

March 1676

IBRAHIM THE ILLUSTRIOUS BASSA. [By Elkanah Settle.] Edition of 1677: DG
Prologue. Solyman – Batterton; Ibrahim – Smith; Ulama – Harris; Morat – Medbourn; Muphti – Gillo; Roxolana – Mrs Mary Lee; Asteria – Mrs Corar; Isabella – Mrs Batterton; Mirva – Mrs Hughes. Epilogue.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. The date of the premiere is not known, but the date of licensing, 4 May 1676, suggests a production not later than March or April 1676. The Dedication indicates that the play was also acted privately at the residence of the Duchess of Albemarle, New-Hall.

THE MAN OF MODE; or, Sir Fopling Flutter. [By Sir George Etherege.] *Saturday 11*
Edition of 1676: Prologue by Sir Car Scroope Baronet. No actors' names. The DG
Epilogue by Mr Dryden. Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 36): Dorimant – Betterton; Medly – Harris; Sir Fopling – Smith; Old Bellair – Leigh; Young Bellair – Jevon; Mrs Loveit – Mrs Barry [possibly she did not play this role at the premiere but succeeded another actress, such as Mrs Mary Lee]; Bellinda – Mrs Betterton; Lady Woodvill – Mrs Leigh; Emilia – Mrs Twiford.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/142, p. 81: At the Man of Mode. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 348. Nell Gwyn also attended this performance. See Van Lennep, "Nell Gwyn's Playgoing," p. 407. It is uncertain whether this is the premiere, but the licensing date of 3 June 1676 suggests that the first production may have occurred at this time.

Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 36): This Comedy being well Cloath'd and well Acted, got a great deal of Money.

One song, "As Amoret with Phyllis sat," the words by Sir Car Scroope and the music by Nicholas Staggins, is in *Choice Ayres and Songs*, The Second Book, 1679; another, "When first Amintas charmed my heart," the music by Staggins, is in the same collection, Fifth Book, 1684.

John Dennis: I remember very well that upon the first acting this Comedy, it was generally believed to be an agreeable Representation of the Persons of Condition of both Sexes, both in Court and Town; and that all the World was charm'd with Dorimont (*A Defence of Sir Fopling Flutter*, 1722, p. 18). For the full text of Dennis' discussion of this play, see *The Critical Works of John Dennis*, ed. E. N. Hooker (Baltimore, 1943), II, 241-50.

Monday 20-Saturday 25

PASSION WEEK

April 1676

THE MAN OF MODE. See 11 March 1675/6.

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/142, p. 81: At the Man of Mode and Box for the Mayds of Honor. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 348.

Tuesday 18
DG

COMMENT. See a note from the Marquis Cattaneo to the Duke of Modena (in Campana de Cavelli, *Les derniers Stuarts* [Paris and London, 1871], I, 171), in which he states that the entire court went three or four times to see *The Man of Mode*.

Sunday 30
DG