

- Tuesday 8* COMMENT. *Protestant Mercury*, 7–9 Sept. 1696: Last night dyed Mr Noaks, the famous Comedian, some miles out of Town, and 'tis said, has left a considerable Estate, tho' he has not frequented the Play-house constantly for some years.

October 1696

- DG BRUTUS OF ALBA; or, Augusta's Triumph. [By George Powell.] Edition of 1697: No Prologue, no Epilogue, no actors' names. For the singers, see below.
COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of this production is not certain. The Dedication, signed by George Powell and John Verbruggen, is dated Monday, 16. Oct. 1696, but this date is in error, for the sixteenth fell on Friday in October; however, 16 Nov. 1696 fell on Monday. In addition, the Dedication implies that the two men hope to have visitors (i.e., spectators at performances) on "Wednesday, and Saturday next, the Visiting Days of, Your Friends and Servants, George Powell, John Verbruggen." It is possible that the text and the songs were printed in advance of performance and were available at the theatre, but it is still uncertain whether the opera first appeared in October or November 1696.
The Single Songs, With the Dialogue, was published separately in 1696, with Daniel Purcell named as the composer. The songs to which performers' names are listed are as follows: "Cease, Cynthia, cease your fruitless tears," sung by Mrs Cross. "I courted and writ," the verse by Jo Hanes and sung by Church. "How happy I am the fair sex can defy," the verse by Jo Hanes and sung by Leveridge. "'Tis in vain to tell me I am deceived," sung by Freeman. "Great queen of Hymen's hallowed fires," sung by Mrs Willis. "Why, Chloe, will you not perceive," the verse by John Robens and sung by Church. "Why dost thou fly me," sung by Edwards and Mrs Cross. "If mortals laugh and sing," sung by Freeman. The *Songs* were entered in the *Term Catalogues*, November 1696.
- LIF RULE A WIFE AND HAVE A WIFE. [By John Fletcher.] Edition of 1697: Prologue. Duke of Modena – Scidmore [Scudamore]; Don Juan de Castro – Thurmond; Michael Perez – Kynaston; Cacafofo – Underhill; Sanchio – Freeman; Alonso – Husbands; Donna Margarita – Mrs Barry; Estifania – Mrs Boutell; Clara – Mrs Prince; First Lady – Mrs Lee; Second Lady – Mrs Perune [Perrin]; Altea – Mrs Lawson. Epilogue.
COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of this revival is not certain, but Luttrell's copy (Huntington Library) bears his date of 27 Oct. 1696 for his acquisition of a copy; hence, the revival must have occurred not later than October 1696. When this play was revived at the Queen's Theatre in the Haymarket, 8 June 1705, the bill bore the heading: Not Acted by that Company these Nine Years.
- Monday 12* DL, DG COMMENT. According to Sir Edward Smith's bill—see Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 308—the regular company at Drury Lane resumed acting (after the summer vacation) on 11 Oct. 1696 and acted 200 times to 7 July 1697, after which the young actors played 58 days to 7 Oct. 1697.
- Monday 26* COMMENT. The Lord Chamberlain, L. C. 7/1—see Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 339—hearing that Dogget had left Lincoln's Inn Fields and Verbruggen had left Drury Lane, restated the order against players shifting companies, and ordered that Verbruggen was to stay with Drury Lane until 1 Jan. 1696/7 but that he might enter into agreement with Lincoln's Inn Fields to act there after the close of 1696.