that they thought fit to venture it publickly to-day; a play of my Lord Falkland's called "The Wedding Night," a kind of tragedy, and some things very good in it, but the whole together, I thought, not so. I confess I was well enough pleased with my seeing it: and the people did do better, without the great actors, than I did expect, but yet far short of what they do when they are there, which I was glad to find the difference of.

Thursday 21
LIF

SECRET LOVE; or, The Maiden Queen. As 2 March.

Monday 25
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse; and by and by comes Mr Lowther and his wife and mine, and into a box, forsooth, neither of them being dressed, which I was almost ashamed of. Sir W. Pen and I in the pit, and there saw "The Mayden Queene" again; which indeed the more I see the more I like, and is an excellent play, and so done by Nell, her merry part, as cannot be better done in nature, I think.

THE HUMOUROUS LOVERS. [By William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle.] *Cast not known*. Edition of 1677: No actors' names, no prologue, no epilogue. A Prologue is in British Museum Harleian MS. 7367.

Thursday 28
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. The play, licensed on 27 Nov. 1667, was not printed until 1677. There is no certainty that this is the premiere, but it may well have been, as Pepys saw it on 30 March and on 11 April suggested that it had recently had its first showing: [The Duchess of Newcastle] was the other day at her own play, "The Humourous Lovers"; the most ridiculous thing that ever was wrote, but yet she and her Lord mightily pleased with it; and she, at the end, made her respects to the players from her box, and did give them thanks.

THE HUMOUROUS LOVERS. See 28 March.

Saturday 30
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: With my wife's knowledge and leave did by coach go see the silly play of my Lady Newcastle's, called "The Humourous Lovers"; the most silly thing that ever come upon a stage. I was sick to see it, but yet would not but have seen it, that I might the better understand her. Here I spied Knipp and Betty [Hall], of the King's house, and sent Knipp oranges.

April 1667

Monday 1-Saturday 6
PASSION WEEK

COMMENT. In April or May 1667, probably, John Dryden's *The Wild Gallant* may have been revived, perhaps because of the success of *Secret Love*. The 1667 edition of *The Wild Gallant*, which was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 7 Aug. 1667, contains: A Prologue to *The Wild Gallant* revived. An Epilogue to *The Wild Gallant* revived.

Bridges

THE SURPRISAL. [By Sir Robert Howard.] Probably Nell Gwin acted Samira. (See Pepys, 26 Dec. 1667.)

Monday 8
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: We three [Mrs Pepys, Mercer, and Pepys] to the King's house, and saw the latter end of the "Surprisal," wherein was no great matter, I thought, by what I saw there.

- Monday 8**
CC PUPPETRY.
COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: [After the play] away to Polichinello, and there had three times more sport than at the play.
- Tuesday 9**
LIF THE COMICAL REVENGE; or, Love in a Tub. [By Sir George Etherege.]
Cast not known, but see March 1663/4.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is in the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125: Love in a Tubb. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346.
- Bridges SAUNY THE SCOT; or, The Taming of a Shrew. [Adapted from William Shakespeare by John Lacy.] Sauny – Lacy.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: I took coach and to the King's house, and by and by comes after me my wife with W. Hewer and his mother and Barker, and there we saw "The Tameing of a Shrew," which hath some very good pieces in it, but generally is but a mean play; and the best part, "Sawny," done by Lacy, hath not half its life, by reason of the words, I suppose, not being understood, at least by me.
- Monday 15**
Bridges THE CHANGE OF CROWNS. [By Edward Howard.] Country Gentleman – Lacy.
COMMENT. The King's Company. For an edition of this play from the MS prompt copy, see *The Change of Crownes*, ed. F. S. Boas (Oxford University Press, 1949). For the consequences of Lacy's ad libbing, see 16, 20, and 22 April, and 1 May.
Pepys, *Diary*: I to the King's house by chance, where a new play: so full as I never saw it; I forced to stand all the while close to the very door till I took cold, and many people went away for want of room. The King and Queene, and Duke of York and Duchesse there, and all the Court, and Sir W. Coventry. The play called "The Change of Crownes"; a play of Ned Howard's, the best that ever I saw at that house, being a great play and serious; only Lacy did act the country-gentleman come up to Court, who do abuse the Court with all the imaginable wit and plainness about selling of places, and doing every thing for money. The play took very much. . . . Gervase Jaquis to the Earl of Huntington, 16 April: Here is another play house erected in Hatton buildings called the Duke of Cambridgs play-house, and yester-day his Matie the Duke & many more were at the kings Playe house to see some new thing Acted (Hastings MSS., HA 7654, Huntington Library).
- Tuesday 16**
Bridges THE SILENT WOMAN. [By Ben Jonson.] *Cast not known*, but see 10 Dec. 1666.
COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: In haste to carry my wife to see the new play I saw yesterday, she not knowing it. But there, contrary to expectation, find "The Silent Woman." However in; and there Knipp come into the pit . . . [and] tells me the King was so angry at the liberty taken by Lacy's part to abuse him to his face, that he commanded they should act no more, till Moone [Mohun] went and got leave for them to act again, but not this play. The King mighty angry; and it was bitter indeed, but very true and witty. I never was more taken with a play than I am with this "Silent Woman," as old as it is, and as often as I have seen it. There is more wit in it than goes to ten new plays.
Nathaniel Wanby, Coventry, 1667: We have known in our time that the Silent Woman hath had the loud applause of a whole theatre (BM Harleian MS. 6430, p. 23).
- Wednesday 17**
Bridges ROLLO. [*The Bloody Brother*, by John Fletcher.] Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 5-6): Rollo – Hart; Otto – Kynaston; Aubrey – Major Mohun; La Torch – Burt; Dutchess – Mrs Corey; Edith – Mrs Marshal. See also 6 Dec. 1660.

