

- THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES. [By Thomas Shadwell.] *Cast not known.* Thursday 27  
 COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, DL  
*Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and one in the Pitt at Lancashire Witches 2s. 6d.
- THE SHAM LAWYER; or, The Lucky Extravagant. [By James Drake.] Edition Monday 31  
 of 1697: Prologue. Epilogue Spoken by Spade. Careless – Cibber; Friendly – DL  
 Harland; Serj. Wrangle – Bullock; Homily – Johnson; Spade – Hains; Famine – Pinkeman; Olympia – Mrs Knight; Florella – Mrs Rogers; Mrs Vernish – Mrs Powel.
- COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and one in the Box at Sham Lawyer 8s. [There is no certainty that this performance was the première, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 26–28 June 1697 (Luttrell's copy, Huntington Library, bears his acquisition date of 24 June 1697) suggests that its premiere occurred in late May.]
- Title Page, Edition of 1697: As it was Damnably Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury Lane.

## June 1697

- THE NOVELTY. [By Peter Motteux and others.] Edition of 1697: Prologue, LIF  
 spoken by Mr Bowen. Act I: *Thyrsis: A Pastoral*. [By John Oldmixon.] Shepherds: Thyrsis – Scudamore; Damon – Bayle; Montano – Arnold; Shepherdesses: Dorinda – Mrs Lassells; Cleomira – Mrs Boman. Act II: *All Without Money*. [By Peter Motteux.] A Short Comedy. Needmore – Scudamore; Speedwell – Bowen; Theodosia – Mrs Prince; Brother to Theodosia – Bayle; Freeman – Arnold; Clara – Mrs Bud; Dorothy – Mrs Lawson; Le Soupe – Freeman; Act III: *Hercules*. [By Peter Motteux.] A Masque. Set to Musick by Mr John Eccles. Hercules – Redding; Omphale – Mrs Boman; Dejanira – Mrs Willis; Two of Hercules' Children – Miss Bradshaw and Jemmy Laroche; Nesica – Mrs Perrin. Act IV: *The Unfortunate Couple*. [By Edward Filmer.] A short Tragedy. Grammont – Betterton; Elvira – Mrs Barry; Dampierre – Freeman; Lysette – Mrs Lawson; Leonora – Mrs Boman. Act V: *Natural Magick*. [By Peter Motteux.] A short Farce, after the Italian manner. Pantalone – Trefuses; Cynthio – Arnold; Pasquarel – Sorin; Mezzetin – Knap; Nicholas – Trout; Columbina – Mrs Lawson. Epilogue by Mrs Prince.
- COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 8–10 June 1697, suggests a first performance in late May or the beginning of June.
- Preface: I [Motteux] write the Masque of Hercules, and Mr Eccles, having set it with his usual Success, and yet more masterly than my Mars and Venus, if possible, I prevail'd with the ingenious Mr J. Oldmixon to give me a short Pastoral, while I scribbled over a Farce after the Italian Manner, and an Imitation of part of a diverting French Comedy of one Act (for such Plays are very common in Foreign Parts). Then I wanted nothing but a Tragedy. . . . At last I bethought myself of one already studied, called The Unnatural Brother, written by an ingenious Gentleman and acted 6 Months ago, tho not with the success it deserv'd. Yet the latter Part was extremely applauded: So I was persuaded to make bold with it, as I do. . . . I could easily contract the most moving Part of the Story into the Compass of one Act, with some Additions. . . . All this was done in a very short time, the warm Season threatening me with your Absence. . . . The foregoing Lines were published as a Preface to that Masque, some few copies of which wer. printed for the use of the Audience, the first day of the Novelty's being Acted.
- A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Every Word stolen, and then Damn'd.