

January 1693

COMMENT. *Gentleman's Journal*, December 1692 (appearing not earlier than January 1693): We are like to be without new Plays this month and the next; the death of Mr Mountfort, and that of Mr Leigh soon after him being partly the cause of this delay. The first that is promised us is a Comedy by Mr Southern, whose Plays are written with too much Politeness and Wit, not to be read by you with uncommon pleasure.

CONCERT. An Ode Upon the New-Year, Performed Before their Majesties. Set to Musick by Dr Blow. The Words by N. Tate, Servant to their Majesties.

Sunday 1
At Court

COMMENT. It is not certain that this Ode was given on Sunday 1 Jan. It may have been a part of the program on Monday 2 Jan., when a play was acted for Their Majesties. The Ode was published in 1693.

[A DUKE AND NO DUKE. By Nahum Tate.] *Cast not known.*

Monday 2
At Court (?)

COMMENT. The United Company. Writing on 3 Jan. 1692/3, Anthony Wood states: A new comedie composed by Mr Tate, poet laureat, was acted before their majesties, M. 2 Jan. (Andrew Clark, *The Life and Times of Anthony Wood* [Oxford, 1894], III, 413). Since no new play by Tate is known to have been acted at this time, and since *A Duke and No Duke* was reprinted in 1693 (*Term Catalogues*, May 1693), and acted several times (*Gentleman's Journal*, January 1692/3, issued in March): *A Duke and no Duke*, being often acted now, and scarce, is reprinted, with the addition of a curious Preface, by our Laureat, concerning Farce. [Possibly Wood was mistaken in thinking that *A Duke and no Duke* was a new play. It seems the one most likely to fit the circumstances of this period.]

CONCERT.

Tuesday 10
YB

COMMENT. *London Gazette*, No. 2834, 3-5 Jan. 1692/3: The Italian lady (that is lately come over that is so famous for her singing) [though it] has been reported that she will sing no more in the consort at York-buildings; this is to give notice, that next Tuesday, being the 10th instant, she will sing at the Consort in York Buildings, and so continue during this season.

HENRY THE SECOND. See 8 Nov. 1692.

Monday 16
DL

COMMENT. The United Company. Constantijn Huygens, 16 Jan. 1692/3 O.S. [translation]: In the afternoon I went with Preswitz to the comedy, by Covent Garden, where there was a play about Henry II, but I could not very well understand the comedians, neither what they said. Mrs Barry played the King's wife and Mrs Bracegirdle his mistress, who let the King be poisoned in her presence. Sayer came and sat with us. The best places were for the English crown (*Journaal van Constantijn Huygens*, Publication of the Dutch Historical Society, New Series, xxv [Utrecht, 1877], 168).

Monday 30

A FAST DAY FOR THE MARTYRDOM OF CHARLES I