

- Thursday 24**  
[DL or LIF]     **THE RIVAL QUEENS; or, The Death of Alexander the Great.** [By Nathaniel Lee.]  
Cast not known.  
COMMENT. *Post Man*, 24-26 Feb. 1697/8: London Feb. 26. On Thursday the Czar of Muscovy came privately with a small Retinue to Kensington, and I am told went afterwards to see the Play, the Rival Queens, or the Death of Alexander the Great.
- Friday 25**  
DG     **KING ARTHUR.** [By John Dryden.] Cast not known.  
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and one in the Box attended King Arthur 10s.
- Saturday 26**  
DL, LIF     COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: About seven I went to y<sup>e</sup> playhouse in Covent Garden; . . . from thence I went to y<sup>e</sup> Playhouse in Lincolns inn fields, but meeting at y<sup>e</sup> door Mr Pelham, & he telling me the play was done, I came home (Huntington MS St 26).

## March 1698

- DL**     **CALIGULA.** [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1698: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Powell, who Acted the Emperor. Epilogue Spoken by a Girl. Caligula – Powell; Valerius Asiaticus – Williams; Annius Minatianus – Simpson; Vitellius – Mills; Cassius Cheraea – Thomas; Lepidus – Evans; Philo – Disney; Cesonia – Mrs Knight; Julia – Mrs Temple; Salome – Mrs Cross.  
COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Flying Post*, 29-31 March 1698, suggests that the first performance probably occurred in late February or very early in March. One song, "Though over all mankind," the music by Leveridge and sung by Mrs Lindsey, was published in *A Second Book of Songs with a Thorough Bass*, 1699.
- LIF**     **THE PRETENDERS; or, The Town Unmask'd.** [By Thomas Dilke.] Edition of 1698: Lord Courtipell – Thurmond; Sir Wealthy Plainder – Underhill; Sir Bellamour Blunt – Kynaston; Vainthroat – Bowman; Breakage – Trefuse; Captain Bownceby – Bright; Nickycrack – Bowen; Prim – Baily; Widow Thoroshift – Mrs More; Minx – Mrs Peryng; Ophelia – Mrs Bowman; Sweetny – Mrs Lee; Nibs – Mrs Lawson; Doll – Mrs Willis. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Bowen, coming upon the Stage in a great huff, follow'd by a Prompter, with a Paper in his hand, and by a Boy with a Bottle and Glass. Epilogue Spoken by Mrs Moor.  
COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the *Songs* were advertised in the *Post Boy*, 29-31 March 1698, and the play advertised in the *Post Man*, 14-16 April, 1698, suggests that the first performance probably occurred in early March. One song, "All things seem deaf to my complaints," set by John Eccles and sung by Mrs Bowman, was published in *The A'lamode Musician*, 1698. According to the *Post Boy*, 17-19 March 1697/8, another song, "Fair Amoret is gone Astray," had its words written by Congreve, and, according to the *Post Boy*, 29-31 March 1698, the music set by John Eccles. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Damn'd. Gildon, *English Dramatick Poets*, p. 173: I have little to say to this Play, for 'tis not fair to attack a Man that's down, tho' I do not think (considering what Plays have pleas'd) that this ought to have met with so severe a Fate.

PHAETON; or, The Fatal Divorce. [By Charles Gildon.] Edition of 1698: The Prologue Spoken by Mr Powel, Mrs Cross, &c. [including Miss Chock]. Merops – Mills; Phaeton – Powel; Epaphus – Williams; Clymene – Mrs Powel; Alithea – Mrs Knight; Cassiope – Mrs Temple; Merope – Mrs Kent. The Epilogue Made by a Friend and Spoken by Mr Mills. DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 28–30 April 1698, suggests a first performance in late March. The *Songs*, published separately, include: "Come all ye shepherds," set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Freeman. "Let every shepherd bring his lass," set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Magnus. "Life is but a little span," set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Young Bowin and Mrs Campion. "Fond shepherd," set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Pate. "To pensive years resign your pining," set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Young Bowen. "Look down," set by Daniel Purcell and sung by Pate.

Dedication, edition of 1698: I have no Reason to complain of the Success it had on the Stage. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Damn'd.

COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: About 6: I went to y<sup>e</sup> Playhouse, and let my Lady Lucy Bright & my Wife out & came with them home (Huntington MS St 26). Saturday 5 [DL or LIF]

CONCERT. Wednesday 16 YB  
COMMENT. *Post Man*, 12–15 March 1697/8: Wednesday next, being the 16th of March, will be performed in York Buildings, a Consort of new Musick, for the benefit of Doctor Blow, and Mr Pacsible, and beginning at eight a Clock.

KING ARTHUR. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known*. Saturday 19 DG  
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and one in the Box att King Arthur 10s.

CONCERT. Wednesday 23 Roberts's  
COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: I went to Mr Roberts's, who had a consort of musick, Mr Frank Roberts Mr Banister, la Riche Mr Shore, &c. I staid here till towards eleven, & then home with Lady Lucy Bright & my Wife (Huntington MS St 26).

CONCERT. Monday 28 YB  
COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 3378, 24–28 March 1698: Next Monday, being the 28th Instant, will be performed in York Buildings, a new Consort of Musick by the chieftest Masters in England, where Signior Rampany, an Italian Musician belonging to the Prince of Vaudemont, at the Request of several Persons of Quality, will for once sing in the same in Italian and French. Half a Guinea Entrance.

CONCERT. Wednesday 30 YB  
COMMENT. *Post Boy*, No. 452, 26–29 March 1698: In York-Buildings tomorrow being the 30th instant will be perform'd a New Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, compos'd by Seignior Baptist for the Benefit of him and Mr Robert, beginning at the usual time. [*London Gazette*, No. 3378, 24–28 March 1698, with essentially the same notice, states that the admission charge is 5s.]

CONCERT. Thursday 31 YB  
COMMENT. *Post Boy*, No. 453, 29–31 March 1698: This day, being the 31st of March, at the Request of several Persons of Quality, will be performed in York Buildings, a French Consort, by some of the best Voices lately come from France.