

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *Post Man*, 16-19 March 1700: For the benefit of Mrs Hudson and Mr Williams, to morrow being Wednesday the 20th instant, in the Great Room in York Buildings, will be performed an extraordinary entertainment of Vocal and Instrumental Musick. At the desire of several Ladies of Quality, with a new Prologue to be performed by Jo. Haines.

Wednesday 20
YB

Monday 25-Saturday 30
PASSION WEEK

April 1700

COMMENT. John Dryden to Mrs Steward, 11 April 1700: Within this Moneth there will be playd for my profit, an old play of Fletchers, calld the Pilgrim, corrected by my good friend Mr Vanbrook; to which I have added A New Masque, & am to write a New Prologue & Epilogue. Southern tragedy, calld the Revolt of Capoua, will be playd At Bettertons House within this fortnight. I am out with that Company, & therefore if I can help it, will not read it before tis Acted; though the Authour much desires I shou'd (*The Letters of John Dryden*, p. 136).

Thursday 11

THE FATE OF CAPUA. [By Thomas Southerne.] Edition of 1700: Prologue Written by Charles Boyle. Epilogue Written by Coll. Codrington and Spoken by Mrs Barry. Pacuvius Calavius - Hodgson; Virginius - Betterton; Marius Blossius - Berry; Vibius Virius - Bayly; Decius Magius - Boman; Perolla - Scudamore; Junius - Verbruggen; Favonia - Mrs Barry.

Mid-April
LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but Dryden's letter (see 11 April 1700) places its expected presentation between 11 and 25 April. The fact that the play was advertised in the *London Gazette*, 29 April 1700, suggests a première early in April.

COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: With Sr G: Copley to ye Play (Huntington MS St 26).

Thursday 18
[DL or LIF]

COMMENT. *Post Man*, 20-23 April 1700: On Saturday last two Gentlemen [according to the *Post Boy*, 23-25 April 1700, they were Captain Francis and Mr Squibb, of the Exchequer] quarrelled at the Play-house, and one of them was mortally wounded.

Saturday 20
[DL or LIF]

THE PILGRIM. [Altered from John Fletcher by John Vanbrugh, with The Secular Masque by John Dryden.] Edition of 1700: Prologue Written by Mr Dryden. Epilogue by Mr Dryden. [Colley Cibber spoke both Prologue and Epilogue.] Alphonso - Johnson; Pedro - Wilks; Roderigo - Powell; Governor - Simson; Scholar - Thomas; Parson - Haynes; Englishman - Cibber; Welshman - Norris; Taylor - Pinkethman; Alinda - Mrs Oldfield; Julietta - Mrs Moor.

Monday 29
DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first production is not certain, but tradition states that Dryden died on the third day (1 May 1700); if this report is correct, the first performance occurred on 29 April 1700. In *A Collection of New Songs . . . Compos'd by Mr Daniel Purcell, Perform'd in the Revis'd Comedy call'd the Pilgrim (1700)* is a song, "Chronos, Chronos, mend thy pace," with Janus sung by Freeman, Momus by Pate, Diana by Mrs Erwin. Gottfried Finger apparently composed the passage sung by Venus, "Calms appear when storms are past."

Monday 29
DL

William Egerton, *Faithful Memoirs of . . . Mrs Anne Oldfield* (1731): *The Pilgrim* was indeed reviv'd for the Benefit of Mr Dryden, Ann. 1700, but he dying on the third Night of its Representation, his Son attended the Run of it, and the Advantages accrued to his Family.

Cibber, *Apology*, 1, 269-70: This Epilogue, and the Prologue to the same Play [*The Pilgrim*], written by Dryden, I spoke myself, which not being usually done by the same Person, I have a mind, while I think of it, to let you know on what Occasion they both fell to my Share. . . . Sir John Vanbrugh, who had given some light touches of his Pen to the *Pilgrim* to assist the Benefit Day of Dryden, had the Disposal of the Parts, and I being then as an Actor in some Favour with him, he read the Play first with me alone, and was pleased to offer me my Choice of what I might like best for myself in it. But as the chief Characters were not (according to my Taste) the most shining, it was no great Self-denial in me that I desir'd he would first take care of those who were more difficult to be pleased; I therefore only chose for myself two short incidental Parts, that of the stuttering Cook and the mad Englishman. . . . Sir John, upon my being contented with so little a Share in the Entertainment, gave me the Epilogue to make up my Mess; which being written so much above the Strain of common Authors, I confess I was not a little pleased with. And Dryden, upon his hearing me repeat it to him, made a farther Compliment of trusting me with the Prologue.

Cibber, *Apology*, 1, 305-6: In the Year 1699, Mrs Oldfield was first taken into the House, where she remain'd about a Twelve-month almost a Mute and unheeded, 'till Sir John Vanbrugh, who first recommended her, gave her the Part of Alinda in the *Pilgrim* revis'd. This gentle Character happily became that want of Confidence which is inseparable from young Beginners, who, without it, seldom arrive to any Excellence: Notwithstanding, I own I was then so far deceiv'd in my Opinion of her, that I thought she had little more than her Person that appear'd necessary to the forming a good Actress; for she set out with so extraordinary a Diffidence, that it kept her too despondingly down to a formal, plain (not to say) flat manner of speaking. Nor could the silver Tone of her Voice 'till after some time incline my Ear to any Hope in her favour.

A Comparison Between the Two Stages (1702), p. 27: [After Drury Lane and Lincoln's Inn Fields had revived Shakespeare and Jonson] Nay then, says the whole party at D. Lane, faith we'll e'en put the *Pilgrim* upon him—ay faith, so we will, says Dryden, and if you'll let my Son have the Profits of the Third Night, I'll give you a Secular Mask: Done, says the House, and so the Bargain was struck.

Tuesday 30
DL

THE PILGRIM. See 29 April 1700.

May 1700

Wednesday 1
DL

THE PILGRIM. See 29 April 1700.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. If the tradition (see 29 April 1700) is correct, this, the day of Dryden's death, was the third performance of this revived play.

Thursday 2
DL

VOLPONE; or, The Fox. [By Ben Jonson.] *Cast not known.*

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and three in the Box at the ffox. 16s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 378.

Wednesday 8
YB

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *Post Man*, No. 747, 4-7 May 1700: At the desire of several Ladies of Quality, To-morrow being Wednesday, (in the great Room in York Buildings)