

THE PLAIN DEALER. [By William Wycherley.] Edition of 1677: Prologue. *Monday 11*
Epilogue, Spoken by the Widow-Blackacre. Manly – Hart; Freeman – Kynaston; *DL*
Vernish – Griffin; Novell – Clark; Major Oldfox – Cartwright; Lord Plausible –
Haines; Jerry Blackacre – Charlton; Olivia – Mrs Marshall; Fidelia – Mrs Boutell;
Eliza – Mrs Knep; Letice – Mrs [Ursula or Frances] Knight (see below); Widow
Blackacre – Mrs Cory.

COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 359. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. There is no certainty that this performance is the premiere, but as the play was licensed for printing on 9 Jan. 1676/7, this performance may well be the first one. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 9-10) lists the same cast except for the omission of Letice. It is not certain which Mrs Knight played Letice. Possibly it was Frances Maria Knight (see Wilson, *All the King's Ladies*, where she is tentatively listed for that role), but the presence of Mrs Ursula Knight on an undated L. C. list, 3/24, with the date of her swearing into the company given as 12 March 1676/7, it is quite likely that she played this role. (I owe this reference to Ursula Knight to Professor John Harold Wilson.)

John Dennis: And when upon the first representations of the *Plain Dealer*, the Town, as The Authour has often told me, appeard Doubtful what Judgment to Form of it; the foremention'd gentlemen [The Duke of Buckingham, Earl of Rochester, Earl of Dorset, Earl of Mulgrave, Savil, Buckly, Sir John Denham, Waller] by their loud aprobation of it, gave it both a sudden and a lasting reputation (*Defense and Defects of Dramatick Poetry*, 1725, in *The Works of John Dennis*, ed. Hooker, II, 277).

THE PLAIN DEALER. See 11 Dec. 1676. *Wednesday 13*
COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, *DL*
5/141, p. 359. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346.

MUSICK; or, A Parley of Instruments. [By John Bannister.] *Cast not known.* *Thursday 14*
Academy

COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 1154, 7-11 Dec. 1676: On Thursday next the 14th instant, at the Academy in Little Lincolns-Inn Fields, will begin the first part of the Parley of Instruments composed by Mr John Banister, and perform'd by eminent Masters, at six a clock, and to continue nightly, as shall by Bill or otherwise be notifi'd. The Tickets are to be delivered out from one of the clock till five every day, and not after.

An edition of *Musick; or, A Parley of Instruments* appeared in 1676, with a licensing date of 30 Oct. 1676. The text consists of lyric dialogues, a chorus, and solos, and is divided into three entertainments. Possibly this work was given earlier in the year, but this announcement is the first public one which has been noted.

January 1677

A SHOEMAKER A GENT. [By William Rowley.] *Cast not known.* A Prologue *Monday 1*
to this play is in *New Songs and Poems a la Mode Both at Court and Theatres*, 1677. *DL*
COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 359. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. See the headnote to the 1674-75 season for an Epilogue to this play.

THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY TITUS VESPASIAN, Part I. *Friday 12*
[By John Crowne.] Edition of 1677: The Prologue to the First Part. No actors' *DL*
names, but the Epilogue to Part II states that Mrs Marshal acted Queen Berenice.

- Friday 12**
DL The Epilogue to the First Part. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 13): Titus Vespasian – Kynaston; Phraartes – Hart; Matthias High Priest – Major Mohun; John – Cartwright; Clarona D. to Matthias – Mrs Boutell; Queen Berenice – Mrs Marshall.
COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 359. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. There is no certainty that this is the first performance, but a performance of Part II on 18 Jan. 1676/7 and a reference to both parts in a letter dated 19 Jan. 1676/7 suggest that the premiere must have occurred early in January.
- Thursday 18**
DL THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY TITUS VESPASIAN, Part II. [By John Crowne.] For a cast, see 12 Jan. 1676/7. Edition of 1677: The Prologue. The Play ended, Mrs Marshal returns and speaks the Epilogue, in the Character of Queen Berenice.
COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/141, p. 359. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. There is no indication that this performance is the premiere, but see 12 Jan. 1676/7 and 19 Jan. 1676/7.
- Friday 19**
DL COMMENT. G. Lady Chaworth to Lord Roos, 19 Jan. 1676/7: There is two niewe plays which are much comended—the siege of Jerusalem by the Emperour Vespasien, and his son Titus's love with Berenice; the epilogue is much prayesd that tells tis not like to please this age to bring them a story of Jerusalem who would more delight in one of Sodome and a vertuous woman which in this age they promise shan't be seene but on the stage (HMC, Rutland MSS., 1889, II, 36).

Tuesday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTTRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1677

- DG THE DEBAUCHEE; or, The Credulous Cuckold. [By Mrs Aphra Behn?] Edition of 1677: Prologue, Spoken by a Woman, Written by a Person of Quality. No actors' names. Epilogue, Written by Mr E. R.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but the fact that the play was licensed for printing on 23 Feb. 1676/7 suggests a first performance about this time. The play was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, May 1677. Langbaine (*English Dramatick Poets*, p. 36) refers to this play as altered from Richard Brome's *The Mad Couple*.
- Friday 2**
MT COMMENT. An unnamed play was acted by the Duke's Company. See *A Calendar of the Middle Temple Records*, ed. Hopwood, p. 177.
- IT COMMENT. An unnamed play was acted by the King's Company. See *A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, ed. Inderwick, III, 114.
- Monday 5**
At Court COMMENT. In L. C. 5/141, p. 528, is an order for altering the stage in the theatre in Whitehall for the French comedians. See Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 380.
- Monday 12**
DG ANTONY AND CLEOPATRA. [By Sir Charles Sedley.] Edition of 1677: Prologue. Caesar – Smith; Agrippa – Jevon; Mecaenas – Harris; Lucilius – Norris; Thyreus – Crosby; Antony – Betterton; Canidius – Medburn; Photinus – Sandford; Memnon – Percivall; Chilax – Gillow; Cleopatra – Mrs Mary Lee; Octavia – Mrs Betterton; Iras – Mrs Gibbs; Charmion – Mrs Hughes. Epilogue.