

- THE LANCASHIRE WITCHES. [By Thomas Shadwell.] *Cast not known.* Thursday 27
 COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, DL
Commonwealth and Restoration Stage, p. 377: Lady Morley and one in the Pitt at Lancashire Witches 2s. 6d.
- THE SHAM LAWYER; or, The Lucky Extravagant. [By James Drake.] Edition Monday 31
 of 1697: Prologue. Epilogue Spoken by Spade. Careless – Cibber; Friendly – DL
 Harland; Serj. Wrangle – Bullock; Homily – Johnson; Spade – Hains; Famine – Pinkeman; Olympia – Mrs Knight; Florella – Mrs Rogers; Mrs Vernish – Mrs Powel.
- COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and one in the Box at Sham Lawyer 8s. [There is no certainty that this performance was the première, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 26–28 June 1697 (Luttrell's copy, Huntington Library, bears his acquisition date of 24 June 1697) suggests that its premiere occurred in late May.]
- Title Page, Edition of 1697: As it was Damnably Acted at the Theatre-Royal in Drury Lane.

June 1697

- THE NOVELTY. [By Peter Motteux and others.] Edition of 1697: Prologue, LIF
 spoken by Mr Bowen. Act I: *Thyrsis: A Pastoral*. [By John Oldmixon.] Shepherds: Thyrsis – Scudamore; Damon – Bayle; Montano – Arnold; Shepherdesses: Dorinda – Mrs Lassells; Cleomira – Mrs Boman. Act II: *All Without Money*. [By Peter Motteux.] A Short Comedy. Needmore – Scudamore; Speedwell – Bowen; Theodosia – Mrs Prince; Brother to Theodosia – Bayle; Freeman – Arnold; Clara – Mrs Bud; Dorothy – Mrs Lawson; Le Soupe – Freeman; Act III: *Hercules*. [By Peter Motteux.] A Masque. Set to Musick by Mr John Eccles. Hercules – Redding; Omphale – Mrs Boman; Dejanira – Mrs Willis; Two of Hercules' Children – Miss Bradshaw and Jemmy Laroche; Nesica – Mrs Perrin. Act IV: *The Unfortunate Couple*. [By Edward Filmer.] A short Tragedy. Grammont – Betterton; Elvira – Mrs Barry; Dampierre – Freeman; Lysette – Mrs Lawson; Leonora – Mrs Boman. Act V: *Natural Magick*. [By Peter Motteux.] A short Farce, after the Italian manner. Pantalone – Trefuses; Cynthio – Arnold; Pasquarel – Sorin; Mezzetin – Knap; Nicholas – Trout; Columbina – Mrs Lawson. Epilogue by Mrs Prince.
- COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 8–10 June 1697, suggests a first performance in late May or the beginning of June.
- Preface: I [Motteux] write the Masque of Hercules, and Mr Eccles, having set it with his usual Success, and yet more masterly than my Mars and Venus, if possible, I prevail'd with the ingenious Mr J. Oldmixon to give me a short Pastoral, while I scribbled over a Farce after the Italian Manner, and an Imitation of part of a diverting French Comedy of one Act (for such Plays are very common in Foreign Parts). Then I wanted nothing but a Tragedy. . . . At last I bethought myself of one already studied, called The Unnatural Brother, written by an ingenious Gentleman and acted 6 Months ago, tho not with the success it deserv'd. Yet the latter Part was extremely applauded: So I was persuaded to make bold with it, as I do. . . . I could easily contract the most moving Part of the Story into the Compass of one Act, with some Additions. . . . All this was done in a very short time, the warm Season threatening me with your Absence. . . . The foregoing Lines were published as a Preface to that Masque, some few copies of which wer. printed for the use of the Audience, the first day of the Novelty's being Acted.
- A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Every Word stolen, and then Damn'd.

