

August 1664

- BARTHOLOMEW FAIR.** [By Ben Jonson.] *Cast not known.* Tuesday 2
Bridges
 COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: Thence to the King's play-house, and there saw "Bartholomew Fayre," which do still please me; and is, as it is acted, the best comedy in the world, I believe. I chanced to sit by Tom Killigrew, who tells me that he is setting up a Nursery; that is, is going to build a house in Moorefields, wherein he will have common plays acted. But four operas it shall have in the year, to act six weeks at a time; where we shall have the best scenes and machines, the best musique, and every thing as magnificent as is in Christendome; and to that end hath sent for voices and painters and other persons from Italy.
- THE ALCHEMIST.** [By Ben Jonson.] [Subtle] – Clun; Dol Common – Mrs Corey. See also Dec. 1660. Wednesday 3
Bridges
 COMMENT. The King's Company. For Mrs Corey as Dol Common, see 27 Dec. 1666. For the murder of Clun, see *An Elegy Upon the Most Execrable Murther of Mr Clun* (1664), and the reprint in *A Little Ark*, ed. G. Thorn-Drury, pp. 30-31. Pepys, *Diary*, 4 Aug.: Clun, one of their [King's] best actors, was, the last night, going out of towne (after he had acted the Alchymist, wherein was one of his best parts that he acts) to his country-house, set upon and murdered; one of the rogues taken, an Irish fellow. It seems most cruelly butchered and bound. The house will have a great miss of him.
- THE RIVAL LADIES.** [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known.* See also June 1664. Thursday 4
Bridges
 COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: Sir W. Pen . . . did carry me to a play and pay for me at the King's house, which is "The Rivall Ladys," a very innocent and most pretty witty play. I was much pleased with it, and it being given me, I look upon it as no breach to my oathe.
- FLORA'S VAGARIES.** [By Richard Rhodes.] *Cast not known.* See also 3 Nov. 1663. Monday 8
Bridges
 COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: So my wife and I abroad to the King's playhouse, she giving me her time of the last month, she having not seen any then; so my vowe is not broke at all, it costing me no more money than it would have done upon her, had she gone both her times that were due to her. Here we saw "Flora's Figarys." I never saw it before, and by the most ingenuous performance of the young jade Flora, it seemed as pretty a pleasant play as ever I saw in my life.
- THE HISTORY OF HENRY THE FIFTH.** [By Roger Boyle, Earl of Orrery.] Saturday 13
IIF
 Edition of 1669: King Henry the Fifth – Harris; Duke of Bedford – Underhill; Duke of Exeter – Cogan; Earl of Warwick – Aingel; Bishop of Canterbury – Lylinston [Lilleston]; Owen Tudor – Betterton; The Dauphin – Young; Duke of Burgundy – Smith; Earl of Chareloys – Cadiman; Constable of France – James Noke; De Chastel – Norris; Bishop of Arras – Samford; Count of Blamout – Medborne; Monsieur Colemore – Floyd; Queen of France – Mrs Long; Princess Katherine – Mrs Betterton; Princess Anne – Mrs Davis; Countess of La Marr – Mrs Norris.
 COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys does not indicate that this performance is the premiere, and Summers, *The Playhouse of Pepys*, p. 137, states, without offering his evidence, that the play first appeared on 11 Aug. 1664.

- Saturday 13*
LIF The play also appears in Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 138. If Pepys saw the premiere, the play was possibly given on 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23, 24 Aug. Pepys, *Diary*: Mr Creed dining with me I got him to give my wife and me a play this afternoon, lending him money to do it, which is a fallacy that I have found now once, to avoyde my vowe with, but never to be more practised I swear, and to the new play, at the Duke's house, of "Henry the Fifth"; a most noble play, writ by my Lord Orrery; wherein Betterton, Harris, and Ianthe's parts are most incomparably wrote and done, and the whole play the most full of height and raptures of wit and sense, that ever I heard; having but one incongruity, or what did not please me in it, that is, that King Harry promises to plead for Tudor to their Mistresse, Princesse Katherine of France, more than when it comes to it he seems to do; and Tudor refused by her with some kind of indignity, not with a difficulty and honour that it ought to have been done in to him.
Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 27-28: This Play was Splendidly Cloath'd: The King, in the Duke of York's Coronation Suit; Owen Tudor, in King Charle's: Duke of Burgundy, in the Lord of Oxford's, and the rest all New. It was Excellently Perform'd, and Acted 10 Days Successively.
- Wednesday 17*
LIF COMMENT. For a discussion of *Henry V*, whose run may still have been in progress, see Pepys, *Diary*, 17 Aug.
- Thursday 18*
[Bridges] THE COURT SECRET. [By James Shirley.] *Cast not known.*
COMMENT. The King's Company, presumably. For a version of this play, see R. G. Howarth, "A Manuscript of James Shirley's *Court Secret*," *Review of English Studies*, VII (1931), 302-13. The manuscript is in the Worcester College Library (Plays 9. 21). Pepys, *Diary*: My wife going to-day to dine with Mrs Pierce, and thence with her and Mrs Clerke to see a new play, "The Court Secret." [The play had not been acted before the Restoration.]

September 1664

- Friday 2*
BF ENTERTAINMENTS. Pepys, *Diary*: I got her [Mrs Pepys] to rise and abroad with me by coach to Bartholomew Fayre, and our boy with us, and there shewed them and myself the dancing on the ropes, and several other the best shows.
- Wednesday 7*
BF ENTERTAINMENTS. Pepys, *Diary*: So anon abroad with Creed walked to Bartholomew Fayre, this being the last day, and there saw the best dancing on the ropes that I think I ever saw in my life, and so all say.