

COMMENT. This performance was recorded by Count Dona of Sweden (Seaton, *Literary Relationships*, pp. 337-38). Evelyn, *Diary*: This Evening I saw the Trajedic of *Horace* (written by the virtuous Mrs Philips) acted before their Majesties: 'twixt each act a Masque & Antique: daunced: The excessive galantry of the Ladies was infinite, Those especially on that . . . Castlemaine esteemed at 40,000 pounds & more: & far out shining the Queene &c.

Tuesday 4
At Court

BM Add. Mss. 36916, folio 62: This night there is a play Acted at Court by the Dutchess of Monmouth Countess of Castlemain and others. The Countess is adorned with Jewells to the Value of 200,000£ the Crowne Jewells being taken from the Tower for her. There are none but the Nobility admitted to see it. The play is Madam Phillips translation of Corneiles Horace, finished by Sr John Denham.

Wednesday 5
ASH WEDNESDAY

SHE WOULD IF SHE COULD. [By Sir George Etherege.] Edition of 1668: No actors' names, no prologue, no epilogue. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 28): Courtall - Smith; Freeman - Young; Sir Joslin - Harris; Sir Oliver - Nokes; Ariana - Mrs Jenning; Getty - Mrs Davies; Lady Cockwood - Mrs Shadwell.

Thursday 6
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Downes (p. 29): It took well, but Inferior to Love in a Tub.

Pepys, *Diary*: I to the Duke of York's playhouse; where a new play of Etherige's, called "She Would if she Could"; and though I was there by two o'clock, there was 1000 people put back that could not have room in the pit: and I at last, because my wife was there, made shift to get into the 18d. box, and there saw; but, Lord! how full was the house, and how silly the play, there being nothing in the world good in it, and few people pleased in it. The King was there; but I sat mightily behind, and could see but little, and hear not all. The play being done . . . here was the Duke of Buckingham to-day openly sat in the pit; and there I found him with my Lord Buckhurst, and Sidly, and Etherige, the poet; the last of whom I did hear mightily find fault with the actors, that they were out of humour, and had not their parts perfect, and that Harris did do nothing, nor could so much as sing a ketch in it; and so was mightily concerned: while all the rest did, through the whole pit, blame the play as a silly, dull thing, though there was something very roguish and witty; but the design of the play, and end, mighty insipid.

Thomas Shadwell, Preface to *The Humorists* (1671): The last (viz.) imperfect Action, had like to have destroy'd *She would if she could*, which I think (and I have the Authority of some of the best Judges in England for't) is the best Comedy that has been written since the Restauration of the Stage: And even that, for the imperfect representation of it at first, received such prejudice, that, had it not ben for the favour of the Court, in all probability it had never got up again; and it suffers for it, in a great measure, to this very day.

THE CHANGES; or, Love in a Maze. [By James Shirley.] See 1 May 1667. COMMENT. The King's Company. This is a Friday in Lent, when frequently the playhouses did not act. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse, and there saw a piece of "Love in a Maze," a dull, silly play, I think: and after the play, home with W. Pen and his son Lowther, whom we met there.

Friday 7
Bridges

MUSTAPHA. [By Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.] Zanger - Smith. See also 4 Sept. 1667.

Tuesday 11
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Jean Chappuzeau, *Le Théâtre François* (Paris, 1675), states that he saw a revival of this play in 1668.

Pepys, *Diary*: Sent my wife and Deb. to see "Mustapha" acted . . . and so to the Duke of York's playhouse, and there saw the last act for nothing. Where I never saw such good acting of any creature as Smith's part of Zanger; and I do also, though it was excellently acted by [. . .], do yet want Betterton mightily.