

- 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

play was first acted on 31 May 1680, whereas *Caesar Borgia* was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, November 1679. Although the reference in the Epilogue to burning "the Pope's Effigies" has been argued as referring to the Pope-burning procession of 17 Nov. 1679, the references in the Epilogue to Father Lewis, who was tried and convicted at York, 28 March 1679, suggest that it was written before his execution, 27 Aug. 1679. Hence the play may have been acted first some time in the late spring or the summer. A song, "Blush not redder than the Morning," with music by Thomas Farmer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Third Book, 1681. DG

COMMENT. *The Memoirs of Sir John Reresby* (p. 181): The Duke of Albemarle carried me this afternoon to the play, which I had not leisure to take the diversion of for some time. *Thursday 15*  
[DL or DG]

## June 1679

COMMENT. John Verney to Sir R. Verney, 23 June 1679: Churchill, for beating an orange wench in the Duke's playhouse, was challenged by Capt. Otway (the poet), and were both wounded, but Churchill most. The relation being told the King, by Sir John Holmes, as Churchill thought to his prejudice, he challenged Holmes, who fighting, disarmed him, Churchill. On Saturday, at the Duke's Theatre, happened a quarrel between young Bedlow and one of the novices of St Omer's, and many swords were drawn, but as yet I have not heard whether any blood was shed in this religious quarrel (HMC, Verney MSS., Appendix, 7th Report, 1879, p. 473). *Saturday 21*  
DG

## September 1679

ENTERTAINMENTS. *The Diary of Robert Hooke* (p. 423): At Bartholomew fair Saw Elephant wave colours, shoot a gun, bend and kneel, carry a castle and a man. *Monday 1*  
BF

ENTERTAINMENTS. William Blaythwaite to Sir Robert Southwell, 4 Sept. 1679 [describing a visit made on 3 Sept. 1679 by Sir Edward Dering, Mrs Helena Percival, Miss Helena, Miss Betty, and himself]: What we saw was the dancing on the ropes performed first by Jacob Hall and his company, then by a Dutch dancer, who did wonderful feats. From thence we went to the Elephant, who I think was more terrible than pleasant to the young spectators (Morley, *Memoirs of Bartbolomew Fair*, p. 192). *Wednesday 3*  
BF