

THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS. [Adapted by Thomas Shadwell from John Fountain, *The Rewards of Virtue*.] *Cast not known*. Edition of 1669: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue. *Thursday 25*  
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This play is on the L. C. lists at Harvard. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," p. 14. A song in this play, "Thus all our Lives," with music by John Banister, is in *Choice Songs and Ayres*, 1673.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 31): [Concerning several plays] All which Expir'd the third Day, save the Royal Shepherdess, which liv'd Six.

Pepys, *Diary*: To the Duke of York's house, and there before one, but the house infinite full, where, by and by, the King and Court come, it being a new play, or an old one new vamped, by Shadwell, called "The Royal Shepherdesse!"; but the silliest for words and design, and everything, that ever I saw in my whole life, there being nothing in the world pleasing in it, but a good martial dance of pikemen, where Harris and another do handle their pikes in a dance to admiration; but never less satisfied with a play in my life.

THE FAITHFUL SHEPHERDESS. [By John Fletcher.] *Cast not known*. *Friday 26*  
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse . . . and there saw "The Faithfull Shepherdesse." But, Lord! what an empty house, there not being, as I could tell the people, so many as to make up above £10 in the whole house! The being of a new play at the other house, I suppose, being the cause, though it be so silly a play that I wonder how there should be enough people to go thither two days together, and not leave more to fill this house. The emptiness of the house took away our pleasure a great deal, though I liked it the better; for that I plainly discern the musick is the better, by how much the house the emptier.

THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS. See 25 Feb. 1668/9. LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. If Downes is correct that this play was given six days successively, it was probably acted through Thursday 4 March 1668/9.

COMMENT. Add. Mss. 36916, folio 128, 2 March 1668/9: The occasion of this [a challenge of the Duke of Buckingham to a duel by Lord Halifax or another friend of Sir William Coventry] there was a new play to be acted on Saturday last called the Country Gentleman, said to be made by the Duke & S<sup>r</sup> Robt Howard, wherein tis said that the Earle of Clarendon, S<sup>r</sup> Wm Coventry and some other Courtiers are plainly personated, but especially S<sup>r</sup> William in the midst of his table of Writings; this he (or some of his relations) would not brooke, but whether he or the L<sup>d</sup> Halifax was to fight the Duke is not knowne, but the King hath prevented all; and the play is not acted. [See also Pepys, 4 and 6 March 1668/9.] *Saturday 27*  
Bridges

[THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9. LIF

## March 1669

[THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9. *Monday 1*  
LIF

[THE ROYAL SHEPHERDESS.] See 25 Feb. 1668/9. *Tuesday 2*  
LIF

THE LADY'S TRIAL. [By John Ford.] *Cast not known*. *Wednesday 3*  
LIF  
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. If *The Royal Shepherdess* was acted six days consecutively, the interruption of its run for this day is due to the tradition of the company's not regularly acting on Wednesdays and Fridays in Lent.