

August 1663

THE PLAYHOUSE TO BE LET. [By Sir William Davenant.] *Cast not known*, but LIF
Mrs Gosnell sang a song, "Ah love is a delicate thing," in Act II.

COMMENT. Nethercot (*Davenant*, pp. 337-78) believes that this play was brought out in the late summer of 1663. The Epilogue refers to the Long Vacation, presumably the summer of 1663, as the play is referred to in Stapylton's *The Step-mother*, which was licensed 26 Dec. 1663. In Act v is a farce relating to *Pompey*; as Langbaine (*English Dramatick Poets*, p. 405) states: *Pompey*, a Tragedy, which I have seen acted with great Applause, at the Duke's Theatre, and at the End was acted that Farce printed in the fifth Act of *The Play-house to be Let*. [See also June 1663.]

PUPPET PLAYS. Pepys, *Diary*: Though nine o'clock at night, carried them [Mary Joyce, Anthony and Kate Joyce] into a puppet play in Lincolnes Inn Fields, where there was the story of Holofernes, and other clockwork, well done. *Thursday 6*

COMMENT. On this date a band of French comedians received a permit authorizing them to bring their scenes and stage decoration to England. See W. J. Lawrence, "Early French Players in England," *The Elizabethan Playhouse and Other Studies*, p. 140; Nicoll, *Restoration Drama*, p. 252; and Madame M. Horn-Monval, "French Troupes in England during the Restoration," *Theatre Notebook*, VII (1953), 82. *Tuesday 25*

COMMENT. Pepys, *Diary*: This noon going to the Exchange, I met a fine fellow with trumpets before him in Leadenhall-street, and upon enquiry I find that he is the clerk of the City Market; and three or four men carried each of them an arrow of a pound weight in their hands. It seems this Lord Mayor begins again an old custome, that upon the first days of Bartholomew Fayre, the first, there is a match of wrestling, which was done, and the Lord Mayor there and Aldermen in Moorefields yesterday: to-day, shooting: and to-morrow, hunting. And this officer of course is to perform this ceremony of riding through the city, I think to proclaim and challenge any to shoot. It seems that the people of the fayre cry out upon it as a great hindrance to them. BF

September 1663

ENTERTAINMENTS. Pepys, *Diary*: And so carried her [Mrs Pepys] to the fayre [BF], and showed her the monkeys dancing on the ropes, which was strange, but such dirty sport that I was not pleased with it. There was also a horse with hoofs like rams hornes, a goose with four feet, and a cock with three. Thence to another place, and saw some German Clocke works, the Salutation of the Virgin Mary, and several Scriptural stories; but above all there was at last represented the sea, with Neptune, Venus, mermaids, and Ayrid on a dolphin, the sea rocking, so well done, that had it been in a gaudy manner and place, and at a little distance, it had been admirable. *Friday 4*
BF