

- 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