

## February 1673

**THE AMOROUS WIDOW.** [By Thomas Betterton.] *Cast not known.* Tuesday 4  
 COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, DG  
 5/141, p. 2. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 347.

**THE DUTCH LOVER.** [By Mrs Aphra Behn.] Edition of 1673: No actors' Thursday 6  
 names. Epilogue: The Preface implies: Haunce – Angel. DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 2. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 347. There is no certainty that this performance is the premiere, but it may well be. Two songs, "Ah false Amyntas," and "Amyntas led me to a grove," both set by Robert Smith, are in *Choice Songs and Ayres*, 1673.

Preface to the edition of 1673: Good, Sweet, Honey, Sugar-candied Reader, . . . Indeed that day 'twas Acted first, there comes into the Pit a long, lither, plegmatick, white, ill-favour'd, wretched Fop, an Officer in Masquerade newly transported with a Scarfe & Feather out of France, a sorry Animal that has nought else to shield it from the uttermost contempt of all mankind, but that respect which we afford to Rats and Toads, which though we do not well allow to live, yet when considered as a part of God's Creation, we make honourable mention of them. A thing, Reader—but no more of such a Smelt: This thing, I tell ye, opening that which serves it for a mouth, out issued such a noise as this to those that sate about it, that they were to expect a woful Play, God damn him, for it was a womans. . . . Reader, I have a complaint or two to make to you, and I have done; Know then that this Play was hugely injur'd in the Acting, for 'twas done so imperfectly as never any was before, which did more harm to this than it could have done to any of another sort; the Plot being busie (though I think not intricate) and so requiring a continual attention, which being interrupted by the intolerable negligence of some that acted in it, must needs much spoil the beauty on't. My Dutch Lover spoke but little of what I intended for him, but supplied it with a great deal of idle stuff, which I was wholly unacquainted with until I heard it first from him.

According to the Preface, the Prologue was lost.

**MACBETH.** [Altered from William Shakespeare by Sir William Davenant.] Tuesday 18  
 Edition of 1673: King of Scotland – Nath. Lee; Malcolm – Norris; Donalbain – DG  
 Cademan; Lenox – Medburn; Macbeth – Betterton; Banquo – Smith; Macduff –  
 Harris; Macbeth's Wife – Mrs Betterton; Macduff's Wife – Mrs Long; [Hecate] –  
 Sandford. See also 12 Aug. 1668.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 2. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 347. The same cast is listed in the Yale MS. See *Davenant's Macbeth from the Tale Manuscript*, ed. Christopher Spencer (New Haven, 1961), p. 78.

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 34: Mr Nat. Lee, had the same Fate [as Otway in undertaking the King in Behn's *The Jealous Bridgeroom*] in Acting Duncan in Macbeth, ruin'd him for an Actor too.