

THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS. [Adapted by Thomas Shadwell from John Fountain, *The Rewards of Virtue*.] *Cast not known*. Edition of 1669: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue. *Thursday 25*
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This play is on the L. C. lists at Harvard. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 14. A song in this play, "Thus all our Lives," with music by John Banister, is in *Choice Songs and Ayres*, 1673.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 31): [Concerning several plays] All which Expir'd the third Day, save the Royal Shepherdess, which liv'd Six.

Pepys, *Diary*: To the Duke of York's house, and there before one, but the house infinite full, where, by and by, the King and Court come, it being a new play, or an old one new vamped, by Shadwell, called "The Royal Shepherdesse!"; but the silliest for words and design, and everything, that ever I saw in my whole life, there being nothing in the world pleasing in it, but a good martial dance of pikemen, where Harris and another do handle their pikes in a dance to admiration; but never less satisfied with a play in my life.

THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERDESS. [By John Fletcher.] *Cast not known*. *Friday 26*
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse . . . and there saw "The Faithfull Shepherdesse." But, Lord! what an empty house, there not being, as I could tell the people, so many as to make up above £10 in the whole house! The being of a new play at the other house, I suppose, being the cause, though it be so silly a play that I wonder how there should be enough people to go thither two days together, and not leave more to fill this house. The emptiness of the house took away our pleasure a great deal, though I liked it the better; for that I plainly discern the musick is the better, by how much the house the emptier.

THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS. See 25 Feb. 1668/9. LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. If Downes is correct that this play was given six days successively, it was probably acted through Thursday 4 March 1668/9.

COMMENT. Add. Mss. 36916, folio 128, 2 March 1668/9: The occasion of this [a challenge of the Duke of Buckingham to a duel by Lord Halifax or another friend of Sir William Coventry] there was a new play to be acted on Saturday last called the Country Gentleman, said to be made by the Duke & S^r Robt Howard, wherein tis said that the Earle of Clarendon, S^r Wm Coventry and some other Courtiers are plainly personated, but especially S^r William in the midst of his table of Writings; this he (or some of his relations) would not brooke, but whether he or the L^d Halifax was to fight the Duke is not knowne, but the King hath prevented all; and the play is not acted. [See also Pepys, 4 and 6 March 1668/9.] *Saturday 27*
Bridges

[THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9. LIF

March 1669

[THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9. *Monday 1*
LIF

[THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9. *Tuesday 2*
LIF

THE LADY'S TRIAL. [By John Ford.] *Cast not known*. *Wednesday 3*
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. If *The Royal Shepherdess* was acted six days consecutively, the interruption of its run for this day is due to the tradition of the company's not regularly acting on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent.

- Wednesday 3*
LIF Pepys, *Diary*: To the Duke of York's playhouse, and there saw an old play, the first time acted these forty years, called "The Lady's Tryall," acted only by the young people of the house; but the house very full. But it is but a sorry play, and the worse by how much my head is out of humour by being a little sleepy and my legs weary since last night.
- Thursday 4*
Bridges COMMENT. See 27 Feb. 1668/9. Pepys, *Diary*: I did meet Sir Jeremy Smith, who did tell me that Sir W. Coventry was just now sent to the Tower, about the business of his challenging the Duke of Buckingham, and so was also Harry Saville to the Gate-house. . . . So, meeting with my Lord Bellassis, he told me the particulars of this matter; that it arises about a quarrel which Sir W. Coventry had with the Duke of Buckingham about a design between the Duke and Sir Robert Howard, to bring him into a play [*The Rehearsal*] at the King's house, which W. Coventry not enduring, did by H. Saville send a letter to the Duke of Buckingham, that he had a desire to speak with him. Upon which, the Duke of Buckingham did bid Holmes, his champion ever since my Lord Shrewsbury's business, go to him to know the business; but H. Saville would not tell it to any but himself, and therefore did go presently to the Duke of Buckingham, and told him that his uncle Coventry was a person of honour, and was sensible of his Grace's liberty taken of abusing him, and that he had a desire of satisfaction, and would fight with him. But that here they were interrupted by my Lord Chamberlain's coming in, who was commanded to go to bid the Duke of Buckingham to come to the King, Holmes having discovered it.
- LIF [THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9.
- Saturday 6*
Bridges COMMENT. See 27 Feb. 1668/9 and 4 March 1668/9. Pepys, *Diary*: [Sir W. Coventry] told me the matter of the play [*The Rehearsal*] that was intended for his abuse, wherein they foolishly and sillily bring in two tables like that which he hath made, with a round hole in the middle, in his closet, to turn himself in; and he is to be in one of them as master, and Sir J. Duncomb in the other, as his man or imitator: and their discourse in those tables, about the disposing of their books and papers, very foolish. But that, that he is offended with, is his being made so contemptible, as that any should dare to make a gentleman a subject for the mirth of the world; and that therefore he had told Tom Killigrew that he should tell his actors, whoever they were, that did offer any thing like representing him, that he would not complain to my Lord Chamberlain, which was too weak, nor get him beaten, as Sir Charles Sidly is said to do, but that he would cause his nose to be cut.
- Monday 8*
Bridges AN EVENING'S LOVE; or, The Mock Astrologer. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known*. For an earlier cast, see 12 June 1668.
 COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse, and there saw "The Mocke Astrologer," which I have often seen, and but an ordinary play.
- Tuesday 9*
Bridges CLARICILLA. [By Thomas Killigrew.] *Cast not known*.
 COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: My wife and I towards the King's playhouse, and by the way found Betty [Turner], and Bab. and Betty Pepys staying for us; and so took them all to see "Claricilla," which do not please me almost at all, though there are some good things in it.
- Wednesday 17*
Bridges THE COXCOMB. [By Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] *Cast not known*.
 Prologue spoken by Jo. Haines.
 COMMENT. The King's Company. See 3 March 1668/9 for another play acted on a Wednesday in Lent by the young players. Langbaine, (*English Dramatick Poets*, p. 208): Coxcomb, a Comedy, which was reviv'd at the Theatre-Royal, the Prologue being spoken by Jo. Haines.