- Wednesday 2*
LW CONCERT. A Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick [weekly for the rest of the season] (*Post Boy*, 2 June 1697).
- Friday 4* COMMENT. An order by Sunderland, the Lord Chamberlain, required the theatres to bring each new play before him (L. C. 5/152, in Krutch, *Comedy and Conscience*, p. 181). Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 235–36, 5 June 1697: Several new plays having been lately acted, contrary to good manners, the lord chamberlain has given orders that nore be acted hereafter till his secretary has perused them.
- Saturday 5*
DL THE INDIAN QUEEN. [By John Dryden and Sir Robert Howard.] *Cast not known*. For a recent cast, see April 1695.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and three in the Box att Indian Queen £1.
- Saturday 12*
DL OROONOKO. [By Thomas Southerne.] See November 1695.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and three in the Box att Oroonoko 16s.
- Tuesday 15*
DG COMMENT. *Post Boy*, 12–15 June 1697: Great Preparations are making for a new Opera [*The World in the Moon*] in the Play-house in Dorset-Garden, of which there is great Expectation, the Scenes being several new Sets and of a moddel different from all that have been used in any Theatre whatever, being twice as high as any of their former Scenes. And the whole Decoration of the Stage not only infinitely beyond all the Opera's ever yet performed in England, but also by the acknowledgment of several Gentlemen that have travell'd abroad, much exceeding all that has been seen on any of the Foreign Stages.
- Thursday 17*
Strand CONCERT.
COMMENT. *The Portledge Papers*, 19 June 1697: On Thursday last in the neighbourhood of Somerset house in the evening was a great entertaynment of Musick and singing in so much as that part of the Strand was so crouded with coaches and sedans that I having occasion to goe that way could hardly pass and I heard it reported that it was designed for the Prince of Wales birthday but the Lord Feversham hearing of it put it off till Thursday (ed. S. J. Kerr and I. C. Duncan, London, 1928, p. 261).
- Friday 18*
DL MARRIAGE A LA MODE. [By John Dryden.] *Cast not known*.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and two in the Box att Marriage Alamode 12s.
- Late June*
DG THE WORLD IN THE MOON. [By Elkanah Settle.] Edition of 1697: Prologue, Spoken by a new Girl. Frank Wildblood – Powel; Ned Stanmore – Mills; Palmerin Worthy – Williams; Sir Dottrel Fondlove – Johnson; Old Stanmore – Disney; Tom Dawkins – Pinkethman; Jacintha – Mrs Verbruggen; Widow Dawkins – Mrs Powel; Mrs Susan – Mrs Andrews. Prologue, Set to Musick by Mr Jeremy Clark. I: "Within this happy World above," set by Mr Jeremy Clark. II: Joe Haynes meets 'em. II: The Entertainment Composed by Mr Daniel Purcel, "Come all you Nymphs of Cynthia's Train." II: A Dialogue between Mr Leveridge and Mrs Cross, "In all our Cynthia's shining sphere." III: The Musick set by Mr Daniel Purcel, "Look round, and here behold." A Dialogue between Mrs Cross and Mrs Lucas, "Oh dear, sweet sir, you look so gay." IV: A Song sung by Miss ———; set by Mr Purcel, "Young Strephon met me t'other Day." IV: The Ceremony of a Nuptial Entertainment perform'd. Mrs Cross the Bride, and Mr Leveridge the Bridegroom. The Musick set by Mr D. Purcel, "The Nymphs of the Plain."

v: Set by Mr D. Purcell, "Come, Strephon, Phyllis, come let's troth." Epilogue Spoke by Miss Denny Chalk, Dress'd with a great Wig like a Beau. In *The Single Songs in the New Opera call'd The World in the Moon* (1697), in addition to some of the pieces listed above, are the following ones: A Song Sung by Mrs Lindsey, Sett by Mr Daniel Purcell: "Then come kind Damon." A Song Sung by Mrs Cross, Sett by Mr J. Clark: "Smile then with a beam divine." A Song Sett by Mr J. Clark: "Divine Astrea hither flew to Cynthia's brighter Throne." A Song Sett by Mr Daniel Purcell: "Young Strephon hee has woo'd me long." A New Song: "Let those Youths who freedom prize."

Late June
DG

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not precisely known, but the opera was in preparation on 15 June 1697. In addition, it was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 22-24 June 1697, that it would be published on 25 June 1697. As it was occasionally the custom of the theatres to have copies of operatic pieces available at the theatre for a performance, it is possible that the première occurred at the end of the week of 21-26 June 1697. Furthermore, a certain performance on 1 July 1697, a benefit for the "Undertaker" of it, probably the third performance, similarly suggests a premiere a few days earlier.

THE INNOCENT MISTRESS. [By Mrs Mary Pix.] Edition of 1697: Sir Charles Beauclair – Betterton; Sir Francis Wildlove – Verbruggen; Searchwell – Knap; Beaumont – Hodgson; Spendall – Bowman; Lyonell – Freeman; Cheatall – Bowen; Gentil – Harris; Flywife – Underhill; Bellinda – Mrs Barry; Mrs Beauclair – Mrs Bracegirdle; Arabella – Mrs Prince; Lady Beauclair – Mrs Lee; Peggy – Mrs Howard; Eugenia – Mrs Lawson; Dresswell – Mrs Du Qua; Mrs Flywife – Mrs Lassel; Jenny – Mrs Willis. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen, Written by Mr Motteux. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Scudamore, Written by Mr Motteux.

LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the Prologue refers to *The World in the Moon*, suggesting a première during (or shortly after) the run of that opera. Since *The Innocent Mistress* was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 29-31 July 1697, this fact points also to a late June premiere. A song, "When I languished and wished," set by John Eccles and sung by Mrs Hodgson, is in *Wit and Mirth*, Second Edition, 1707.

Gildon, *English Dramatic Poets*, p. iii: This is a diverting Play, and met with good Success, tho' acted in the hot Season of the Year. *A Comparison Between the Two Stage* (1702), p. 20: Tho' the Title calls this Innocent, yet it deserves to be Damn'd for its Obscenity.

July 1697

THE WORLD IN THE MOON. See Late June 1697.

Thursday 1
DG

COMMENT. Rich's Company. *Post Boy*, 29 June-1 July 1697: The New Opera will be Acted this day for the benefit of the Undertaker. . . . The new Opera . . . is acting with great applause. It is licensed by the Lord Chamberlain's Secretary, and the Master of the Revels; and may be had, with all the songs, at A. Roper's, at the Black-boy in Fleet-street, price 1s.

CONCERT. A new Masque of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, Consisting of about thirty Instruments and Voices for the benefit of the Performers. . . . No person whatsoever will be admitted in a Mask (*Post Boy*, 3 July 1697). [*Post Boy*, 13 July, states that the concert is to be continued each Wednesday.]

Saturday 3
LW

CONCERT. An Entertainment of Warlike Musick, with Trumpets, Kettle Drums, and other Instruments, and a new Dialogue, with variety of other Vocal and Instrumental Musick, for the benefit of the Composer (*Post Man*, 20 July 1697). [A similar concert was advertised for 23, 28 and 30 July, and 4 Aug.]

Wednesday 21
LW