

- Thursday 24*
[DL or LIF] THE RIVAL QUEENS; or, The Death of Alexander the Great. [By Nathaniel Lee.]
Cast not known.
COMMENT. *Post Man*, 24-26 Feb. 1697/8: London Feb. 26. On Thursday the Czar of Muscovy came privately with a small Retinue to Kensington, and I am told went afterwards to see the Play, the Rival Queens, or the Death of Alexander the Great.
- Friday 25*
DG KING ARTHUR. [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 one in the Box at King Arthur 10s.
- Saturday 26*
DL, LIF COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: About seven I went to y^e playhouse in Covent Garden; . . . from thence I went to y^e Playhouse in Lincolns inn fields, but meeting at y^e door Mr Pelham, & he telling me the play was done, I came home (Huntington MS St 26).

March 1698

- DL CALIGULA. [By John Crowne.] Edition of 1698: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Powell, who Acted the Emperor. Epilogue Spoken by a Girl. Caligula - Powell; Valerius Asiaticus - Williams; Annius Minatianus - Simpson; Vitellius - Mills; Cassius Cheraea - Thomas; Lepidus - Evans; Philo - Disney; Cesonia - Mrs Knight; Julia - Mrs Temple; Salome - Mrs Cross.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Flying Post*, 29-31 March 1698, suggests that the first performance probably occurred in late February or very early in March. One song, "Though over all mankind," the music by Leveridge and sung by Mrs Lindsey, was published in *A Second Book of Songs with a Thorough Bass*, 1699.
- LIF THE PRETENDERS; or, The Town Unmask'd. [By Thomas Dilke.] Edition of 1698: Lord Courtipell - Thurmond; Sir Wealthy Plainder - Underhill; Sir Bellamour Blunt - Kynaston; Vainthroat - Bowman; Breakage - Trefuse; Captain Bounceby - Bright; Nickycrack - Bowen; Prim - Baily; Widow Thoroshift - Mrs More; Minx - Mrs Peryng; Ophelia - Mrs Bowman; Sweetny - Mrs Lee; Nibs - Mrs Lawson; Doll - Mrs Willis. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Bowen, coming upon the Stage in a great huff, follow'd by a Prompter, with a Paper in his hand, and by a Boy with a Bottle and Glass. Epilogue Spoken by Mrs Moor.
COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the *Songs* were advertised in the *Post Boy*, 29-31 March 1698, and the play advertised in the *Post Man*, 14-16 April, 1698, suggests that the first performance probably occurred in early March. One song, "All things seem deaf to my complaints," set by John Eccles and sung by Mrs Bowman, was published in *The A'lamode Musician*, 1698. According to the *Post Boy*, 17-19 March 1697/8, another song, "Fair Amoret is gone Astray," had its words written by Congreve, and, according to the *Post Boy*, 29-31 March 1698, the music set by John Eccles. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Damn'd. Gildon, *English Dramatick Poets*, p. 173: I have little to say to this Play, for 'tis not fair to attack a Man that's down, tho' I do not think (considering what Plays have pleas'd) that this ought to have met with so severe a Fate.