

- THE MOURNING BRIDE. [By William Congreve.] See 20 Feb. 1696/7. Tuesday 27  
LIF  
 COMMENT. Betterton's Company. This performance is known from a playbill apparently no longer extant: W. R. At the Desire of several Persons of Quality. At the New Theatre in Little Lincoln's-Inn Fields, this present Tuesday, being the 27th of February, will be presented, a Tragedy call'd The Mourning Bride. [The Moorish] Entry perform'd by [The Little] Boy. Vivant Rex. (W. J. Lawrence, *The Elizabethan Playhouse and Other Studies* (Stratford, 1913). See also R. W. Lowe, *Thomas Betterton* (London, 1891), and Fitzgerald, *A New History*, 1, 389.

## March 1700

- THE REFORM'D WIFE. [By William Burnaby.] Edition of 1700: Sir Solomon Empty – Johnson; Freeman – Wilks; Careless – Toms; Clerimont – Mills; Doctor – Haines; Astrologer – Fairbank; Astra – Mrs Knight; Clarinda – Mrs Rogers; Sylvia – Mrs Temple; Lady Dainty – Mrs Verbruggen; Mrs Friendly – Mrs Powell; Fidelia – Mrs Moor; Cloe – Mrs Stephens; Pert – Mrs Baker. Prologue. Epilogue, Spoken by the Sickly Lady. DL  
 COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the second edition (1700) states: The first appearance of this Play was on a Wednesday in Lent; for then (it seems) the Town look for a bad Entertainment. [As the play was advertised in the *Flying Post*, 2 April 1700, the first performance probably occurred in early March.]  
 A Prologue by Sir Charles Sedley which may have been intended for this play is in Sedley's *Works*, ed. V. de Sola Pinto (London, 1928), 1, 46-47, 288-89.  
 A song in this play, separately printed ca. 1700, indicates that the music was composed by Daniel Purcell and that the song was sung by Mrs Erwin.
- CONCERT. Friday 1  
EC  
 COMMENT. James Bridges, *Diary*: y<sup>e</sup> Exeter Music Meeting (Huntington MS St 26).
- THE WAY OF THE WORLD. [By William Congreve.] Edition of 1700: Fainall – Betterton; Mirabell – Verbruggen; Witwoud – Bowen; Petulant – Bowman; Sir Willfull Witwoud – Underhill; Waitwell – Bright; Lady Wishfort – Mrs Leigh; Millamant – Mrs Bracegirdle; Mrs Marwood – Mrs Barry; Mrs Fainall – Mrs Bowman; Foible – Mrs Willis; Mincing – Mrs Prince. Prologue, Spoken by Mr Betterton. Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Bracegirdle. Tuesday 5  
LIF  
 COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but Lucyle Hook, "James Brydges Drops in at the Theater," *Huntington Library Bulletin*, VIII (1945), 309, speculates that James Brydges' attendance at LIF this day may have been prompted by his seeing this new play, as he stayed longer than he often did at a theatrical performance. The comedy was certainly acted before 12 March 1699/1700.  
 James Brydges, *Diary*: I went to y<sup>e</sup> play in Lincolns inn fields, where I met S<sup>t</sup> G. Copley, who set me down after it was ended (Huntington MS St 26).  
 Downes, *Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 45: *The Way of the World*, a Comedy wrote by Mr Congreve, twas curiously Acted; Madam Bracegirdle performing her Part so exactly and just, gain'd the Applause of Court and City; but being too Keen a Satyr, had not the Success the Company Expected.
- THE WAY OF THE WORLD. See 5 March 1700. Wednesday 6  
LIF  
 COMMENT. Betterton's Company. If this play had its première on 5 March and if the company acted on Wednesday in Lent, this play probably was acted daily (except perhaps Friday) during this week.

- Thursday 7* THE WAY OF THE WORLD. See 5 March 1700.  
LIF
- Friday 8* CONCERT.  
EC COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: at y<sup>e</sup> Musick Meeting (Huntington MS St 26).
- Saturday 9* THE WAY OF THE WORLD. See 5 March 1700.  
LIF COMMENT. Betterton's Company. James Brydges, *Diary*: About 8: S<sup>r</sup> G; [Copley] & I . . . going by y<sup>e</sup> playhouse in Lincolns inn fields, met Mr Edwin (Huntington MS St 26).
- Monday 11* THE WAY OF THE WORLD. See 5 March 1700.  
LIF COMMENT. Betterton's Company. James Brydges, *Diary*: About 6: he [Brydges' brother Henry] set me down at y- Playhouse in Lincolns inn fields, where I met M<sup>r</sup> Coke, M<sup>r</sup> Hammond, & Sir Godfrey Copley: about 8: I came home (Huntington MS St 26).
- Tuesday 12* THE ISLAND PRINCESS. [By Peter Motteux.] See November 1698.  
DL COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Marow to Arthur Kay, 12 March 1699/1700: I have been at a play. 'The Island Princess' which is mighty fine (HMC, 15th Report, Appendix, Dartmouth MSS., Part 1, 1896, p. 145).
- LIF COMMENT. Lady Marow to Arthur Kay, 12 March 1699/1700: 'The Way of the World,' Congreve's new play doth not answer expectation, there being no plot in it but many witty things to ridicule the Chocolate House, and the fantastical part of the world (HMC, 15th Report, Appendix, Dartmouth MSS., Part 1, p. 145). John Dryden to Mrs Steward, 12 March: Congreves New Play has had but moderate success; though it deserves much better (*Letters of John Dryden*, p. 134).
- Wednesday 13* COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: I went with [Mr Coke], M<sup>r</sup> How, S<sup>r</sup> Theoph.  
DL Oglethorpe, S<sup>r</sup> G: Copley &c.: to Lockits, & about 8: went with y<sup>e</sup> last to y<sup>e</sup> Playhouse in Covent Garden; wee did but just look in (Huntington MS St 26).
- Friday 15* CONCERT.  
EC COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: [At] Exeter change Musick meeting (Huntington MS St 26).
- Mid-March* THE BEAU DEFEATED; or, The Lucky Younger Brother. [By Mrs Mary Pix.]  
LIF Edition ca. 1700: Prologue Spoke by Mr Bowman. Epilogue Spoken by a Boy. Sir John Roverhead – Bowman; Elder Clerimont – Trout; Younger Clerimont – Verbruggen; Belvoir – Thurmond; Lady Landsworth – Mrs Bracegirdle; Mrs Rich – Mrs Barry; Mrs Clerimont – Mrs Bowman; Lady la Basset – Mrs Prince; Mrs Fidget – Mrs Willis.  
COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 16–18 April 1700, suggests that the first production came before Easter, March 31. A song, "Delia tired Strephon with her flame," with music by John Eccles and sung by Bowman, is in *Wit and Mirth*, 1706.
- Tuesday 19* CONCERT.  
YB COMMENT. *Post Boy*, 16–19 March 1700: In York Buildings, this present Tuesday, being the 19th of this Instant March, will be perform'd a Consort of Vocal and Instrumental Musick, for the Benefit of Mr Edward Keene, beginning at the usual hour. Prices 2s. 6d. Those Persons that have already any of his Tickets dated the 20th are desired to take Notice that the Performance will be this day, and not as the Tickets are dated.