

THE
Proceedings and Tryals
OF THE
PLAYERS

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Lincolns-Inn-Fields,

Held at the King's-Bench Bar at Westminster, on Monday
the 16th of February, 170¹/₂.

Before the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Justice Holt, for the most Abominable, Impious, Prophane, Lewd, Immoral Expressions, contain'd in their Plays, Acted by them at divers times; but particularly one, call'd, *Love for Love*: And another, call'd, *The Sham-Doctor*.

THE Proceedings against the Players, held at His Majesties Court of Kings-Bench, Westminster, on Monday the 16th of this Instant February, 170¹/₂. before the Right Honourable the Lord Chief Justice Holt, and divers others assembled in Court, for the better Regulating the many Lewd, Immoral and Prophane Speeches too often us'd in Plays; with an account of their being brought in Guilty.

The Jury being Impanelled, and the Court set, and the Bill found against the Players, the following Persons were ordered to be brought to the Bar, v. z. Mr. Van Broken, Mr. Scarlet, Mr. Dixe, Mr. Slinck, Mr. Frith. And being brought, their Indictment was read to them, it being drawn in a large form, expressing, That they the Persons at Bar the stood Indicted, for that they in divers of their Plays had express'd many Vain and Idle Profuse Words, which was altogether against the Laws of God, and the present Government; but worst of all, without great expectation, would be a great Instrument in the loss of their Souls; and particularly that they had used many abominable Expressions in two Plays, one called *Love for Love*; and the other *The Sham Doctor*. All the time the Indictment was reading, they gave great attention to their Charge; and after it was read, they were ask'd seperately, whether Guilty or Not Guilty; to which they answer'd in the Negative. And so they proceeded to Tryal, the which lasted a great while. The Witnesses being call'd to the Bar, one was a very Worthy and Reputable Gentleman, whose Duty was so affectionate to God and his Country, that he abhorr'd any-thing of Vice, the which he said, he had often heard at the Play-House near *Lincolns-Inn-Fields*, and that in such a vain manner, that he thought it were enough immediately to cause God's divine Vengeance to come down upon them.

He also depos'd, that he knowing some of 'em Exhorted 'em to leave off, and spend their time in other Diversion; but they slighting his Reproof, often laugh'd at him, and still persisted in their idle Folly, which he trembled: And seeing they would not reform, and be obedient to our Laws, nor adhear to his wholesome Counsel, he Indicted them at his own proper Cost and Charge.

Another Evidence being call'd, which was a Gentleman of great worth and repute, depos'd, That not long since he heard them express in a Play, call'd the *Sham Doctor*, Several insufferable vain Repetitions, and another said that he heard the like in a Play Call'd *Love for Love*. So after many Learned and long Discourses on each side, but particularly the Defendants made great defence for themselves, but to no purpose; the Plays being brought in against them in Print, the Judge declar'd to the Jury the ill Consequence of such Prophane Wicked Speeches. After which, the Jury went out for some time; and having return'd, brought them in Guilty, and fin'd them 5 l. a piece obliging them to give good Security not to commit the like again.

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