

Preface, Edition of 1696: I am almost asham'd to mention the extraordinary Success of a Play which I myself must condemn. . . . Let me leave this ungrateful Subject to acknowledge my obligations to Mr John Eccles, who not only set my three Dialogues to most charming Notes, but honour'd the Words to Admiration.

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 44: *Love's a Jest*, a Comedy, done by Mr Mateox; succeeded well, being well Acted, and got the Company Reputation and Money.

THE CORNISH COMEDY. [By George Powell.] Edition of 1696: Prologue, By Mr Haines, in a Barrister's Gown. Epilogue, Spoken by Miss Chalke, Seven Years Old, Written by Mr Haynes. Gripe – Johnson; Peregrine – Mills; Trusty – Simpson; Manley – Harland; Swash – Lee; Sharper – Powell; Busy – Haynes; Freeman – Williams; Nic Froth – Penkethman; Shuffle – Bullock; Clarinda – Mrs Temple; Eugenia – Mrs Andrews; Sue – Mrs Lucas; Margaret – Mrs Mills; Maid – Mrs Unwinn.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 25-27 Aug. 1696, suggests that it was first acted not later than July 1696 and possibly in June 1696. In the edition of 1696 are two dialogues, set by Clarke, the words by Haynes, and sung by Bowen and Mrs Cross. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 18: *Cornish Comedy*: No matter whose, 'twas Damn'd.

## July 1696

OEDIPUS, KING OF THEBES. [By John Dryden and Nathaniel Lee.] Oedipus – Betterton. LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. There may have been a revival of *Oedipus* in the summer of 1696. In Francis Manning's *Poems upon Several Occasions and to Several Persons* (1701) there is a poem "To Mr Betterton, Acting Oedipus King of Thebes." The first stanza describes the splendor of the installation of the Duke of Gloucester as a Knight of the Garter, an event which occurred at Windsor Castle in July 1696; but there is no certainty that Betterton's performance occurred before that date. It should be noted also that the play was reprinted in 1696.

THE UNHAPPY KINDNESS; or, A Fruitless Revenge. [Adapted from John Fletcher's *A Wife for a Month* by Thomas Scott.] Edition of 1697: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen. The Epilogue written, and spoke by Mr Haynes, in the Habit of a Horse Officer, mounted on an Ass. Alphonso, King of Naples – Verbruggen; Frederick – Harland; Valerio – Williams; Sorano – Disney; Pisano – Mills; Petruccio – Hill; Pedro – Newth; Evanthe – Mrs Rogers; Queen Mother – Mrs Powel. DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. There is no certainty as to the date of the first performance, and the play has been sometimes assigned to mid-summer 1697 because the Preface refers to a summer production and the play was printed in 1697. Nevertheless, the presence of Verbruggen in the cast suggests that the summer of 1696 is more likely, as Verbruggen left Drury Lane on 1 Jan. 1696/7 and thereafter appeared at Lincoln's Inn Fields.

Preface, Edition of 1697: Amongst a number of New Plays that of late have crowded the Stage. . . . As it is, it may bear up in the Winter, notwithstanding the little Encouragement it met with at its first Appearance from a thin Town, and the Scarcity of Money.

*A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702): *Sullen: Unhappy Kindness*, the same Author's [as of *Mock Marriage*], but every word stole. *Ramble: The success? Sullen: Damn'd.*