

THE SPANISH FRYAR. See 1 Nov. 1680.

Tuesday 8  
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This play is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120—see also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349—immediately following the 1 March listing for *The Soldier's Fortune*. Because *The Spanish Fryar* was apparently a newly acted play on 1 Nov. 1680, the performance on this L. C. list is assigned to 8 March 1680/1 rather than to 8 March 1679/80.

TAMERLANE THE GREAT. [By Charles Saunders.] Edition of 1681: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue, by Mr Dryden.

Mid-March  
DL

COMMENT. The King's Company. This play was acted at Oxford on 19 March 1680/1 before Charles II (see *True Protestant Mercury*, 19-23 March 1680/1; Wilson, "Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 80; and *Smith's Protestant Intelligence*, 24-28 March 1681). The play may have been given first in London; if not, it probably was not acted there until after Easter, 3 April 1681. The company also performed *The Plain Dealer* in Oxford on 21 March 1680/1 (*Smith's Protestant Intelligence*, 24-28 March 1681).

Monday 28 March-Saturday 2 April  
PASSION WEEK

## April 1681

HENRY THE SIXTH: The First Part, With The Murder of Humphrey Duke of Gloucester. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1681: Prologue. King Henry the Sixth - Jos. Williams; Humphrey Duke of Gloucester - Batterton; Cardinal - Harris; Richard Plantagenet - D. Williams; Duke of Suffolk - Smith; Queen Margaret - Lady Slingsby; Elianor - Mrs Batterton. Epilogue.

DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but the date 31 May 1681 on a copy in the Ohio State University Library, representing Luttrell's purchase of a copy, argues for a performance initially in April or early May 1681. See Wilson, "Six Restoration Play-Dates," p. 222.

THE ROVER, Part II. [By Mrs Aphra Behn.] See January 1680/1.

Monday 4  
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349.

THE SOLDIER'S FORTUNE. [By Thomas Otway.] See mid-June 1680.

Monday 18  
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120: with y<sup>c</sup> Q: & a Box for y<sup>c</sup> Maides of Honor. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349.

## May 1681

THE UNHAPPY FAVOURITE; or, The Earl of Essex. [By John Banks.] Edition of 1682: The Earl of Essex - Clarke; Earl of Southampton - Gryffin; Burleigh - Major Mohun; Sir Walter Rawleigh - Disney; Queen Elizabeth - Mrs Quyn; Countess of Rutland - Mrs Cook; Countess of Nottingham - Mrs Corbett. Prologue, Spoken by Major Mohun, the first Four Dayes. Prologue, to the King and

DL

- DL Queen at their coming to the House, and Written on Purpose by Mr Dryden. Epilogue, [Written] by Mr Dryden. Prologue, Intended to be spoken, Written by the Author.
- COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first performance is not known. Wilson ("Six Restoration Play-Dates," pp. 222-23) argues from a number of references (principally in the Epilogue) to events of early 1681 which point to a premiere near May 1681: to the dissolution of Parliament, 28 March 1681; to the comet which appeared in November 1680 and disappeared in January 1680/1; to the "Hatfield Maid"; to William Lilly, the astrologer, who is referred to as though alive, thus suggesting a premiere before his death, 9 June 1681.
- It is possible that the premiere may have been earlier than this. In 1681 was published *Poeta de Tristibus; or, The Poet's Complaint*, whose author had obviously read the Prologue and Epilogue to *The Unbappy Favourite*. He represents himself as a disappointed dramatist whose tragedy has been rejected by both houses because "their Summer-store/Will all this Winter last." With the work entered in the *Term Catalogues* in 1682 and a copy purchased by Narcissus Luttrell with his note "4d 1681 12 Nov" (see *A Bibliography of John Dryden*, ed. Macdonald, pp. 235-36), his quotations from the Epilogue to *The Unbappy Favourite* and references to the Prologue would offer no difficulties if it were not that the "Author's Epistle" in which the references are made is dated "at Dover the Tenth day of January 1680/1," thus suggesting that he had seen the Prologue and Epilogue before that date. Nevertheless, some of the references in the Epilogue (to *Heraclitus Ridens*, beginning on 1 Feb. 1680/1, and *Democritus Ridens*, beginning on 14 March 1680/1) preclude a January premiere for the Prologue and Epilogue. Possibly the dating of the "Author's Epistle" is in error.
- Wednesday 11 DL COMMENT. This day is one of several on which, according to William Morley, treasurer of the King's Company, the receipts fell below £10, to £3 14s. 6d. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 267.
- Monday 30 DL COMMENT. On this day the receipts at the King's House fell to £3 2s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 267.

## June 1681

- Wednesday 1 DL COMMENT. In an inquiry concerning how many days the King's Company had been unable to act in the spring, William Cartwright on this day stated that he had been ill and absent and had not been among the players more than four or five times since 1 Feb. 1680/1. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 267.
- Saturday 18 DL COMMENT. The receipts of the King's Company on this day were only £3 13s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 267.

## August 1681

- BF COMMENT. Richard Shore paid £5 for space at Bartholomew Fair. See Rosenfeld, *Theatre of the London Fairs*, p. 6.