

EPSOM WELLS. [By Thomas Shadwell.] *Cast not known.* For a previous cast, see 2 Dec. 1672. Friday 20
At Court

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This is another in the series of Court performances in L. C. 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350, and 11 Feb. 1679/80.

Mountstevens to Henry Stevens, 20 Feb. 1679/80: Upon Sunday the Court is to be in mourning for the death of the Princess Elizabeth, sister to Prince Rupert (R. W. Blencowe, *Diary of the Time of Charles the Second* [London, 1843], I, 283).

Wednesday 25

ASH WEDNESDAY

COMMENT. Luttrell (*A Brief Relation*, I, 34-35): The 26th, Mrs Ellen Gwyn being at the dukes playhouse, was affronted by a person who came into the pitt and called her whore; whom Mr Herbert, the earl of Pembrokes brother, vindicating, there were many swords drawn, and a great hubbub in the house. Thursday 26
DG

SHE WOULD IF SHE COULD. [By Sir George Etherege.] *Cast not known.* For an earlier cast, see 6 Feb. 1667/8. Friday 27
At Court

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This is another in the series of Court performances in L. C. 5/145, p. 120. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350, and 11 Feb. 1679/80. It should be noted that not only is this date a Friday in Lent but it is also during the period of mourning for the Princess Elizabeth. Yet to place this performance in 1681 would make it fall on Sunday.

THE ORPHAN; or, The Unhappy Marriage. [By Thomas Otway.] Edition of 1680: Acasto - Gillow; Castalio - Batterton; Polydore - Jo. Williams; Chamont - Smith; Ernesto - Norris; Paulino - Wiltshire; Cordelio—By the little Girl [Anne Bracegirdle]; Chaplain - Percivall; Monimia - Mrs Barry; Serina - Mrs Boteler; Florella - Mrs Osborn. Prologue. Epilogue. Late February
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the premiere is not known. Pepys saw it on 6 March 1679/80, calling it a "New Play," and that may have been the first day. The Prologue alludes also to the Duke of York's triumphant return from Scotland on 24 Feb. 1679/80, and the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, May 1680. For Mrs Bracegirdle as the "little Girl," see Edmund Curll, *History of the English Stage* (1741), p. 26, and Lucyle Hook, "Anne Bracegirdle's First Appearance," *Theatre Notebook*, XIII (1959), 134. For Betterton as Castalio and Mrs Barry as Monimia, probably as they performed in the next decade, see Cibber, *Apology*, ed. Lowe, I, 116, 160.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 37) gives the same cast except for omissions and except for Serina—Mrs Mountfort, who acted it later. Downes (pp. 37-38) adds: [Monimia, Belvidera in *Venice Preserved*, and Isabella in *The Fatal Marriage*] These three Parts, gain'd her the Name of Famous Mrs Barry, both at Court and City; for when ever She Acted any of these three Parts, she forc'd Tears from the Eyes of her Auditory, especially those who have any Sense of Pity for the Distress't. These 3 Plays, by their Excellent Performances, took above all the Modern Plays that succeeded.

A song for this play, "Come all the youths whose hearts have bled," the music by Forcer, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Third Book, 1681.

March 1680

THYESTES. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1681: Prologue. No actors' names. DL
Epilogue.

- DL COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first production is not known. Although the play was not entered in the *Term Catalogues* until May 1681, Wilson ("Six Restoration Play-Dates," p. 222) has argued that the reference in the Prologue to the young men (presumably Gray, Goodman, and Clarke; see February 1679/80) who had gone to Scotland and returned empty-handed suggests a performance near March 1680, when these references would have more point than they would have a year later.
- DG THE CONSPIRACY; or, The Change of Government. [By William Whitaker.] Edition of 1680: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue, Written by Edw. Ravenscroft.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the reference in the Prologue to "this good Godly time of Lent" would place it between 25 Feb. and 3 April 1680. It was entered in the *Term Catalogues* in May 1680.
- Saturday 6 THE ORPHAN; or, The Unhappy Marriage. See Late February 1680.
DG COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: March 6 Saturday: See 2 acts of the New Play Orphan (Mornamont MS II, f. 1207, Cambridge University Library).
- At Court THE FEIGN'D CURTIZANS; or, A Night's Intrigue. [By Mrs Aphra Behn.]
Cast not known. For a recent cast, see March 1678/9.
COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is another in the sequence of plays acted at Court in L. C. 5/145, p. 120: Night's Intrigue. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 350, and 11 Feb. 1679/80. If this performance were placed on 6 March 1680/1, it would fall on Sunday.
- Tuesday 9 COMMENT. Pepys attended an unnamed play. See Mornamont MS II, f. 1208
[DL or DG] (Cambridge University Library).
- Thursday 25 COMMENT. Pepys again attended an unnamed play. See Mornamont MS II,
[DL or DG] f. 1230 (Cambridge University Library).

April 1680

Monday 5-Saturday 10
PASSION WEEK

May 1680

- Thursday 6 COMMENT. *CSPD*, Charles II, 1679-1680, p. 415: Their Royal Highnesses went
DL or DG to see a Play.
- Monday 31 THE FEMALE PRELATE: Being the History of the Life and Death of Pope Joan.
DL [By Elkanah Settle.] Edition of 1680: No actors' names.
COMMENT. The King's Company. The Newdigate newsletters, 29 May 1680: Their Maty^{es} players have put out a Bille that on Munday next they will Act a new play abt the female prelate or the History of Pope Joan (Wilson, "Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 80). Newdigate newsletters, 3 June: On Munday last the King's players began to Act the new play called Pope Joan (*ibid.*).