

Preface: It had the misfortune to be brought into the world in a time, when the Dog-star was near his Reign, and my Judges sat in a hot Bath, rather than a Theatre, and were doubly persecuted by the heat of the weather, and the Impertinence of the Poet; and which was the worst mishap, when the most candid, as well as the most Illustrious Judges (I mean the Court) were absent. LIF

A song, "Lo behold a sea of tears," with music by John Bannister, for this play, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The First Book, 1673.

COMMENT. Evelyn, *Diary*: I went home, stepping in at the Theater, to see the new Machines for the intended scenes, which were indeede very costly, & magnificent. Monday 26 DG

July 1671

COMMENT. The Duke's Company acted at Oxford during this month, offering *Cambyses* and, presumably, other plays of which we have no record. See W. J. Lawrence, "Oxford Restoration Prologues" *Times Literary Supplement*, 16 Jan. 1930, p. 43, and Sybil Rosenfeld, "Some Notes on the Players in Oxford, 1661-1713," *Review of English Studies*, XIX (1943), 368. Oxford

August 1671

VITTORIA COROMBONA; or, The White Devil. [By John Webster.] *Cast not known.* Bridges

COMMENT. This play was reprinted in 1672, being entered in the *Term Catalogues*, 20 Nov. 1671. It probably was acted in the late summer of 1671. The title page states that it was acted at the Theatre Royal, Bridges Street.