

December 1698

LOVE AND A BOTTLE. [By George Farquhar.] Edition of 1699: Prologue, By J. H. [Joseph Haines], Spoken by Mr Powell; a Servant attending with a Bottle of Wine. Epilogue, Written and Spoke by Jo. Haynes in Mourning. Roebuck – Williams; Lovewell – Mills; Mockmode – Bullock; Lyrick – Johnson; Pamphlet – Haynes; Rigadoon – Haynes; Nimblewrist – Ashton; Club – Pinkethman; Brush – Fairbank; Lucinda – Mrs Rogers; Leanthe – Mrs Maria Alison; Trudge – Mrs Mills; Bulfinch – Mrs Powel; Pindress – Mrs Moor.

DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but it cannot be later than December 1698, for the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 27–29 Dec. 1698. The play may have been produced earlier in the season, but it apparently followed the two operatic works (*The Island Princess* and *Rinaldo and Armida*), as the Epilogue alludes to the "late Singers." It also refers to Sigismondo Fideli, as being lately arrived, and he is known to have given a concert on 22 Dec. 1698.

COMMENT. James Brydges, *Diary*: About 5 my Coz: Roberts & I went to y^e Playhouse in Covent Garden, but not liking y^e play, wee went to that in Lincolns inn fields, & staid till 'twas done. I saw L^d Normanby, L^d Willouby, Sir Rich: Samford &c. here (Huntington MS St 26).

Tuesday 13
DL, LIF

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No 3454, 15–19 Dec. 1698: On Thursday next will be performed in York-buildings, a new Entertainment of Vocal Musick, by Seigneur Fidelio, beginning exactly at 7 a night.

Thursday 22
YB

January 1699

CONCERT.

COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No 3457, 26–29 Dec. 1698: On Wednesday next, will be performed at York Buildings Mr Daniel Purcell's Musick made for last St Cecilia's Feast, for the Benefit of Mr Howel and Mr Shore, with an Addition of new Vocal and Instrumental Musick. [*London Gazette*, 29 Dec. 1698–2 Jan. 1698/9, adds: beginning at 7 at night.] See also 22 Nov. 1698.

Wednesday 4
YB

COMMENT. Elizabeth Barry to the Right Hon. Lady Lisburne, 5 Jan. 1698/9: As for the little affairs of our house I never knew a worse Winter only we have had pretty good success in the Opera of Rinaldo and Armida where the poet made me command the Sea the earth and Air but had I really that Authority I cou'd with joy forsake it all to wait on your Ladyship. . . . Eliz: Barry. Lon: jan: y^e 5th this moment Alexander is bespoke to entertain y^e Bride I mentioned [the daughter of Lord Litchfield married to Lord Baltimore's son] & all their guest to-morrow (See M. A. Shaaber, "A Letter from Mrs Barry," *The Library Chronicle*, The University of Pennsylvania, XVI [1950], 46).

Thursday 5
LIF

THE RIVAL QUEENS; or, The Death of Alexander the Great. [By Nathaniel Lee.] Presumably Mrs Barry acted Roxana.

Friday 6
LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. See letter of 5 Jan. 1698/9.