

- Monday 17*
At Court COMMENT. Henry Savile to the Earl of Rochester, 17 Dec. 1677: I had almost forgott for another argument to bring you to towne that a French troop of comaedians bound for Nimeguen were by adverse winds cast into this hospitable port and doe act at Whitehall soe very well that it is a thousand pittyes they should not stay, especially a young wench of fifteen, who has more beauty and sweetnesse than ever was seen upon the stage since a friend of ours left it (HMC, Bath MSS., 1907, II, 161). W. J. Lawrence ("Early French Players in England," pp. 148-49) identifies the French actress as Francoise Pitel, later Mlle Raisin.
- Wednesday 26*
DL THE RIVAL QUEENS; or, Alexander the Great. [By Nathaniel Lee.] *Cast not known.* For a previous cast, see 17 March 1676/7.
COMMENT. The King's Company. This performance is known from a document in *The Theatrical Inquisitor and Montbly Mirror*, July 1816, p. 26, and in Fitzgerald, *A New History*, I, 145. This document lists the receipts and attendance: The King's box, £1 10s., possibly six persons; Mr Hayles' boxes, £2 16s., possibly 14 persons; Mr Mohun's boxes, £3 16s., possibly 19 persons; Mr Yate's boxes, £1 15s. 6d., possibly 9 persons; James' boxes, £2 4s., possibly 11 persons. Mr Kent's pit, 112 persons; and Mr Britan's pit, 79 persons; a total of 191 persons paying £23 17s. 6d. Mr Bracy's gallery, 100 persons; Mr Johnson's gallery, 44 persons; a total of 144 persons, paying £10 16s. Upper Gallery, 119 persons, paying £5 19s. Mrs Kempton (upper gallery?), 5s. The house rent is listed as £5 14s. The attendance appears to total at least 513 persons. Compare these data with those for 12 Dec. 1677.

January 1678

- DG THE HISTORY OF TIMON OF ATHENS, THE MAN-HATER. [By Thomas Shadwell.] Edition of 1678: Prologue to Timon. Timon of Athens – Betterton; Alcibiades – Smith; Apemantus – Harris; Nicias – Sandford; Phaeax – Underhill; Aelius – Leigh; Cleon – Norris; Isander – Percival; Isidore – Gillo; Demetrius – Medburne; Dephilus – Bowman; Old Man – Richards; Poet – Jevon; Evandra – Mrs Betterton; Melissa – Mrs Shadwell; Chloe – Mrs Gibbs; Thais – Mrs Seymour; Phinias – Mrs Le-Grand. Epilogue.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but a licensing date of 18 Feb. 1677/8 suggests a premiere not later than January 1677/8. It is possible, however, that this play followed *Sir Patient Fancy* (17 Jan. 1677/8), as the licensing date of *Timon* follows that for *Sir Patient Fancy*. Part of the music for *Timon* was composed by Louis Grabu and was published, without the singers' names, in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, 1679.
Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 37): *Timon of Athens*, alter'd by Mr Shadwell; 'twas very well Acted, and the Musick in't well Perform'd; it wonderfully pleas'd the Court and City; being an Excellent Moral.
- Thursday 17*
DG SIR PATIENT FANCY. [By Mrs Aphra Behn.] Edition of 1678: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Betterton. Sir Patient Fancy – Anthony Leigh; Leander Fancy – Crosby; Wittmore – Betterton; Lodwick Knowell – Smith; Sir Credulous Easy – Nokes; Curry – Richards; Lady Fancy – Mrs Corrar; Lady Knowell – Mrs Gwin [Quin]; Lucretia – Mrs Price; Isabella – Mrs Betterton; Maundy – Mrs Gibbs. Epilogue, spoken by Mrs Gwin [Quin].
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 349. There is no certainty that this is the first performance, but a licensing date of 28 Jan. 1677/8 and Mrs Behn's

statement in the Preface that she hurried the play into print suggest a premiere not far from this date.

Thursday 17
DG

Edition of 1678: To the Reader: I Printed this Play with all the impatient haste one ought to do, who would be vindicated from the most unjust and silly aspersion, Woman could invent to cast on Woman; and which only my being a Woman has procured me, That it was Bawdy, the least and most Excusable fault in the Men Writers, to whose Plays they all crowd, as if they came to no other end then to hear what they condemn in this: but from a Woman it was unnaturall.

One song, "Sitting by yonder river side," with music by [Thomas (?)] Farmer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Second Book, 1679.

COMMENT. The Earl of Arran to the Duchess of Ormond, 19 Jan. 1677/8: I met her Lord [Lord Cavendish] last night at the French play (HMC, Ormonde MSS., New Series, 1906, IV, 90). Henri Forneron, *Louise de Keroualle, Duchess of Portsmouth* (London, 1887): [The Duchess of Portsmouth] was at the last extremity when a slight change for the better took place, and she got up, had herself dressed, and dragged herself to her Sedan chair, to be carried to the French play, where she heard the king was to be with Madame Mazarin. The players had come to London for a short time, and Charles attended all their representations (pp. 197-98). Forneron apparently drew this information from a letter dated 20 Jan. 1677/8.

Friday 18
At Court

Wednesday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1678

MITHRIDATES, KING OF PONTUS. [By Nathaniel Lee.] Edition of 1678: Prologue. Mithridates – Mohun; Ziphares – Hart; Pharnaces – Goodman; Archelaus – Griffin; Pelopidas – Wintershul; Andravar – Powell; Aquilius – Clark; Another Roman Officer – Wiltshire; Monima – Mrs Corbett; Semandra – Mrs Boutel. Epilogue, [written] by Mr Dryden.

DL

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but a licensing date of 28 March 1678 suggests a first performance not later than February 1678. One song, "One night while all the village slept," with music by Louis Grabu and words by Sir Car Scroop, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Third Book, 1681.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 17): Major Mohun . . . [in] Mithridates, &c. An Eminent Poet seeing him Act this last, vented suddenly this Saying: Oh Mohun, Mohun! Thou little Man of Mettle, if I should write a 100 Plays, I'd Write a Part for thy Mouth; in short, in all his Parts, he was most Accurate and Correct. [Downes, p. 12, gives an identical cast except for omissions.]

Princess Anne apparently played Ziphares and Frances Apsley played Semandra in a production of this drama, probably at St James's Palace or at Sir Allen Apsley's house in St James's Square, between January 1677/8 and August 1679. See Benjamin Bathurst, *Letters of Two Queens* (London, 1924), p. 61.

COMMENT. Although the records are somewhat ambiguous, the Duke's Company possibly acted an unnamed play on this date. See *A Calendar of the Middle Temple Records*, ed. Hopwood, p. 177.

Saturday 2
MT