

- LIF COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the Dedication of the play is dated 15 Jan. 1696/7 suggests that it was probably first acted not later than December 1696. The play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 21-23 Jan. 1696/7. The music was set by John Eccles. Dedication, Edition of 1697: I make you a Present of a Play, that miscarri'd on the first Nights Performance; tho' afterwards, without any farther Discouragement, it kept it self alive till the third day was over, and then I must confess the *City Lady* expir'd. . . . This I am confident on, that the like Unfortunate Accidents which attended this Comedy, wou'd have been sufficient to have Dam'd a much better Play. The tedious waiting to have the Curtain drawn, after the Prologue was spoke, occasion'd by Mr Underhill's violent Bleeding, put the Audience out of Humour, and made it susceptible of the least Disgust; and when once the Torrent of its Displeasure break bounds, nothing cou'd put a stop to his Vehemence. After Mr Underhill was no longer able to come upon the Stage, scarce any thing was done but by Halves, and in much Confusion; in the midst of which, I think my self oblig'd to applaud the Justice I receiv'd from the Incomparable Mrs Barry. I very well know that the Ode in the third Act seems to be introduc'd something unseasonably. It was made and set long since, in hopes of having it perform'd before the King, at his return from Flanders; and the Music being so finely compos'd by Mr John Eccles, I was loath it shou'd be wholly lost to the Town. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 20: Damn'd.
- Tuesday 29 DL LOVE'S LAST SHIFT. [By Colley Cibber.] For a recent cast, see January 1695/6. COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance. Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 377: Lady Morley and flower in the Box at Loves last Shift £1.

January 1697

- DL WOMAN'S WIT; or, The Lady in Fashion. [By Colley Cibber.] Edition of 1697: Prologue. Epilogue, Spoken by Miss Cross. Lord Lovemore - Harland; Longville - Cibber; Major Rakish - Penkethman; Jack Rakish - Powel; Mas. Johnny - Dogget; Father Benedic - Smeaton; Lady Manlove - Mrs Powel; Leonora - Mrs Knight; Emilia - Mrs Rogers; Olivia - Mrs Cibber; Lettice - Mrs Kent. COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known. A contract between Cibber and Rich was signed on 29 Oct. 1696 (L. C. 3/73, in Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, pp. 381-82), with an agreement that it was not to be printed until a month after it was acted. Since the play was advertised in the *Post Man*, 20-23 March 1696/7, it may have been acted as early as January 1697, certainly not later than February 1697. Possibly Leveridge set the music for a song, "Tell me, Belinda, prithee do," which is in *A New Book of Songs by Mr Leveridge*, advertised in the *London Gazette*, No. 3293, 3 June 1697. *A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 18: *Lady in Fashion*, by a Player, Damn'd. Preface, Edition of 1697: Not to miss the Advantage of Mr Doggett's Excellent Action; I prepar'd a low Character.
- LIF THE UNNATURAL BROTHER. [By Edward Filmer.] Edition of 1697: Prologue. Epilogue. No actors' names. COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 21-23 Jan. 1696/7, suggests that it was first acted not later than early January 1697. The Preface to the edition of 1697 implies that it met with a cold reception and had no more than three performances.