

Mid-April
DL

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not certain, but it lies between Saturday 9 and Saturday 16 April. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation* (II, 413) stated on 9 April that the Queen had prohibited its being acted; on 16 April (II, 422) he reports that it has been acted. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 422, 16 April: Mr Drydens play has been acted with applause, the reflecting passages upon this government being left out. The *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1692 (licensed 14 May): I told you in my last, that none could then tell when Mr Dryden's Cleomenes would appear; since that time, the Innocence and Merit of the Play have rais'd it several eminent Advocates, who have prevailed to have it Acted, and you need not doubt but it has been with great applause.

Preface, Edition of 1692: Mrs Barry, always Excellent, has, in this tragedy, excell'd Herself, and gain'd a Reputation beyond any Woman whom I have ever seen on the Theatre. [See also Cibber, *Apology*, I, 160, for a discussion of Mrs Barry in *Cleomenes*.] A song, "No, no, poor suffering heart no change endeavour," the music by Henry Purcell, is in *Comes Amoris*, The Fourth Book, 1693, and also, with the notice that it was sung by Mrs Butler, in *Joyful Cuckoldom*, ca. 1695. See also Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XVI (1906), xviii-xix; *Epistolary Essay to Mr Dryden upon bis Cleomenes*, in *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1692, pp. 17-21. When the play was revived at Drury Lane, 8 Aug. 1721, the bill bore the heading: Not Acted these Twenty-Five Years.

Friday 30
At Court

CONCERT. An Anniversary Ode sung before Her Majesty . . . the Words by Sir Charles Sidley: Set by Mr Henry Purcell.

COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 437: This being the queens birth day, a new ode was sung before her upon the occasion: the nobility and gentry, with the lord mayor and aldermen of this citty, attended to compliment thereon. *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1692: The 30th of April, being Her Majesties Birth-day, was observ'd with all the usual Solemnity. I design'd to have sent you an Attempt of mine in Verse, on that noble Subject: But having happily obtain'd a Copy of those writ by Sir Charles Sidley, it would have been an unpardonable Crime, to have joyn'd my weak Essay to a Piece by so great a Master. [The Ode, "Love's Goddess Sure," the music by Henry Purcell, is in Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XXIV (1926), i.]

May 1692

Monday 2
DG

THE FAIRY QUEEN. [By Elkanah Settle. The Music by Henry Purcell.]
Edition of 1692: Prologue. No actors' names, but see below.

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is stated in Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, II, 435, 28 April 1692: On Monday will be acted a new opera, called the Fairy Queen: exceeds former playes: the clothes, scenes, and musick cost 3000 £. [According to *Some Select Songs As they are Sung in the Fairy Queen* (1692) the singers were Mrs Ayliff, Mrs Dyer, Freeman, Mrs Butler, and Pate. See Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XII (1903), ii; E. W. White, "Early Performances of Purcell's Operas," *Theatre Notebook*, XIII (1958-59), 45; and R. E. Moore, *Henry Purcell and the Restoration Theatre*, Chapter IV.]

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, pp. 42-43: *The Fairy Queen*, made into an Opera, from a Comedy of Mr Shakespeares: This in Ornaments was Superior to the other Two [*King Arthur* and *The Propbetess*]; especially in Cloaths, for all the Singers and Dancers, Scenes, Machines and Decorations, all most profusely set off; and excellently perform'd, chiefly the Instrumental and Vocal part Compos'd by the said Mr Purcel, and Dances by Mr Priest. The Court and Town were wonderfully satisfy'd with it; but the Expences in setting it out being so great, the Company got very little by it.

Gentleman's Journal, May 1692: The Opera of which I have spoke to you in my former hath at last appear'd, and continues to be represented daily: it is call'd, *The Fairy Queen*. The Drama is originally Shakespears, the Music and Decorations are extraordinary. I have heard the Dances commended, and without doubt the whole is very entertaining. [As the May issue of the *Gentleman's Journal* was licensed on 14 May, the statement that *The Fairy Queen* continued to be acted daily may indicate consecutive performances from 2 May to at least 14 May 1692.]

Monday 2
DG

COMMENT. *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1692 (licensed 14 May): We are promised Mr Crown's *Regulus*, before the Long Vacation; As also a Comedy by Mr Shadwell, whose Genius for that sort of Poetry, is sufficiently known to the Ingenious.

Saturday 14

June 1692

REGULUS. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1694: Regulus – Betterton; Metellus – Kynaston; Fulvia – Mrs Barry; Asdrubal – Mountford; Gisgon – Leigh; Hiarbas – Underhill; Batto – Dogget; Hamilcar – Sandford; Xantippus – Williams. Prologue. Epilogue spoken by her that acts Elisa's part [Mrs Bracegirdle].

Early June
DL

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the first performance is not precisely known, but it was certainly before 17 June 1692, as the *Gentleman's Journal*, June 1692 (licensed 17 June) states: *Regulus*, with the Factions of Carthage, by Mr Crown, was acted the last week; that Tragedy is intermixed with a vein of Comedy. You have seen his Works in both. Terence tells us, *Dubiam fortunam esse scenicam*; and if that great Author had occasion to complain, those of our Age may well comfort themselves if the Town deceives their expectation.

A song, "Ah me! to many deaths decreed," the music by Henry Purcell, and set by Mrs Ayliff, is in Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XXI (1917), vii. But see 24 Aug. 1692.

THE FAIRY QUEEN. See 2 May 1692.

Monday 13

COMMENT. The United Company. Newdigate newsletters, 11 June 1692: And on Monday [the Princess Anne] comes to see the new opera (Wilson, "More Theatre Notes from the Newdigate Newsletters," p. 59).

DG

Wednesday 15
A FAST DAY

July 1692

COMMENT. BM Add. Mss. 34096, folio 63r 64v, Whitehall, 15 July 1692: The Prince and Princess of Danemarke . . . yesterday . . . tooke barge to goe to y^e Play House. [See Benjamin Bathurst, *Letters of Two Queens* (London, 1924), p. 225, for a letter by Princess Anne ordering boats to take her to the theatre.]

Thursday 14
[DL or DG]

COMMENT. *Gentleman's Journal*, July 1692 (licensed 20 July 1692): We have had no new Play since *Regulus*, and 'tis very likely that we shall have none till the next Term.

Wednesday 20
[DL or DG]