

March 1673

LIF THE SPANISH ROGUE. [By Thomas Duffett.] Edition of 1674: Don Fenise – Harris; Don Alonzo – Lyddal; Don Manuel – Watson; Larasco – Powell; Mingo – Cash; Sanchez – Griffin; Alcinda – Mrs Boutell; Rosella – Mrs Uphill; Teresa – Mrs Corye; Leonella – Mrs Knepe. Prologue spoken by Mrs Boutell. Epilogue spoken by Mrs Knepe.

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but this play belongs to a group which have been considered as "Lenten plays," ones in which the young actors of a company comprise a large portion of the cast. On this basis, as Easter fell on 30 March 1673, this play has been assigned to March 1673. See Philip B. Gray Jr, "Lenten Casts and the Nursery: Evidence for the Dating of Certain Restoration Plays," *PMLA*, LIII (1938), 781-94; for this play particularly, pp. 791-92. A song, "Down with this love," set for this play by Alphonso Marsh, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, 1676.

Wednesday 12 THE CARELESS LOVERS. [By Edward Ravenscroft.] Edition of 1673: DG Mr Machworth – Norrice; Mr Lovell – Cademan; Mr Careless – Smith; De Boastado – Angell; Toby – Sherwood; Jacinta – Mrs Burroughs; Hillaria – Mrs Clough; Beatrice – Mrs Leigh; Mrs Clappam – Mrs Osborn; Mrs Breedwell – Mrs Norris. Epilogue [written] by Mr Settle.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 2. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 347. This performance may well be the premiere. In the Preface the author states that the play was asked for on Shrove Tuesday and he wrote it within a week; a premiere, then, before this date would allow very little time for rehearsal. This play is certainly a "Lenten" performance, for it was acted on a Wednesday in Lent and was referred to in the Prologue as a "Lenten Play." See the discussion under *The Spanish Rogue* (March 1673) and Gray, pp. 785-86. See also J. G. McManaway, "The Copy for *The Careless Lovers*," *MLN*, XLVI (1931), 406-9.

Preface to the edition of 1673: [This play] was written at the Desire of the Young Men of the Stage, and given them for a Lenten-Play, they ask't it not above a Week before Shrove-Tuesday.

Monday 24-Saturday 29

PASSION WEEK

April 1673

LIF THE ORDINARY. [By William Cartwright.] *Cast not known.* Prologue. Epilogue.

COMMENT. A revival of this play (probably by the King's Company) at about this time is a possibility. The Prologue and Epilogue are in *A Collection of Poems Written upon several Occasions by several Persons* (1673), and the Epilogue refers to the Witches in *Macbeth*, which had been acted on 18 Feb. 1672/3. See *The Plays and Poems of William Cartwright*, ed. G. Blakemore Evans (Madison, Wis., 1951), pp. 610-12.