

LIF COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the first production is not known, but the Prologue refers to "this Winter," suggesting a date before March 1700. A song, "Ah Belinda I am pressed," in this play, appeared in *Orpheus Britannica*, 1698, the music by Henry Purcell, who had died some years before its appearance in this collection.

A Comparison Between the Two Stages (1702), pp. 26–27, referring to the rivalry between LIF and DL in reviving Shakespeare and Jonson: The Battel continued a long time doubtful, and Victory hovering over both Camps, Batterton Sollicits for some Auxiliaries from the same Author, and then he flanks his Enemy with *Measure for Measure*.

LIF THE GENEROUS CHOICE. [By Francis Manning.] Edition of 1700: Prologue. Epilogue Spoken by Miss Porter. No actors' names.

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. The date of the première is not known, but the fact that the play was advertised in the *Post Boy*, 19 March 1699/1700, makes it likely that the first performance occurred not later than February 1700. The Prologue also suggests a Lenten performance: Methinks in Lent.

Friday 2 IT THE AMOROUS WIDOW; or, The Wanton Wife. [By Thomas Betterton.] *Cast not known*, but a possible cast (with some exceptions) is listed under 18 Dec. 1699.

COMMENT. Betterton's Company. See *A Calendar of the Inner Temple Records*, III, 357.

Saturday 3 DL VENICE PRESERV'D; or, A Plot Discover'd. [By Thomas Otway.] *Cast not known*.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and two in the Box at Venice preserved. 12s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 378.

Saturday 10 DL THE RELAPSE; or, Virtue in Danger. [By John Vanbrugh.] See 21 Nov. 1696.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and one in the Box at y^e Relapse. 8s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Stage*, p. 378.

Tuesday 13 DL THE CONSTANT COUPLE; or, A Trip to the Jubilee. See 28 Nov. 1699.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and two in the Box at Constant Couple. 12s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Drama*, p. 378.

Monday 19 DL THE GROVE; or, Love's Paradise. [By John Oldmixon.] Edition of 1700: Arcadius – Mills; Eudosius – Powel; Adrastus – Tomms; Parmenio – Cibber; Nicias – Thomas; Aurelia – Mrs Rogers; Phylante – Mrs Temple; Sylvia – Mrs Oldfield. Prologue. Epilogue Writ by Mr Farquhar.

COMMENT. Rich's Company. Lady Morley attended this performance: Lady Morley and one in the Box at the Grove an Opera. 10s. See Hotson, *Commonwealth and Restoration Drama*, p. 378.

It is not known whether this performance was the première, but the publication of this work on 16 March 1699/1700 (*Post Man*, 14–16 March 1699/1700) suggests that if the usual month between première and publication intervened for this work, the première may have been in mid-February. On the other hand, a letter—see 20 Jan. 1699/1700—may refer to this work.

The music was composed by Daniel Purcell. In *Songs in the New Opera Called The Grove or Love's Paradise* (1700) the following singers are listed: Mrs Irwin, Freeman, The Boy, Hughes, Mrs Lindsey, Pate, and Mrs Shaw.

The Preface implies that the opera was a failure: As for the Persons who were not so generous . . . who thought the Catastrophe was not enough prepar'd, and that the discovery in the last Act was huddled and in confusion, they will now see if what he had writ had been spoken, every thing would have appear'd clear and natural, which, to shorten the Entertainment, had been before broken and disorder'd.