

April 1663

Monday 13-Saturday 18

PASSION WEEK

Wednesday 22 WIT WITHOUT MONEY. [By Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher.] Cast not
Vere known.

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's Playhouse, where we saw but part of "Witt without mony," which I do not like much, but coming late put me out of tune, and it costing me four half-crowns for myself and company.

May 1663

COMMENT. It is possible that Katherine Phillips' *Pompey*, which was given in Dublin in February 1662/3, may have been presented in London in the late spring of 1663. Sir William Davenant's *The Playhouse To Be Let*, which apparently appeared in London in the late summer of 1663, has in Act v some elements of travesty upon *Pompey*. It is unlikely that its appearance in Dublin would make satire upon it have much point to London audiences without a performance in London; the spring of 1663 would be the most likely time for a presentation in London.

Thursday 7 THE HUMOROUS LIEUTENANT. [By John Fletcher.] Downes (*Roscious
Bridges Anglicanus*, p. 3): King – Winterset; Demetrius – Hart; Seleucus – Burt; Leontius – Mohun; Lieutenant – Clun; Celia – Mrs [Anne] Marshal.

COMMENT. The King's Company. This marks the opening of the new Theatre Royal in Bridges Street, Drury Lane, to which Killigrew moved his company from Vere Street. Downes erroneously gives the opening date as 8 April, a fact which led to the creation of the famous spurious playbill for Bridges Street, Thursday, 8 April 1663. See Montague Summers, *The Restoration Theater* (London, 1934), p. 15. Pepys, *Diary*: This day the new Theatre Royal begins to act with scenes the Humorous Lieutenant, but I have not time to see it, nor could stay to see my Lady Jemimah lately come to town, and who was here in the house. Downes (p. 3): Note, this Comedy was Acted Twelve Days Successively.

Friday 8 THE HUMOROUS LIEUTENANT. As 7 May, but Lieutenant – Lacy.
Bridges

COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: And there took up my wife and Ashwell to the Theatre Royall, being the second day of its being opened. The house is made with extraordinary good contrivance, and yet hath some faults, as the narrowness of the passages in and out of the pitt, and the distance from the stage to the boxes, which I am confident cannot hear; but for all other things it is well, only, above all, the musique being below, and most of it sounding under the very stage, there is no hearing of the bases at all, nor very well of the trebles, which sure must be mended. The play was "The Humorous Lieutenant," a play that hath little good in it, nor much in the very part which, by the King's command, Lacy now acts instead of Clun. In the dance, the tall devil's actions was very pretty. . . . I am resolved to deny myself the liberty of two plays at Court, which are in arreare to me for the months of March and April, which will more than countervail this excess, so that this month of May is the first that I must claim a liberty of going to a Court play according to my oath.