

Thursday 22

The 3d is Mr Southern's, call'd *The Fatal Marriage, or the Innocent Adultery* [see February 1693/4]. It is not only the best that author ever writt, but is generally admired for one of the greatest ornaments of the stage, and the most entertaining play has appeared upon it these 7 years. The plot is taken from Mrs Behn's novel, called the *Unhappy Vow-Breaker*. I never saw Mrs Barry act with so much passion as she does in it; I could not forbear being moved even to tears to see her act. Never was poet better rewarded or encouraged by the town; for besides an extraordinary full house, which brought him about 140 £. 50 noblemen, among whom my lord Winchelsea, was one, give him guineas apiece, and the printer 36 £. for his copy.

This kind usage will encourage desponding minor poets, and vex huffing Dryden and Congreve to madness. [For the fourth play, see 21 March 1693/4; Edmond Malone, *Plays and Poems of William Shakespeare* (London, 1821), III, 162–64.]

April 1694

Monday 2–Saturday 7

PASSION WEEK

Mid-April
DL

HAVE AT ALL; or, The Midnight Adventure. [By Joseph Williams.] *Cast not known.*

COMMENT. The United Company. This play was never published, and the date of its first performance is not known. It is referred to, however, in the *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1694, with the implication that it preceded *The Married Beau* and that both had appeared since the previous issue of the *Gentleman's Journal*.

Monday 16
At Court (?)

COMMENT. In L. C. 151/ p. 352, is an order, dated 16 April 1694, to pay Mrs Barry £25 for *The Old Bachelor*. The date of the performance is not specified.

Monday 30
At Court

CONCERT.

COMMENT. The Queen's Birthday Ode, "Come, Ye Sons of Art," the music by Henry Purcell, the author of the words not known; and "Strike the Viol," sung by [Alexander(?)] Damascene, are in *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1694. See also Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, xxiv (1926), ii.

Late April
DL

THE MARRIED BEAU; or, The Curious Impertinent. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1694. The Prologue. No actors' names, but see Epilogue. The Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Dogget, who Acts Thorneback. A copy of the 1694 quarto in the Folger Shakespeare Library has a manuscript cast which appears to be the original one: Loveley – Powell; Polidor – Betterton; Thorneback – Dogget; Sir John – Bowen; Mrs Loveley – Mrs Barry; Cecilia – Mrs Bowman; Camilla – Mrs Bracegirdle; Lionell – Mrs Verbruggen. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Pow[ell].

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but according to the *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1694, it followed *Have at All*: the other call'd *The married Beau, or the Curious Impertinent*, by Mr Crown, already acted many times (p. 134). The manuscript of a song composed by John Eccles and sung by Doggett is in Bodleian, School of Music Collection, c. 95, f 102. One by Henry Purcell, "Sec, where repenting Celia lyes," sung by Mrs Ayliff, is in *Thesaurus Musicus*, 1695. See also Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, xx (1916), xvii–xviii.