

play in the work); William Wintershall; Joseph Haines, William Cartwright, and [George (?)] Shirley. John Littlewood (along with Joseph Haines) is referred to in a poem on the play—see 14 Dec. 1671—as though he performed in it.

Thursday 7
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. There is uncertainty as to the date of the first performance, but in *A Bibliography of John Dryden*, p. 193, Macdonald cites as evidence for this date, Wood's *Atb. Ox.*, IV, 209. The play was certainly first acted not later than this month, because John Evelyn saw it on 14 Dec. 1671. For further details, see 14 Dec. 1671.

THE REHEARSAL. See 7 Dec. 1671.

Thursday 14
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Evelyn, *Diary*: Whence to see the Duke of Buckingham's ridiculous farce & Rhapsody called the *Recital*, bouffoning all Plays yet prophane enough.

In a collection of broadsides (Bodleian Wood 417) *A Ballad* (on Buckingham and his son) has some lines which apparently refer to a performance:

*I confess the Dances were very well Writ,
And the Tune and the Time by Haynes as well Hit,
And Littlewood's Motion and Dress had much Wit:
But when his Poet John Bayes did appear,
'Tis known to more than half that were there,
The greatest part was his own Character.*

THE VILLAIN. [By Thomas Porter.] *Cast not known*. For an early cast, see 18 Oct. 1662.

Wednesday 27
DG

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. lists at Harvard: The Villain. See Van Lennep, "Plays on the English Stage," pp. 18-19.

January 1672

COMMENT. Early in 1672 a group of French players may have acted in London, but the evidence is not precise or detailed. See W. J. Lawrence, "Early French Players in England," p. 142.

At Court

COMMENT. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 8) gives a cast for *Julius Caesar* [by William Shakespeare] which includes Richard Bell, who died in the Drury Lane fire at the end of this month. It is not known when a performance of this play occurred, but a *Prologue to Julius Caesar* is in *Covent Garden Drollery*, 1672. Downes lists: Julius Caesar – Bell; Cassius – Major Mohun; Brutus – Hart; Anthony – Kynaston; Calphurnia – Mrs Marshal. [Downes adds Portia by Mrs Corbet, but this probably refers to a later performance.]

Bridges

THE MISER. [By Thomas Shadwell.] Edition of 1672: Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue.

Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the premiere probably occurred during this month. The Preface states: This Play, as it was wrote in less than a moneth, and was the last Play that was Acted at the King's Theatre in Covent-Garden, before the fatal Fire there. [The Preface may mean that this was the last *new* play acted before the fire.] Two songs for this play, with music by Robert Smith, are in *Choice Songs and Ayres*, The First Book, 1673.

COMMENT. Anthony Devolto, an operator of puppet shows, was forced to petition the King against paying a fee for running a theatre, and the King granted his petition. See CSPD, 1672, 9 Jan. 1672; in Speaight, *The History of the English Puppet Theatre*, p. 76.

Tuesday 9