

- COMMENT. Betterton's Company. This performance is known by a letter of John Dryden to Mrs Steward, 7 Nov. 1699: There is this day to be acted a New tragedy, made by Mr Hopkins, & as I believe in rhyme. He has formerly written a play in verse call'd Boadicea, which you fair Ladyes likd: & is a poet who writes good verses without knowing how, or why; I mean he writes naturally well, without art or learning, or good sence (*The Letters of John Dryden*, p. 124). The Dedication to the play is dated 1 Nov. 1699, but the play was not advertised until, apparently, in the *Post Man*, 17-20 Feb. 1699/1700. Tuesday 7
LIF
- COMMENT. *Post Boy*, No. 716, 7-9 Nov. 1699: We hear that Monsieur Nivelong, the Famous Grotesque Dancer, is lately arrived from Paris, and that he designs to appear shortly on one of our English Stages. Thursday 9
[DL or LIF]
- THE HISTORY AND FALL OF CAIUS MARIUS. [By Thomas Otway.] Saturday 11
DL
Cast not known.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and two in the Box at Caius Marius. 12s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 378.
On this night occurred a quarrel between Henry Arthur and one Barry of the playhouses. See *Post Boy*, 11-14 Nov. 1699, and other news accounts during November 1699.
- COMMENT. According to the *London Post*, 24-27 Nov. 1699, William Joye, a strong man showing dexterities of strength, performed before The King at Kensington. Wednesday 15
At Court
- THE ORPHAN. [By Thomas Otway.] *Cast not known.* Tuesday 21
DL
COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and two in the Box at the Orphan. 12s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 378.
- CONCERT. Wednesday 22
SH
COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 3549, 13-16 Nov. 1699: The Anniversary of the Society of Gentlemen, Lovers of Musick, will be kept at Stationers-hall on Wednesday next the 22d Instant, being St. Cecilia's Day.
- ENTERTAINMENTS. By the Kentish Strong Man. Saturday 25
DG
COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 586: This day the strong Kentish man was shewn at the play house in Dorset Garden, where he drew against a horse, and lifted 20 hundred weight: the boxes 10s. apeice, and the pit 5s. [Other accounts are in a newsletter in the Burney Collection (British Museum) and in the *Post Man*, 25-28 Nov. 1699.]
- COMMENT. John Dryden to Mrs Steward, 26 Nov. 1699: If you come up next Week, you will be entertaind with a New Tragedy; which the Author of it, one Mr Dennis, cries up at an Excessive rate, & Colonel Codrington, who has seen it, prepares the world to give it loud Applauses. Tis call'd Iphigenia, & Imitated from Eurypides, an old Greek poet. This is to be Acted at Betterton's House, & another play of the same name, is very shortly to come on the stage in Drury Lane (*The Letters of John Dryden*, p. 129). Sunday 26
LIF
- THE CONSTANT COUPLE; or, A Trip to the Jubilee. [By George Farquhar.] Tuesday 28
DL
Edition of 1700: Prologue, By a Friend. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Wilks. Sir Harry Wildair - Wilks; Standard - Powel; Vizard - Mills; Smugler - Johnson; Clincher Sr - Pinkethman; Clincher Jr - Bullock; Dicky - Norris; Tom Errand - Haines; Lurewell - Mrs Verbruggen; Lady Darling - Mrs Powell; Angelica - Mrs Rogers; Parly - Mrs Moor.

Tuesday 28
DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and two in the Box at Constant Couple. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 378.

There is no certainty that this is the first performance, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 7–9 Dec. 1699, suggests that the first production may have occurred in mid-November. The Prologue also refers to the abandonment of Dorset Garden to "That strong Dog Sampson" (see 15 and 25 Nov. 1699).

A song, "Thus Damon knock'd at Celia's door," set by Daniel Purcell, was published separately about this time. Preface, Edition of 1700: All will join with me in Commendation of the Actors, and allow, without detracting from the Merit of others, that the Theatre Royal affords an excellent and compleat Set of Comedians. Mr Wilks's Performance has set him so far above Competition in the Part of Wildair, that none can pretend to envy the Praise due to his Merit.

Preface to *The Inconstant* (1702): I remember, that about two Years ago, I had a Gentleman from France [*The Constant Couple*] that brought the Play-house some fifty Audiencies in five months.

A Comparison between the Two Stages (1702), p. 32: *Critick*: But above all, commend me to the ingenious Author of the *Trip to the Jubilee*. *Ramble*: Oh Lord, Sir! you won't quarrel with that Play; never any thing did such wonders. *Critick*: Oh 'twas admirable! admirable! I wonder the Town did not just then bespeak the Bays for him. *Sullen*: Nay, for ought you and I know, he may live to enjoy 'em; I assure you all the run of the Town is on his side. The Owl was never more esteem'd at Athens than the *Trip to the Jubilee* was here. *Critick*: Indeed I have known a Footman have a great stroak with his Lord at begging a Favour; if all the Footmen in Town that admire him were to club for his Preferment, I don't know what might be done. *Ramble*: The Footmen? Ay, and the middle Gallery too, I assure you are of his side, and that's a strong Party. *Critick*: Why, I believe it, 'tis about the pitch of their Understanding; but if ever it diverted one Man of tolerable Sense I'll be hang'd. *Sullen*: I don't know who are your People of tolerable Sense, Mr Critick, but at that play I have seen the Pit, Box and Stage so crowded—and if that is not a sign.

Wednesday 29
DG ENTERTAINMENTS.

COMMENT. *London Post*, 24–27 Nov. 1699: [William Joy] being oblig'd to leave Town in order to pursue some other Method, can shew but twice, which will be God-willing on Wednesday and Friday next at the Theatre in Dorset Garden, beginning precisely at 11 a Clock, being resolved to shew no more before he leaves the Town.

December 1699

LIF

IPHIGENIA. [By John Dennis.] Edition of 1700: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Verbruggen as the Genius of England. Epilogue by Coll. Codrington. Orestes – Betterton; Pilades – Williams; Queen – Mrs Barry; Iphigenia – Mrs Bracegirdle; Euphrosine – Mrs Martin.

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but Dryden, on 14 Dec. 1699, indicated that the run of the play had been completed by that day. A copy in the Folger Shakespeare Library has a MS date of 23 Dec. 1699, and the *Post Man*, 21–23 Dec. 1699, has a notice of its publication.

Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 45: *Ipbigenia* a Tragedy, wrote by Mr Dennis, a good Tragedy and well Acted; but answer'd not the Expences they were at in Cloathing it. [In *The Life of Mr John Dennis* (London, 1734) the author states that