

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. As the play was not printed until 1689, the date of composition is uncertain. In Act I, however, a reference to the death of the Earl of Rochester (26 July 1680) suggests that the play probably followed that event rather closely. On the other hand, the latest likely date for the first production seems set at late 1682 by the fact that Thomas Farmer's music for the play in BM Add. Mss. 19183-19185 is dated December 1682. The play has been placed in September 1680 as the earliest likely date (the presence of an experienced cast makes somewhat unlikely a production in mid-summer 1680). A song, "All other blessings are but toys," with music by Thomas Farmer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs, The Fourth Book, 1683*. A song, "Lovely Selina, innocent and free," with music by John Blow, is in the same collection; and another, "Weep all ye nymphs," with music by John Blow, is in *The Theater of Music, The First Book, 1685*. DG

FATAL LOVE; or, The Forc'd Inconstancy. [By Elkanah Settle.] Edition of 1680: Prologue Written by a Friend. No actors' names. Epilogue, Spoken by Lysandra, in the Habit of a Nun. DL

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but as the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues* in November 1680, it was probably first acted in September or October 1680. The Dedication refers to the ineffectiveness of the company at this time.

Dedication, Edition of 1680: A Play so worthless, and so Unfortunate. Nay, to sum up all its Misfortunes, it does not only owe so little to the Composers Hand, but breath'd too in a Season, when Poetry even with its softest and more Curious Aires, to the Ears of this untunable Age, sounds but harsh and unpleasant: nay, and what's yet worst of all, perform'd by the feeble Fragment of a Company.—'Tis true, the Theatre Royal was once all Harmony. . . . But when this hapless Play came forth, its sweetest Pipes were stopt; [Praise of Hart]. But, Alas, the very best of Plays now find but a cold Reception.

THEODOSIUS; or, The Force of Love. [By Nathaniel Lee.] Edition of 1680: Prologue. Theodosius – Williams; Varanes – Betterton; Marcian – Smith; Lucius – Wiltshire; Atticus – Bowman; Leontine – Leitherfull; Pulcheria – Mrs Betterton; Athenais – Mrs Barry. Epilogue. DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but the entry of this play in the *Term Catalogues* for November 1680 suggests a first offering in September or October 1680. The music for the play was composed by Henry Purcell, his first (according to Downes) composing for the stage.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 38) gives a shortened cast and adds: All the Parts in't being perfectly perform'd, with several Entertainments of Singing; Compos'd by the Famous Master Mr Henry Purcell, (being the first he e'er Compos'd for the Stage) made it a living and Gainful Play to the Company: The Court; especially the Ladies, by their daily charming presence, gave it great Encouragement.

Dedication, Edition of 1680: The Reputation that this Play received on the Stage, some few Errors excepted, was more than I could well hope from so Censorious an Age. . . . You [the Duchess of Richmond] brought her Royal Highness just at the exigent Time, whose single Presence on the Poet's day is a Subsistence for him all the Years after.

A song, "Hail to the myrtle shade," is in *Choice Ayres and Songs, The Third Book* (dated 2 Nov. 1680).

CONCERT. Evelyn, *Diary*: Came to my house some German strangers, & Signor Pietro [Reggio] a famous Musitian, who had ben long in Sweden in Queene Christinas Court: he sung admirably to a Guittar & has a perfect good tenor & base &c: & had set to Italian composure, many of Abraham Cowleys Pieces which shew'd extremely well. *Thursday 23 Evelyn*