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The first English opera is generally regarded as Sir William Davenant's *The Siege of Rhodes*, performed in 1656 at Davenant's home, Rutland House. At this time, theatres were closed and plays were forbidden by law. Music, however, was still permissible. It is possible that Davenant included the music element as a way of getting round the law, rather than an attempt to write a true opera. A second part of *The Siege of Rhodes* was performed after Charles II was restored to the throne. A passionate Royalist, Davenant, and fellow dramatist Thomas Killigrew, were then granted royal patents, which gave them a virtual monopoly over presenting drama in London.