

May 1696

- MF KING WILLIAM'S HAPPY DELIVERANCE AND GLORIOUS TRIUMPH OVER HIS ENEMIES; or, The Consultation of the Pope, Devil, French King and the Grand Turk, with the Whole Form of the Siege of Namur, and the Humours of a Renegade French-Man and Brandy Jean, with the Conceits of a Scaramouch and Harlequin.
COMMENT. May Fair. At Miller's Loyal Association Booth at the upper end of the market near Hyde Park Corner. [See Rosenfeld, *The Theatre of the London Fairs*, p. 108.]
- Monday 18 DL COMMENT. Although the reports do not fully agree upon the date, apparently it was on this night that Hildebrand Horden, of Rich's Company, was killed in a duel. See *Protestant Mercury*, 18-20 May 1696, and Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 81.
- Late May DL IBRAHIM, THE THIRTEENTH EMPEROUR OF THE TURKS. [By Mrs Mary Pix.] Edition of 1696: Prologue Spoken by Mrs Cross. Sultan Ibrahim - Verbruggen; Azema - Disney; Mufti - Simpson; Mustapha - Mills; Amurat - Powell Jr; Solyman - Harland; Achmet - Mrs Verbruggen; Morena - Mrs Rogers; Sheker Para - Mrs Knight; Zada - Mrs Mills; Mirva - Mrs Cole. Epilogue.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 27-30 June 1696, suggests that it was first acted not later than early June 1696 and probably not later than late May 1696. A dialogue, "Fly, fly from my sight," between a Eunuch Boy and a Virgin, set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Bowen and Mrs Cross, is in *Deliciae Musicae*, The Second Book of the Second Volume, 1696. This was also printed separately, without a date, by Thomas Cross, with the statement that the dialogue was written by Thomas D'Urfey.
Gildon, *English Dramatick Poets*, ca. 1698, p. 111: For the Distress of Morena never fail'd to bring Tears into the Eyes of the Audience.

June 1696

- LIF LOVE'S A JEST. [By Peter Motteux.] Edition of 1696: Prologue Spoken by Mr Bowen in a Riding-Dress. The Epilogue [Introduced by Underhil and Bowen]; Enter Mr Mynns, one of the Gypsies. Lord Lovewel - Hodgson; Sir Thomas Gaymood - Freeman; Sam Gaymood - Bowen; Railmore - Betterton; Airy - Bowman; Sir Topewel Clownish - Underhil; Squire Illbred - Trefusis; Humphrey Doddipole - Trout; Humdrum - Eldred; Major Buff - Harris; Plot - Bright; Frankly - Bailey; Lady Single - Mrs Barry; Kitty - Mrs Howard; Francilia - Mrs Bowtell; Christina - Mrs Bracegirdle; Doll Hoyden - Mrs Perrin.
COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 7-9 July 1696, suggests that it was first presented not later than June 1696. The cast also has a large number of relatively new players, suggesting a performance in the early summer, when the young actors had more opportunities to act. Several songs, with the names of the singers, were published separately: "Hark you, madam, can't I move you," set by John Eccles, and sung by Bowman and Mrs Bracegirdle; "Shou'd I not lead a happy life," set by John Eccles and sung by Reading and M. Lee; "From Aberdeen to Edinburgh," set by Ackeroyd and sung by Mrs Hudson; all in *Deliciae Musicae*, The Second Book of the Second Volume, 1696.

Preface, Edition of 1696: I am almost asham'd to mention the extraordinary Success of a Play which I myself must condemn. . . . Let me leave this ungrateful Subject to acknowledge my obligations to Mr John Eccles, who not only set my three Dialogues to most charming Notes, but honour'd the Words to Admiration.

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 44: *Love's a Jest*, a Comedy, done by Mr Mateox; succeeded well, being well Acted, and got the Company Reputation and Money.

THE CORNISH COMEDY. [By George Powell.] Edition of 1696: Prologue, By Mr Haines, in a Barrister's Gown. Epilogue, Spoken by Miss Chalke, Seven Years Old, Written by Mr Haynes. Gripe – Johnson; Peregrine – Mills; Trusty – Simpson; Manley – Harland; Swash – Lee; Sharper – Powell; Busy – Haynes; Freeman – Williams; Nic Froth – Penkethman; Shuffle – Bullock; Clarinda – Mrs Temple; Eugenia – Mrs Andrews; Sue – Mrs Lucas; Margaret – Mrs Mills; Maid – Mrs Unwinn.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 25-27 Aug. 1696, suggests that it was first acted not later than July 1696 and possibly in June 1696. In the edition of 1696 are two dialogues, set by Clarke, the words by Haynes, and sung by Bowen and Mrs Cross. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 18: *Cornish Comedy*: No matter whose, 'twas Damn'd.

July 1696

OEDIPUS, KING OF THEBES. [By John Dryden and Nathaniel Lee.] Oedipus – Betterton. LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. There may have been a revival of *Oedipus* in the summer of 1696. In Francis Manning's *Poems upon Several Occasions and to Several Persons* (1701) there is a poem "To Mr Betterton, Acting Oedipus King of Thebes." The first stanza describes the splendor of the installation of the Duke of Gloucester as a Knight of the Garter, an event which occurred at Windsor Castle in July 1696; but there is no certainty that Betterton's performance occurred before that date. It should be noted also that the play was reprinted in 1696.

THE UNHAPPY KINDNESS; or, A Fruitless Revenge. [Adapted from John Fletcher's *A Wife for a Month* by Thomas Scott.] Edition of 1697: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen. The Epilogue written, and spoke by Mr Haynes, in the Habit of a Horse Officer, mounted on an Ass. Alphonso, King of Naples – Verbruggen; Frederick – Harland; Valerio – Williams; Sorano – Disney; Pisano – Mills; Petruccio – Hill; Pedro – Newth; Evanthe – Mrs Rogers; Queen Mother – Mrs Powel. DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. There is no certainty as to the date of the first performance, and the play has been sometimes assigned to mid-summer 1697 because the Preface refers to a summer production and the play was printed in 1697. Nevertheless, the presence of Verbruggen in the cast suggests that the summer of 1696 is more likely, as Verbruggen left Drury Lane on 1 Jan. 1696/7 and thereafter appeared at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Preface, Edition of 1697: Amongst a number of New Plays that of late have crowded the Stage. . . . As it is, it may bear up in the Winter, notwithstanding the little Encouragement it met with at its first Appearance from a thin Town, and the Scarcity of Money.

A Comparison Between the Two Stages (1702): *Sullen: Unhappy Kindness*, the same Author's [as of *Mock Marriage*], but every word stole. *Ramble: The success? Sullen: Damn'd.*