

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)

- will be performed a new Mask set to Musick, with an extraordinary entertainment of other Vocal and Instrumental Musick for the Benefit of Mr Gouge [Mr George in *Flying Post*] and Miss Bradshaw. Prices 2s. 6d. *Wednesday 8*
YB
- COMMENT. Both playhouses were closed for the burial services of John Dryden. *Monday 13*
See *The Patentee; or Some Reflections in Verse* (1700), titlepage. DL, LIF
- COMMENT. *Post Boy*, 14-16 May 1700: Great Preparations have been making, for some Months past, for a New Opera to be acted next Term at the Theatre Royal, which, for Grandeur, Decorations, Movements of Scenes &c. will be infinitely superior to *Dioclesian*, which hitherto has been the greatest that the English Stage has produced, that probably 'twill equal the greatest Performance of that Kind, in any of the foreign Theatres. The Musick is compos'd by the Ingenious Mr Finger, and the Paintings made by Mr Robinson. *Thursday 16*
DL
- COMMENT. *Flying Post*, 18-21 May 1700: The Grand Jury of London, made a presentation last Sessions against frequenting the Play-houses, as a publick Nuisance and a dangerous and growing Evil, corrupting the Morals and Principles of the Youth, and desir'd that Play-house Bills might not be henceforth posted up in the City. [See also Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, IV, 647.] *Tuesday 21*
DL, LIF
- THE TEMPEST; or, The Enchanted Island. [Altered from William Shakespeare by Thomas Shadwell.] *Cast not known.* *Thursday 30*
DL
COMMENT. Rich's Company. *Post Boy*, 28-30 May 1700: This Day at the King's Play-house, will be Acted the Tempest, or the Enchanted Island, with some Additional Entertainments, at the Request of several Seafaring Men.

June 1700

- THE PROPHETESS. [By Thomas Betterton.] *Cast not known.* *Saturday 1*
DL
COMMENT. Rich's Company. *Post Boy*, 30 May-1 June 1700: The Opera of the Prophetess, being this day Commanded to be Acted, for the Entertainment of the two Alcaids, the Envoys from the Emperor of Morocco. [When this play was revived at LIF on 3 Dec. 1715, by Rich's Company, the bill was headed: Not Acted these Sixteen Years.]
- THE HISTORY OF HENGIST, THE SAXON KING OF KENT. *Author not known. Cast not known.* *Monday 3*
DL
COMMENT. Rich's Company. This play was apparently never published, and the performance is known only by an advance announcement: *Post Boy*, 30 May-1 June 1700: The History of Hengist, the Saxon King of Kent, which before was designed to be Acted this day [1 June 1700], for the benefit of Mr Johnson, is therefore deferr'd till Monday.
London Post, 7-10 June 1700: This Week the Morocco Ambassador diverted himself thrice at the Play-house.
- COMMENT. *Flying Post*, 13-15 June 1700: We are credibly informed, That Yesterday a Trial was brought on in the Court of Common-Pleas, against one of the players, for Prophanely using the name of God upon the Stage, contrary to an Act of Parliament made in King James the First's time; and that the Verdict was given against the Player; according to the Tenor of the said Act, &c. *Friday 14*
DL, LIF