

days and Fridays this Lent; and the play they did yesterday, being Wednesday, was so well-taken, that they thought fit to venture it publickly to-day; a play of my Lord Falkland's called "The Wedding Night," a kind of tragedy, and some things very good in it, but the whole together, I thought, not so. I confess I was well enough pleased with my seeing it: and the people did do better, without the great actors, than I did expect, but yet far short of what they do when they are there, which I was glad to find the difference of.

Thursday 21
LIF

SECRET LOVE; or, The Maiden Queen. As 2 March.

Monday 25
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: To the King's playhouse; and by and by comes Mr Lowther and his wife and mine, and into a box, forsooth, neither of them being dressed, which I was almost ashamed of. Sir W. Pen and I in the pit, and there saw "The Mayden Queene" again; which indeed the more I see the more I like, and is an excellent play, and so done by Nell, her merry part, as cannot be better done in nature, I think.

THE HUMOUROUS LOVERS. [By William Cavendish, Duke of Newcastle.] *Cast not known*. Edition of 1677: No actors' names, no prologue, no epilogue. A Prologue is in British Museum Harleian MS. 7367.

Thursday 28
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. This performance is on the L. C. list, 5/139, p. 125. See also Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 346. The play, licensed on 27 Nov. 1667, was not printed until 1677. There is no certainty that this is the premiere, but it may well have been, as Pepys saw it on 30 March and on 11 April suggested that it had recently had its first showing: [The Duchess of Newcastle] was the other day at her own play, "The Humorous Lovers"; the most ridiculous thing that ever was wrote, but yet she and her Lord mightily pleased with it; and she, at the end, made her respects to the players from her box, and did give them thanks.

THE HUMOUROUS LOVERS. See 28 March.

Saturday 30
LIF

COMMENT. The Duke's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: With my wife's knowledge and leave did by coach go see the silly play of my Lady Newcastle's, called "The Humorous Lovers"; the most silly thing that ever come upon a stage. I was sick to see it, but yet would not but have seen it, that I might the better understand her. Here I spied Knipp and Betty [Hall], of the King's house, and sent Knipp oranges.

April 1667

Monday 1-Saturday 6
PASSION WEEK

COMMENT. In April or May 1667, probably, John Dryden's *The Wild Gallant* may have been revived, perhaps because of the success of *Secret Love*. The 1667 edition of *The Wild Gallant*, which was entered in the *Stationers' Register*, 7 Aug. 1667, contains: A Prologue to *The Wild Gallant* revived. An Epilogue to *The Wild Gallant* revived.

Bridges

THE SURPRISAL. [By Sir Robert Howard.] Probably Nell Gwin acted Samira. (See Pepys, 26 Dec. 1667.)

Monday 8
Bridges

COMMENT. The King's Company. Pepys, *Diary*: We three [Mrs Pepys, Mercer, and Pepys] to the King's house, and saw the latter end of the "Surprisall," wherein was no great matter, I thought, by what I saw there.