

- Wednesday 20*  
DL  
Dedication, Edition of 1690: The Play had not that Success which it deserv'd. . . . The main fault ought to lye on those who had the management of it. Had our Authour been alive she would have Committed it to the Flames rather than suffer'd it to have been Acted with such Omissions as was made. . . . And Lastly, many of the Parts being false Cast, and given to those whose Tallants and Genius's suited not our Authors Intention.
- Thursday 28*  
[DL or DG] [THE COMMITTEE. By Sir Robert Howard.] *Cast not known.*  
COMMENT. The United Company. A somewhat puzzling entry in the Reverend Robert Kirk's description of London in 1689 implies a performance of *The Committee* undertaken but not completed: At a play in Whitehall King Charles, his tragedy, when the actors were come to that part of seducing King Charles II, some Williamites in the pit below hissed at it (as if the play had meant the like of King James in Ireland). At this there sprang such huzzas and holloes above applauding that part of the play, that it was in a confusion, and they durst pursue it no further, lest the two parties made violence one upon another. Two or three noblemen were remarked to be forward in the acclamations of joy, and therefore are looked on as Jacobites. The play's name is *The Committee*, November 28, 1689 (*Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archeological Society*, New Series, VI, 655).

## December 1689

- Chelsea  
DIDO AND AENEAS. [The verse by Nahum Tate; the music by Henry Purcell.] Performed by the Gentlewomen of Josias Priest's Boarding School in Chelsea. Prologue, Spoken by the Lady Dorothy Buck.  
COMMENT. The date of this amateur performance is not known, but the date generally accepted is December 1689. See Alfred Loewenberg, *The Annals of Opera*, Second Edition, Columns 85-86; and R. E. Moore, *Henry Purcell and the Restoration Theatre* (Cambridge, Mass., 1961), pp. 38-69. The Epilogue is in *New Poems* (1690).
- Wednesday 4*  
DL  
DON SEBASTIAN. [By John Dryden.] Edition of 1690: Prologue, Sent to the Author by an Unknown Hand, and Proposed to be Spoken by Mrs Mountfort, Dressed like an Officer. Prologue, Spoken by a Woman. Don Sebastian - Williams; Muley Moluch - Kynaston; Dorax - Betterton; Benducar - Sandford; Mufti - Underhill; Muley Zeydan - Powell Jr; Don Antonio - Betterton [an error; corrected in 1692 edition to Mountfort]; Don Alvarez - Bowman; Mustapha - Leigh; Almeyda - Mrs Barry; Morayma - Mrs Montfort; Johayma - Mrs Leigh. Epilogue, Spoken betwixt Antonio and Morayma.  
COMMENT. The United Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/149, p. 368: The Queene a Box, and a Box for the Maids Honor at Don Sebastian King of Portugal. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 352. There is no certainty that this is the first performance. The play was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 15 Dec. 1689. See also Charles E. Ward, *The Life of John Dryden* (Chapel Hill, N. C., 1961), pp. 242-46.  
Preface, Edition of 1690: I am . . . to acknowledge, with all manner of gratitude, their civility; who were pleas'd to endure it with so much patience. . . . Above twelve hundred lines have been cut off from this tragedy since it was first deliver'd to the actors. They were indeed so judiciously lopt by Mr Betterton, to whose care and excellent action I am equally oblig'd, that the connexion of the story was not lost.

Does a cryptic remark by Huygens, 3 Dec. 1689 OS, refer to this play: Wednesday 4  
DL  
 Dat dat geklap met de handen in comedie, onlanx gebeurt, als er gesproken  
 wierd van een Coning, die wederom quam in sign rijck, van seer quade consequentie  
 was. Dat voorseker de Con. too mercifull was, en dat er mosten exempelen  
 gestatueert werden (*Journal van Constantijn Huygens*, Dutch Historical Society  
 Transactions, New Series, XXIII [Utrecht, 1876], 212).

## January 1690

**THE SUCCESSFUL STRANGERS.** [By William Mountfort.] Edition of 1690: DL  
 Don Carlos – Williams; Silvio – Mountfort; Antonio – Powel; Don Lopez – Nokes;  
 Don Francisco – Lee; Don Pedro – Bright; Guzman – Underhill; Sancho – Bowen;  
 Dorothea – Mrs Knight; Feliciana – Mrs Mountfort; Famosa – Mrs Corey;  
 Biancha – Mrs Bracegirdle; Niece – Mrs Miles. End Act III: Mrs Butler's Dance.  
 Prologue, Spoke by Mrs Bracegirdle. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Nokes, Mr Lee,  
 and Mr Mountfort.  
 COMMENT. The date of the first performance of this play is not known.  
 The play was licensed for publication on 27 Jan. 1689–90 and advertised in the  
*London Gazette*, 10 Feb. 1689/90; hence, it was probably given not later than  
 early January, possibly first given in December 1689.

**THE TREACHEROUS BROTHERS.** [By George Powell.] Edition of 1690: DL  
 King of Cyprus – Powell; Meleander – Allexander [Verbruggen]; Ithocles –  
 Williams; Menaphon – Mountfort; Orgillus – Hodgson; Semanthe – Mrs Bowtell;  
 Marcelia – Mrs Bracegirdle; Statilia – Mrs Butler; Armena – Mrs Jourden.  
 Prologue, Writ by Mr Mountfort, spoken by Mrs Knight. Epilogue, Writ by  
 Mr Mountfort, Spoken by Mrs Butler in Mans apparel.  
 COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not  
 known. The play was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 13 Feb. 1689/90, and  
 advertised in the *London Gazette*, 20–24 Feb. 1689/90; hence, it was probably  
 first given in January 1690, certainly no later than early February 1690.  
 Preface, Edition of 1690: The time was, upon the uniting of the two Theatres,  
 that the reviving of the old stock of Plays, so ingrostr the study of the House,  
 that the Poets lay dorment; and a New Play cou'd hardly get admittance, amongst  
 the more precious pieces of Antiquity, that then waited to walk the Stage; and  
 since the World runs all upon Extremes, as you had such a Scarcity of new ones  
 then; 'tis Justice you shou'd have as great a glut of them now; for this reason,  
 this little Prig makes bold to thrust in with the Crowd.

**CONCERT.** Wednesday 1  
At Court  
 COMMENT. Luttrell (*A Brief Relation*, II, 1): The same day [1 Jan.] the king  
 and queen came to Whitehall, where many of the nobility and gentry came to  
 wish them a happy new year; and there was a great consort of musick, vocal and  
 instrumental, and a song composed by the poet laureat.

**CONCERT.** Wednesday 8  
Hughs  
*London Gazette*, No 2520, 2–6 Jan. 1689/90: These are to give notice,  
 That the Consort of Musick (at Mr Hughs's, in Freemans Court in Cornhill  
 near the Royal-Exchange) will be perform'd on Wednesday next, being the  
 8th instant, and so to continue every Wednesday for the future, beginning between  
 7 and 8 of the Clock in the Evening.