

v: Set by Mr D. Purcell, "Come, Strephon, Phyllis, come let's troth." Epilogue Spoke by Miss Denny Chalk, Dress'd with a great Wig like a Beau. In *The Single Songs in the New Opera call'd The World in the Moon* (1697), in addition to some of the pieces listed above, are the following ones: A Song Sung by Mrs Lindsey, Sett by Mr Daniel Purcell: "Then come kind Damon." A Song Sung by Mrs Cross, Sett by Mr J. Clark: "Smile then with a beam divine." A Song Sett by Mr J. Clark: "Divine Astrea hither flew to Cynthia's brighter Throne." A Song Sett by Mr Daniel Purcell: "Young Strephon hee has woo'd me long." A New Song: "Let those Youths who freedom prize."

Late June
DG

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not precisely known, but the opera was in preparation on 15 June 1697. In addition, it was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 22-24 June 1697, that it would be published on 25 June 1697. As it was occasionally the custom of the theatres to have copies of operatic pieces available at the theatre for a performance, it is possible that the première occurred at the end of the week of 21-26 June 1697. Furthermore, a certain performance on 1 July 1697, a benefit for the "Undertaker" of it, probably the third performance, similarly suggests a premiere a few days earlier.

THE INNOCENT MISTRESS. [By Mrs Mary Pix.] Edition of 1697: Sir Charles Beauclair – Betterton; Sir Francis Wildlove – Verbruggen; Searchwell – Knap; Beaumont – Hodgson; Spendall – Bowman; Lyonell – Freeman; Cheatall – Bowen; Gentil – Harris; Flywife – Underhill; Bellinda – Mrs Barry; Mrs Beauclair – Mrs Bracegirdle; Arabella – Mrs Prince; Lady Beauclair – Mrs Lee; Peggy – Mrs Howard; Eugenia – Mrs Lawson; Dresswell – Mrs Du Qua; Mrs Flywife – Mrs Lassel; Jenny – Mrs Willis. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen, Written by Mr Motteux. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Scudamore, Written by Mr Motteux.

LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the Prologue refers to *The World in the Moon*, suggesting a première during (or shortly after) the run of that opera. Since *The Innocent Mistress* was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 29-31 July 1697, this fact points also to a late June premiere. A song, "When I languished and wished," set by John Eccles and sung by Mrs Hodgson, is in *Wit and Mirth*, Second Edition, 1707.

Gildon, *English Dramatic Poets*, p. iii: This is a diverting Play, and met with good Success, tho' acted in the hot Season of the Year. *A Comparison Between the Two Stage* (1702), p. 20: Tho' the Title calls this Innocent, yet it deserves to be Damn'd for its Obscenity.

July 1697

THE WORLD IN THE MOON. See Late June 1697.

Thursday 1
DG

COMMENT. Rich's Company. *Post Boy*, 29 June-1 July 1697: The New Opera will be Acted this day for the benefit of the Undertaker. . . . The new Opera . . . is acting with great applause. It is licensed by the Lord Chamberlain's Secretary, and the Master of the Revels; and may be had, with all the songs, at A. Roper's, at the Black-boy in Fleet-street, price 1s.

CONCERT. A new Masque of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, Consisting of about thirty Instruments and Voices for the benefit of the Performers. . . . No person whatsoever will be admitted in a Mask (*Post Boy*, 3 July 1697). [*Post Boy*, 13 July, states that the concert is to be continued each Wednesday.]

Saturday 3
LW

CONCERT. An Entertainment of Warlike Musick, with Trumpets, Kettle Drums, and other Instruments, and a new Dialogue, with variety of other Vocal and Instrumental Musick, for the benefit of the Composer (*Post Man*, 20 July 1697). [A similar concert was advertised for 23, 28 and 30 July, and 4 Aug.]

Wednesday 21
LW