

Thursday 29
City

COMMENT. The Lord Mayor's Show. Pepys, *Diary*: Creed and I went away, and took coach and through Cheapside, and there saw the pageants, which were very silly.

November 1663

Monday 2
IT

THE BROTHERS. [By James Shirley.] *Cast not known.*

COMMENT. By the King's Company. The fee paid the players was the customary £20. See *A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, ed. Inderwick, III, 16: To Drake, the upholsterer, for a serge Curtain and for hire of a screen on All Hallows day, £1.

Tuesday 3
Bridges

FLORA'S VAGARIES. [By Richard Rhodes.] *Cast not known.*

COMMENT. *Flora's Figarys* appears in Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 148, under this date. As *Flora's Vagaries*, it had been acted at Christ Church, Oxford, on 8 Jan. 1663. The play was not published before 1670, and the entry in Herbert's list has sometimes been regarded as the date of licensing, sometimes as the date of a performance in London. Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 427, assigned it to ca. January 1662/3 at Vere St, presumably because "Mr Bird" in the cast in the quarto of 1670 referred to Theophilus Bird, who died before 3 Nov. 1663. But the cast in the edition of 1670 is presumably that for 5 Oct. 1667, when Pepys saw the play and referred to Nell Gwyn and Mrs Knepp as acting in it; they, too, are listed in the quarto of 1670 but could hardly have played in it in 1663. If the cast in the 1670 edition is not that for 3 Nov. 1663 and if the "Mr Bird" is Theophilus Bird Jr, then the obstacles to considering 3 Nov. 1663 as the date of a performance rather than of licensing are less formidable. [I am indebted to Professor John Harold Wilson for much of this argument.]

Mid-November
Bridges

THE EXPOSURE. *Author not known. Cast not known.*

COMMENT. In Herbert, *Dramatic Records*, p. 138, the entry following that for *Flora's Figarys* is: A Pastorall called the Exposure. This unknown play was possibly presented in November 1663.

December 1663

Thursday 10
At Court

[THE STEP MOTHER. By Sir Robert Stapylton.] See mid-October 1663.

COMMENT. Charles II to Madame, 10 Dec. 1663: I am iust now going to see a new play (C. H. Hartmann, *Charles II and Madame* [1934], p. 89). The Duke's Company. W. J. Lawrence, in a review of Boswell, *The Restoration Court Stage*, in *Modern Language Review*, XXVIII (1933), 103, suggests that it was *The Step-Mother* which was given on this occasion. The edition of 1664 lists: The Prologue to the King at the Cockpit at White-Hall. The Epilogue to the King.

LIF

COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: Calling at Wotton's . . . he tells me . . . that Harris is come to the Duke's house again; and of a rare play to be acted this week of Sir William Davenant's; the story of Henry the Eighth with all his wives.

Tuesday 22
LIF

HENRY VIII. [Adapted by Sir William Davenant (?) from William Shakespeare.] Downes (*Roscius Anglicanus*, p. 24): King – Betterton; Wolsey – Harris; Duke of Buckingham – Smith; Norfolk – Nokes; Suffolk – Lilliston; Cardinal Campeius and Cranmur – Medburn; Bishop Gardiner – Underhill; Earl of Surry – Young; Lord Sands – Price; Queen Catherine – Mrs Betterton.