

- Late December*
DL Speech or two, that the other four Acts might limp on with a little less Absurdity! no! he had no leisure to consider what might be separately inoffensive. [Cibber continues with an explanation of the censor's argument for cutting the act.]
Preface to Cibber's *Ximena*, 1719: *Richard the Third*, which I alter'd from Shakespeare, did not raise me Five Pounds on the Third Day.

January 1700

- Wednesday 3*
DG ENTERTAINMENTS.
COMMENT. *London Post*, No. 30, 1-3 Jan. 1700: This day at the Theatre-Royal in Dorset-garden, the Famous Kentish-man Mr Joy, designs to show the same Tryals of Strength, he had the honour of showing before his Majesty, the Prince and Princess of Denmark, and several Persons of Quality, viz. The lifting a weight of 2240 *l*. Holding an extraordinary large Cart-Horse; and afterwards breaking a Rope that will bear 3500 weight. There will likewise be shewn the Sister, carrying 5 Bushels of Wheat, or any other grain; She being but 15 Years of Age. They will also show on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, beginning at 3 of the Clock, and ending at 4 in the Afternoon. Boxes 3*s*. Pit 2*s*. 1st Gallery 1*s*. Upper gallery 6*d*.
- Thursday 4*
DG ENTERTAINMENTS. See 3 Jan. 1700.
- Friday 5*
DG ENTERTAINMENTS. See 3 Jan. 1700.
- Saturday 6*
DG ENTERTAINMENTS. See 3 Jan. 1700.
- Tuesday 9*
LIF KING HENRY THE FOURTH: With the Humours of Sir John Falstaff. [Altered from William Shakespeare by Thomas Betterton.] Edition of 1700: King Henry IV – Berry; Prince of Wales – Scudamore; John Earl of Lancaster – Bayly; Northumberland – Boman; Henry Percy, surnamed Hotspur – Verbruggen; Westmorland – Pack; Worcester – Freeman; Owen Glendower – Hodgson; Douglas – Arnold; Sir Walter Blunt – Trout; Sir Richard Vernon – Harris; Sir John Falstaff – Betterton; Bardolph – Bright; Francis the Drawer – Bowen; Katherine Percy – Mrs Boman; Hostess – Mrs Leigh.
COMMENT. Betterton's Company. This performance was probably the first day of this revival, for Matthew Prior wrote to Abraham Stanyan, 8 Jan. 1699/1700: To-morrow night Betterton acts Falstaff, and to encourage that poor house the Kit Katters have taken one side-box and the Knights of the Toast have taken the other (HMC, Bath MSS. [London, 1908], III, 394). See also 28 Jan. 1699/1700. The play was advertised in the *London Gazette*, No. 3601, 13-16 May 1700, and the title page states: Reviv'd, with Alterations. Written Originally by Mr Shakespear.
- Thursday 11*
[DL or LIF] COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: About 6: went to y^e play. I staid there a quarter of an hour (Huntington MS St 26).
- [*Saturday 20*]
[DL or LIF] COMMENT. Alice Hatton, writing on (possibly) 20 Jan. 1699/1700: I was last night (wth Lady Longuevil and Lady Arundel) at y^e Princess's, and Lady Long: was so kind to offer to carry me to y^e Opera to day wth her and Lady Portland; but I was so unfortunate as to be engaged to go to Lady Denbighs to see y^e famous Mrs Binges dance, or else I should have bin glad to have waited on Lady Long: tho I had seen it before and think it very silly. Mr Abel is to have a fine musicke meeting to morrow, and y^e tickets are guineas a piece, w^{ch} is a little to much for me to throw away; so I shall not be there, and I find so many y^t can afford it better

- of my mind, y^t I fancy, if he had had lower rates, he would have got more (Hatton Correspondence, Camden Society, XXIII [1878], 245). It is difficult to assign a proper date to this letter. It is unlikely that it was written on Saturday 20 Jan., as Abell was not likely to offer a concert on Sunday at which admission would be charged. It is possible that the opera referred to is *The Grove*, which is known to have been performed on 19 Feb. 1700, but the fact that this opera was unsuccessful makes it unlikely that it had its premiere in mid-January and was played again in mid-February. Perhaps the letter should be dated mid-February. [Saturday 20]
[DL or LIF]
- COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: I din'd at Mr Gervase Pierrepont's, with Mr Moor, Dr Davenant, Mr Scobell, & Mr Harcourt; about 8: I set y^e 2 first down at y^e playhouse, & came home (Huntington MS St 26). Tuesday 23
[DL or LIF]
- COMMENT. Villiers Bathurst to Arthur Charlett, 28 Jan. 1699/1700: The Wits of all qualities have lately entertained themselves with a revived humour of Sir John Falstaff in Henry the Fourth, which has drawn all the town, more than any new play that has bin produced of late; which shews that Shakespeare's wit will always last: and the criticks allow that Mr Betterton has hitt the humour of Falstaff better than any that have aimed at it before (G. Thorn-Drury, *More Seventeenth Century Allusions to Shakespeare*, [London, 1924], p. 48). Sunday 28
LIF
- COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: I went & din'd at y^e fountain, after w^{ch} I went to y^e Playhouse in Lincolns Inn fields, & saw my Cozen Hussys & Coz: Roberts there. I staid an act (Huntington MS St 26). Monday 29
LIF

Tuesday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1700

- COMMENT. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), commenting upon Betterton's success with *I Henry IV* (see 9 Jan. 1699/1700) pictures Betterton entering his Closet and praying to Shakespeare for further assistance (p. 25), with the result that "tho' some of those Plays that Batterton Acted were Historical, and consequently highly irregular, yet they never fail'd to please" (p. 26). Sullen adds: Well, this lucky hit of Batterton's put D. Lane in a non-plus! Shakespear's Ghost was rais'd at the New-house, and he seem'd to inhabit it for ever: What's to be done then? Oh, says Rich I'll pray as well as he—What? Shall a Heathen Player have more Religion than a Lawyer? No, it shall never be said—with that Mr R—— goes up to the Garret (a pair of Stairs higher than his own Apartment) and taking Ben Johnson's Picture with him, he implores. [DL, LIF]
- This work implies that Betterton presented *Henry VIII* in addition to *I Henry IV* and that Rich revived *Volpone*, *The Alchymist*, and *The Silent Woman*, which had, according to the author of this work, lain unacted for twenty years (p. 26).
- MEASURE FOR MEASURE; or, Beauty the Best Advocate. [Altered from William Shakespeare by Charles Gildon.] Edition of 1700: Prologue [Written] by Mr Oldmixon, Spoken by Mr Betterton. Epilogue: Shakespeare's Ghost, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen. Duke of Savoy – Arnold; Angelo – Betterton; Escalus – Berry; Claudio – Verbruggen; Lucio – Baile; Balthazar – Pack; Provost – Freeman; Isabella – Mrs Bracegirdle; Julietta – Mrs Bowman; Mariana – Mrs Prince. LIF