

Dedication, Edition of 1693: The unexpected Success of this Play.

Late April
DL

A Comparison between the Two Stages (p. 16): *Ramble*: The next? *Sullen*: *A very good Wife*. *Ramble*: That's almost a Solacism: whose is't? *Sullen*: Oh an excellent Author's! one George Powell's, the Player. *Ramble*: What was it's Fate? *Sullen*: Damn'd, damn'd, as it deserv'd.

CONCERT. A song, "Celebrate this Festival," the text by Nahum Tate, the music by Henry Purcell, is in *Comes Amoris*, 1693.

Sunday 30
At Court

COMMENT. This celebration of the Queen's Birthday presumably was given on 30 April, her birthday. The music in the Royal Society of Music gives the singers as Mrs Ayliff, The Boy, Turner, Snow, Edwards, Howell, Bowman, Damascene, Bouchier, Williams, Woodeson, Roberts. See Purcell's *Works*, Purcell Society, XXIV (1926), ii.

May 1693

THE PROPHETESS. [By Thomas Betterton.] *Cast not known*.

DG

COMMENT. The United Company. This play was probably revived in May or June 1693. Two songs for it—one sung by Mrs Ayliff, the composer not named; another, the music by Ackroyde, but no singer named—are in *Gentleman's Journal*, June 1693 (advertised in *London Gazette*, 13 July 1693). These songs presumably were a part of a revived version not long preceding their publication.

THE FEMALE VERTUOSOS. [By Thomas Wright.] Edition of 1693: Prologue, Written by Mr Doggett, and spoken by him. Sir Maurice Meanwell – Underhill; Meanwell – Hodgson; Sir Timothy Witless – Bright; Wittless – Doggett; Sir Maggot Jingle – Bowman; Clerimont – Powell; Trap – Bowen; Bully – Hains; Lady Meanwell – Mrs Leigh; Lovewitt – Mrs Knight; Mariana – Mrs Bracegirdle; Catchat – Mrs Mountfort; Lucy – Mrs Rogers. The Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Catchat.

DG

COMMENT. The United Company. The date of the première is not certain, but reference to it in the *Gentleman's Journal*, May 1693 (issued in June 1693), suggests that it appeared in May: We have had since my last a new Comedy called, *The Female Vertuosos*, something in it was borrowed from Moliere's *Femmes Savantes*, and as it hath Wit and Humour, it cannot but please in the perusal, as in the representation (p. 168). One song, "Love thou art best of human joys," to words by Anne, Countess of Winchelsea, was set by Henry Purcell.

CONCERT.

At Court

COMMENT. Luttrell, *A Brief Relation*, III, 88, 2 May 1693: The queen went lately on board of Mr Shores pleasure boat against Whitehall, and heard a consort of musick, vocall and instrumental; it was built for entertainment, having 24 sash windows, and 4 banquetting houses on top.

COMMENT. Dryden to Walsh, 9 May 1693: The play I am now writing is a feignd story: & a Tragicomedy of the nature of the Spanish Fryar: And I am sure the tale of it is likely to be diverting enough. I have plotted it all; & written two Acts of it. This morning I had their chief Comedian whom they call Solon [Dogget], with me; to consult with him concerning his own Character: & truly I thinke he has the best Understanding of any man in the Playhouse (*Letters of John Dryden*, p. 54).

Tuesday 9

Wednesday 10

A FAST DAY