

## April 1698

Friday 1  
Clark's

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *Post Boy*, 29-31 March 1698: To morrow being the First of April, in Paul's Alley, near St. Paul's Church-Yard, at Mr Clark's School, will be perform'd a new Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, compos'd by Mr Henry Simsons, beginning at Seven of the Clock exactly. Price of coming in 2s. 6d.

Friday 15  
YB

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *Post Boy*, No. 459, 12-14 April 1698: Friday next the 15th of April, in York Buildings, at the Request of several Persons of Quality, will be a fine Consort, by Signior Rampony, Musician to Prince Vaudemont, will sing in Italian, French, and English, beginning at 8 a Clock. [A similar announcement in the *Post Man*, 12-14 April 1698, adds that the tickets will cost 5s.]

Monday 18-Saturday 23

PASSION WEEK

Monday 25  
YB

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *Post Man*, No. 453, 21-23 April 1698: In York Buildings, on Easter Monday, will be performed a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, for the Benefit of Mr Hodgson, beginning at the usual time.

Late April  
LIF

BEAUTY IN DISTRESS. [By Peter Motteux.] Edition of 1698: Prologue [an induction scene, with a player coming forward to announce that there is no prologue, then Bowen entering, having forgotten it, but the prompter gets Bowen's memory restored and the prologue proceeds]. Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle. Don Vincentio - Betterton; Ricardo - Verbruggen; Duke Ferdinand - Kynaston; Fabiano - Hodgson; Zemet - Arnold; Laura - Mrs Barry; Placentia - Mrs Bracegirdle; Morella - Mrs Moore; Melinda - Mrs Prince.

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *London Gazette*, 18-20 June 1698, suggests that its first performance occurred in late April or early May 1698. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Damn'd.

## May 1698

LIF

FATAL FRIENDSHIP. [By Mrs Catharine Trotter.] Edition of 1698: Prologue Written by Mr Harman and spoke by Mr Bowen. Count Roquelaure - Kynaston; Gramont - Betterton; Castalio - Verbruggen; Bellgard - Thurmond; Bernardo - Arnold; Lamira - Mrs Barry; Felicia - Mrs Bracegirdle; Marian - Mrs Martin.

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *London Gazette*, 4-7 July 1698, suggests that the first performance occurred not later than late May or early June 1698.

Tuesday 3  
DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company was apparently suspended because of its action in allowing John Powell, who had been involved in an altercation with Colonel Stanhope and Charles Davenant, to act before making satisfaction for the incident.

- See Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 368, and Cibber, *Apology*, II, 20n. The suspension lasted but a day; on 19 May 1698 Powell was forbidden to be received at either Drury Lane or Dorset Garden. Tuesday 3  
DL
- CONCERT. Wednesday 4  
YB  
 COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 3388, 28 April-2 May 1698: On Wednesday next, the 4th of May, will be performed in York-Buildings, the Song which was Sung before her Royal Highness on Her Birth Day last; With other Variety of New Vocal and Instrumental Musick, Composed by Dr Turner, and for his Benefit.
- COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 376, 5 May 1698: The lord Monmouth moved the house against the impudence of the actors at the playhouses, upon Powells wounding a gentleman; and the lords with the white staves are to desire his majestie that none of the players wear swords. [See 3 May 1698.] Thursday 5  
DL
- COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 378, 10 May 1698: The justice of Middlesex have presented the playhouses to be nurseries of debauchery and blasphemy. Tuesday 10  
DL, LIF
- CONCERT. YB  
 COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 3390, 5-9 May 1698: On Tuesday next being the 10th of May, will be perform'd in York Buildings, an Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, being St Cecilia's Song, Compos'd by Dr Blow, and several other New Songs. For the Benefit of Mr Bowman and Mr Snow.
- COMMENT. *A Brief Relation*, IV, 379, 12 May 1698: The justices of Middlesex did not only present the playhouses, but also Mr Congreve, for writing the Double Dealer; Durfey, for Don Quixot; and Tonson and Brisco, booksellers, for printing them: and that women frequenting the playhouses in masks tended much to debauchery and immorality. Thursday 12  
DL, LIF
- ENTERTAINMENTS. Friday 13  
At Court  
 COMMENT. *Post Boy*, 14-17 May 1698: On Friday night last there was fine Dancing at Kensington, where his Majesty was present, as also His Excellency the French Ambassador: The Frenchman [l'Abbe], who is lately come over and Dances now at the Play-house, was sent for to dance there, and performed his part very dexterously.
- PHAETON. [By Charles Gildon.] See March 1697/8. Tuesday 17  
DL  
 COMMENT. Rich's Company. *Post Boy*, 14-17 May 1698: This Day will be Acted the last new Tragedy, call'd Phaeton, or the Fatal Divorce. For the Benefit of the Author, and for the Entertainment of several French Persons of Quality.
- CONCERT. Wednesday 25  
YB  
 COMMENT. *Post Boy*, No. 476, 21-24 May 1698: Wednesday next, the 25th of May, will be performed in York Buildings, a new Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, with the Song which was Sung to her Royal Highness on her Birthday Compos'd by Mr Daniel Purcell, and is for his Benefit.
- CONCERT. Saturday 28  
YB  
 COMMENT. *Post Boy*, No. 477, 24-26 May 1698: On Saturday next, being the [28th] of May, will be perform'd in York-Buildings, an Entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, Set by the late Mr Hen. Purcell, and perform'd by Mr Pate, and Mr Bowen, for Mr Leveridge his Benefit.