

## August 1696

*Late August* COMMENT. Newdigate newsletters, 29 Sept. 1696: The Close of least Week one  
 BF of our merry Andrews or Jack Puddings in Bartholomew faire stood in y<sup>e</sup> Pillory at Temple Bar for saying upon y<sup>e</sup> publick Stage y<sup>t</sup> in a little tyme Piggs would be roasted by y<sup>e</sup> flames of Exchange Telleyes & y<sup>t</sup> Bank Bills should Singe y<sup>e</sup> Haire of y<sup>m</sup> off. [Transcribed by Professor John Harold Wilson.]

DG THE SPANISH WIVES. [By Mrs Mary Pix.] Edition of 1696: Prologue, Spoken by Mr Penkethman, in a Press-master's Habit. No actors' names. Epilogue, Spoken by Mrs Verbruggen, [who probably played the Governor's Wife].

COMMENT. Rich's Company. The date of the first performance is not known, but the Prologue suggests that it was given shortly before Bartholomew and Southwark Fairs ("Drolls shortly will amuse ye at the Fair"), even though the play was not advertised until mid-October (*Post Boy*, 15-17 Oct. 1696). One song, "Alas! when charming Sylvia's gone," is in the Edition and was also published separately, with the indication that Daniel Purcell set it. In the Edition, a song, "Fairest nymph that ever bless'd our Shore," is sung in Act II Betwixt Mr Leveridge a Spaniard, and Mrs Cross an English Lady. The composer is not named.

*A Comparison Between the Two Stages* (1702), p. 18: and 'tis a most damnable Farce.

## September 1696

*Monday 5* ENTERTAINMENTS.  
 SF

COMMENT. *Post Man*, 5-8 Sept. 1696: At Mr Barns's Booth in Southwark Fair, near St Georges Church, will be seen the only English, Dutch, Spanish, High German and Indian Companies of Rope-Dancers, who are all five joined together, and will perform such variety of Dancing, Walking, Vaulting and Tumbling; the like was never seen in England before. 1st, You will see the famous Indian Woman and her Company. 2. You will see the High German Company. 3. You will see the Spanish Company dance excellently well on the Low Rope. 4. You will see the two famous Dutch Children, who are the wonder and admiration of all the Rope Dancers in the World of their Sex and Age. 5. You will see the two famous Englishmen, Mr Edward Barns of Rederiff, and Mr Appleby, who are the only two Master Ropedancers and Tumblers in the old world; also you may see Mr Edward Barnes dance with a Child standing on his shoulders, and with 2 children at his Feet, in Jack-boots and Spurs, and cuts Capers a yard and a half high, and dances a Jig on the Rope with that variety of steps, that few, or no Dancing Masters can do the like on the ground: He likewise walks on a slack Rope no bigger than a penny Cord, and swings himself 6 or 7 yards distance. Afterwards you will see the famous Indian Woman Vault the High Rope with great dexterity. Likewise you will see the famous Mr Appleby, who is the only Tumbler in all Europe, fling himself over 16 mens heads, through 12 Hoops, over 14 Halbards, over a Man on Horseback, and a Boy standing upright on his Shoulders. You will likewise be entertained with good Musick. The merry Conceits of Harlequin and his Son Punch. You will see the English and Dutch Flag on the top of the Booth. Vivat Rex. We shall play in this place 12 days.