

January 1679

COMMENT. *The Memoirs of Sir John Reresby* (p. 168): Being at a play wher I sat near Collonel Macarty, who was shortsighted a gentleman in drinke quarrelled with him, and drawing his sword passed at hime before Macarty was ready, or indeed saw it, and had certainly wounded him had not I putt by the sword with mine that was drawn whilst he recovered himselfe but they were then parted without harm. Monday 6
[DL or DG]

CONCERT. *London Gazette*, No 1371, 6-9 Jan. 1678/9: At the Musick School in Essex Buildings near St Clements Church in the Strand, will be continued a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick; beginning at six of the clock every evening. Composed by Mr John Bannister. Tbursday 9
EB

Tbursday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTTRDOM OF CHARLES I

February 1679

COMMENT. During February and March 1678/9 two plays, titles unknown, were acted before the King. See an order: To Edward Griffin, Esq. Treasurer of the Chamber, to be paid over to John Lacy, assigne of Charles Killigrew, Mast^r of the revells, for two plays acted before his said Majestie in Feb'ry and March 1678/9 (*Moneys Received and Paid for Secret Services*, ed. J. Y. Akerman, Camden Society, LII (1851), 34). DL

March 1679

THE TRAGEDY OF SERTORIUS. [By John Bancroft.] Edition of 1679: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue, [Written] by Mr Ravenscroft. DL
COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the premiere is not known. As the play was licensed for printing, 10 March 1678/9, March 1679 is the latest likely date for the premiere.

THE AMBITIOUS STATESMAN; or, The Loyal Favourite. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1679: The Prologue. No actors' names. The Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Haines, who Acted La Marre. DL
COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the premiere is not known. As the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, June 1679, it probably was acted first sometime in the preceding two or three months. Gildon's revision of Langbaine, *English Dramatick Poets*: This Play met not with the Applause the Author and his Friends expected (p. 28).

- DG **THE FEIGN'D CURTIZANS; or, A Night's Intrigue.** [By Mrs Aphra Behn.]
Edition of 1679: The Prologue, Spoken by Mrs Curren. Morisini – Norris; Julio – Crosby; Octavio – Gilloe; Petro – Leigh; Sir Harry Fillamour – Smith; Galliard – Betterton; Sig Signall Buffoon – Nokes; Tickletext – Underhill; Laura Lucretia – Mrs Lee; Marcella – Mrs Curren; Cornelia – Mrs Barry; Phillipa – Mrs Norris; Sabina – Mrs Seymour. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Smith.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but as the play was licensed for printing on 27 March 1679, the premiere must have been no later than March 1679. It is possible that *Midnight's Intrigue*—see introductory note to the 1676-77 season—is an earlier version of this play.
The Epilogue suggests that the players faced thin audiences during the spring and that Drury Lane had been closed for some time: So hard the Times are, and so thin the Town, / Though but one Playhouse, that must too lie down.
It is possible that Mrs Behn's *The Young King* may have been acted at this time. See September 1679.

April 1679

- DG **TROILUS AND CRESSIDA; or, Truth Found Too Late.** [By John Dryden.]
Edition of 1679: The Prologue, Spoken by Mr Betterton, Representing the Ghost of Shakespear. Hector – Smith; Troilus – Betterton; Priam – Percivall; Aeneas – Joseph Williams; Pandarus – Leigh; Calchas – Percivall; Agamemnon – Gillo; Ulysses – Harris; Achilles – David Williams; Ajax – Bright; Nestor – Norris; Diomedes – Crosby; Patroclus – Bowman; Anthenor – Richards; Thersites – Underhill; Cressida – Mrs Mary Lee; Andromache – Mrs Betterton. The Epilogue, Spoken by Thersites.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first performance is uncertain, but the fact that the play was entered in the *Stationers' Register* on 14 April 1679 suggests a premiere not later than April 1679. A song, "Can life be a blessing," with music by Thomas Farmer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Third Book, 1681.

Friday 11
A FAST DAY

Monday 14–Saturday 19
PASSION WEEK

May 1679

- DG **CAESAR BORGIA, SON OF POPE ALEXANDER THE SIXTH.** [By Nathaniel Lee.] Edition of 1680: Prologue, written by Mr Dryden. Caesar Borgia – Betterton; Palante – Williams; Machiavel – Smith; Paul Orsino – Gillow; Ascanio Sforza – Lee; Vitellozzo – Peircifull; Bellamira – Mrs Lee; Adorna – Mrs Price. Epilogue.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first production is uncertain. The fact that the Epilogue suggests that it followed Settle's *The Female Prelate* is not a factor in the dating, as the Newdigate newsletters—see Wilson, "Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 80—show that Settle's