

## November 1696

THE ROMAN BRIDE'S REVENGE. [By Charles Gildon.] Edition of 1697: DL  
Prologue. No actors' names. Epilogue, Spoke by Misse Allison.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 22-24 Dec. 1696, suggests that it was probably first given not later than November 1696. A song, "If Celia you had youth and all," the music possibly composed by Leveridge, was published in *A New Book of Songs by Mr Leveridge* (advertised in the *London Gazette*, No. 3293, 3 June 1697).

Gildon, *English Dramatick Poets*, p. 176: This Play was our Author's first; and as it was writ in a Month, . . . so it had the Fate of those untimely Births, as hasty a Death. . . . If the Voice of the Town had not been influenc'd by the Ill Representation, it must have met with a less rigorous Censure. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702): Damn'd.

OROONOKO. [By Thomas Southerne.] See November 1695.

Friday 6  
DL

COMMENT. Rich's Company. This performance was attended by Lady Morley. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377.

THE ANATOMIST; or, The Sham Doctor. [By Edward Ravenscroft.] Edition of 1697: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Betterton, Written by Mr Motteux. Old Mr Gerald – Bright; Young Mr Gerald – Hodson; The Doctor – Underhill; Wife to the Doctor – Mrs Leigh; Mrs Angelica – Mrs Bowman; Beatrice – Mrs Lawson; Martin – T. Harris; Crispus – Bowen; Simon – Trout; Waiting Woman – Mrs Robinson. Prologue to Her Royal Highness by Mr Motteux. Epilogue by Mr Motteux. Also THE LOVES OF MARS AND VENUS. [By Peter Motteux.] Prologue or Induction, Set to Musick by Mr Finger: Erato – Mrs Hodgson; Thalia – Mrs Perrin; Terpsichore – Mrs Ayliff. Mars – Bowman; Vulcan – Reading; Gallus – Lee; Cupid – Jemmy Laroche; Momus – Sherburn; Venus – Mrs Bracegirdle; Aglaia – Mrs Hodgson; Euphrosyne – Mrs Ayliff; Hora – Mrs Perrin; Jealousy – Mrs Hudson. Epilogue, Spoken by Mr Bowen.

Saturday 14  
LIF

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not certain, but the evidence points toward this day. On Thursday 19 Nov. 1696, Robert Jennens reported that the two pieces had been acted four or five days together. If that day saw the fifth performance, the première probably occurred on 14 Nov. 1696.

The *Single Songs and Dialogues in Mars and Venus*, set by John Eccles (Acts I and II) and Godfrey Finger (Act III), was published separately in 1697. The pieces for whom a performer is indicated are as follows: Prologue. The first Song Sung by Mrs Hudson, set by Finger: "Come all, with moving songs" [it is reproduced opposite page 300 in Wiley, *Rare Prologues and Epilogues*]. "Love alone can here alarm me," sung by Mrs Ayloffe. "Scorn tho' Beauty frowns to tremble," sung by Mrs Hudson. "To double the sports," sung by Mrs Ayloffe. "To treble the pleasures with regular measures," sung by Mrs Ayloffe. "To meet her, May, the Queen of Love comes here," set by John Eccles and sung by Mrs Hudson. "See Vulcan, Jealousie, Jealousie appears," set by Finger and sung by Mrs Hudson. "Yield, no, no," sung by Mrs Bracegirdle and Bowman.

Gildon, *English Dramatick Poets*, p. 115: This Play met with extraordinary Success having the Advantage of the excellent Musick of *The Loves of Mars and Venus* perform'd with it. Downes, *Roscus Anglicanus*, pp. 44-45: *The Anatomist, or Sham Doctor*, had prosperous Success, and remains a living Play to this Day; 'twas done by Mr Ravenscroft. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: I remember the success of that was owing to the Musick.