

*Troilus and Cressida*. By John Dryden. When this play was revived at the theatre in Lincoln's Inn Fields on 28 Oct. 1697, the bill bore the heading: Not Acted these 16 Years. Whether or not the phrase "these 16 Years" is taken literally, it probably indicates a revival early in this decade.

*Venus and Adonis*. A Masque by Dr. John Blow. This work consists of a Prologue and three acts, and a MS score is in BM Add. Mss. 22,100: Cupid – Lady Mary Tudor; Venus – Mrs Davys. The MS states that this was an entertainment for the King (Charles II, presumably); hence, it must have been given before his death on 6 Feb. 1684/5. Since the volume in which the earliest known MS appears is dated 1682, it is entered into this season. See *Venus and Adonis*, ed. A. Lewis, 1949.

## September 1681

THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES, AND TEGUE O DIVELLY THE IRISH PRIEST. [By Thomas Shadwell.] Edition of 1682: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue, by Mrs Barry and Tegue. [Mrs Barry probably acted Isabella; Anthony Leigh, Teague]. DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but as the play was entered in the *Term Catalogues*, November 1681, it was probably first given in September, certainly not later than October. Downes (*Roscus Anglicanus*, pp. 38–39): Being a kind of Opera, having several Machines of Flyings for the Witches, and other Diverting Contrivances in't: All being well perform'd, it prov'd beyond Expectation; very Beneficial to the Poet and Actors.

Edition of 1682, To the Reader: I heard that great opposition was design'd against the Play (a month before it was acted) . . . The Master of the Revels (who I must confess used me civilly enough) Licenc'd it at first with little alteration: But there came such an Alarm to him . . . that upon a Review, he expunged all that you see differently Printed, except about a dozen lines which he struck out at the first reading. . . . I had so numerous an assembly of the best sort of men, who stood so generously in my defence, for the first three days, that they quash'd all the vain attempts of my Enemies, the Inconsiderable Party of Hissers yielded, and the Play lived in spite of them.

## October 1681

MITHRIDATES, KING OF PONTUS. [By Nathaniel Lee.] *Cast not known*. For a previous cast, see February 1677/8. A Prologue spoken at Mithridates King of Pontus, the First Play Acted at the Theatre Royal this Year, 1681. [Written by John Dryden.] Epilogue [written by Dryden and spoken by Goodman and Mrs Cox]. Mid-October DL

COMMENT. The King's Company. The exact date of this performance is not known, but the Prologue refers to "After a four Months Fast," suggesting that the theatre did not reopen until the end of the Long Vacation (24 Oct. 1681 is the beginning of Michaelmas Term). The Epilogue also seems to refer to events at

*Mid-October*  
DL  
Bartholomew Fair, and the Prologue to the King's visit to Newmarket, from which the King did not return until 12 Oct. 1681. Furthermore, *The Impartial Protestant Mercury*, No. 54, 28 Oct. 1681, reports: A Revised Play was some days since Acted on an Eminent Publick Theatre, and the Prologue is extremely talked of. [The periodical reprints some of the lines (which are essentially those in the printed version).] *The Loyal Protestant*, No. 70, 29 Oct. 1681, refers to the same performance and reprints part of the Epilogue (which also is essentially that of the separately printed Epilogue). All of these elements point to a performance in mid-October.

Both the Prologue and the Epilogue were printed separately, and have been reprinted by Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*, pp. 43-45. Broadside copies of the Prologue and Epilogue in the Huntington Library bear Luttrell's manuscript notations that both were written by Dryden. Luttrell's date of acquisition is 13 Feb. 1681/2, an instance in which Luttrell's date of purchase does not apparently correspond closely to a date of performance.

*Late October*  
DL  
SIR BARNABY WHIGG; or, No Wit Like a Womans. [By Thomas D'Urfey.] Edition of 1681: Prologue. Wilding - Clark; Townly - Goodman; Sir Wal. Wisacre - Jermaine; Capt. Porpuss - Griffin; Sir Barn. Whigg - Powell; Benedick - Perin; Swift - Cosh; Gratiana - Mrs Corbet; Livia - Mrs Cook; Millicent - Mrs Moyle; Winifred - Mrs Percival. Epilogue, By a New Actress.

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but its listing in the *Term Catalogues*, November 1681, suggests late October as a likely latest date for its premiere. If *Mitbridates* was acted in mid-October at the opening of Drury Lane, *Sir Barnaby Whigg* may well be the first new play offered by the King's Company in the autumn. A Song in Act I, "Blow Boreas Blow," with music apparently by Henry Purcell, is in *A Third Collection of New Songs . . . Words by Mr D'Urfey*, 1685, and in *Dramatic Works of Henry Purcell*, Purcell Society, III (1917), xiv-xv.

*Saturday 29*  
City  
LONDON'S JOY; or, The Lord Mayor's Show: Triumphantly Exhibited in Various Representations, Scenes, and splendid Ornaments, with divers pertinent Figures and Movements: Performed on Saturday, October XXIX. 1681. At the Inauguration of the Right Honourable Sir John Moore, Knight, Lord Mayor of the City of London. With the Several Speeches, and Songs, which were spoken on the Pageant in Cheapside, and Sung in Guild-Hall during Dinner. All the Charges and Expences of the Industrious Designs being the sole Undertaking of the Worshipful Company of Grocers. Devised and Composed by Tho. Jordan, Gent.

COMMENT. For reports on the Lord Mayor's Day, see Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, I, 139-40, and *The Impartial Protestant Mercury*, No 55, 28 Oct.-1 Nov. 1681.

## November 1681

DG  
THE FALSE COUNT; or, A New Way to Play an Old Game. [By Mrs Aphra Behn.] Edition of 1682: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Smith. Don Carlos - Smith; Antonio - Wiltshire; Francisco - Nokes; Baltazer - Bright; Sebastian - Freeman; Guzman - Underhill; Guillion - Lee; Julia - Mrs Davis; Clara - Mrs Petty; Isabella - Mrs Coror; Jacinta - Mrs Osborn. Epilogue Spoken by Mrs Barry, Made by a Person of Quality.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but Luttrell dated his copy, 17 Dec. 1681; hence, a November 1681 first production is likely. See Van Lennep, "Two Restoration Comedies," pp. 57-58.

*Saturday 12*  
[DL or DG]  
COMMENT. The Marquis of Worcester to the Marchioness, 12 Nov. 1681: the King went to a play in the afternoon, a thing he does very seldom, and I not much oftener (HMC, 12th Report, Appendix, Beaufort MSS., IX, 87).