

The Season

November 3, 4, 5, 6

Blood Wedding

by Federico Garcia Lorca
Travellers

January 26, 27, 28, 29

The Caretaker

by Harold Pinter
Travellers

March 29, 30, 31, April 1

Three Sisters

Anton Chekhov
Travellers

May 24, 25, 26, 27

Pygmalion

by George Bernard Shaw
Compass

Company contacts

Secretary: Crystal Anthony,
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Compass Theatre for Pygmalion
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Proscenium is affiliated to Harrow Arts Council and is a registered charity - no 283141

PROSCENIUM

76th SEASON

1999 - 2000

PROSCENIUM

Pygmalion

By Bernard Shaw

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May 24th-27th 2000
Compass Theatre, Ickenham

Pygmalion

By Bernard Shaw

Clara Eynsford-Hill	Samantha Vaid
Mrs Eynsford-Hill	Evelyn Moutrie
Freddy Eynsford-Hill	Mike Brownsell
Eliza Doolittle	Clare Wooster
Colonel Pickering	Anton Jungreuthmayer
Bystanders	Jim McDonald Linda Hampson Paul Davis
Henry Higgins	Mark Sutherland
Mrs Pearce	Susi Thornton
Alfred Doolittle	Duncan Sykes
Mrs Higgins	Anne Gerrard
Parlourmaid	Alison Carey
Directed and Designed by	Colin Tufnell
Assisted by	Evelyn Moutrie
Stage Manager	Neil Baker
	Peter Wilton
Assisted by	Paul Davis
	Matthew Loughman
	Craig Cronin
	Michael Nolan
	Linda Hampson
Properties	Alison Carey
	Jenny Glover
Costumes	Evelyn Moutrie
Lighting Operation	Philip McCusker
Sound Operation	Colin Tufnell

The action takes place in London in 1912

- Act 1** Covent Garden, 11.15pm
Act 2 11am the next day, Higgins' laboratory, Wimpole St
Act 3 Mrs Higgins' flat, Chelsea Embankment

Interval (fifteen minutes)

- Act 4** Midnight, Wimpole St
Act 5 The next morning, Mrs Higgins' flat

Thanks also to Dave Buckley and Harrow Talking Newspaper

Bernard Shaw and Pygmalion

"There must be something radically wrong with the play if it pleases everybody," Shaw wrote of Pygmalion, "but at the moment I cannot find out what it is"...

Shaw took his title from Greek mythology. Pygmalion, King of Cyprus, had made an ivory statue of a girl, which was so beautiful he fell in love with it. He prayed to Aphrodite to give the statue life. His wish was granted and he married her...

One particular humiliation Shaw was determined to avoid. When Franz Lehár, creator of *The Merry Widow*, offered to make a musical of *Pygmalion*, he resolutely refused permission. To all composers for the rest of his life he gave the same reply. "I absolutely forbid any such outrage," he wrote when in his ninety-second year. This was one battle he thought he had won. So spare him a thought when you next hear one of the tunes from *My Fair Lady*.

Michael Holroyd
(National Theatre Programme, April 1992)

In response to Tree's reiterated request [Shaw] promised to witness the hundredth performance...He found what he expected, that Tree, who loved romantic endings, had hit on the idea of throwing flowers to Eliza in the brief interval between the end of the play and the fall of the curtain, thus letting the audience know that a marriage would shortly take place between the Professor and the flower-girl, which was in flagrant opposition to the author's conception of their characters and relationship.

In several letters that passed between them Shaw tried to make Tree aware of the error and Tree tried to make Shaw aware of the box office.

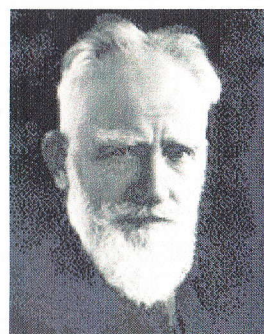
"My ending makes money; you ought to be grateful," said Tree.

"Your ending is damnable: you ought to be shot," replied Shaw.

From Beerbohm Tree by Hesketh Pearson

Bernard Shaw

- 1856** Born in Dublin (July 26)
1876 Comes to London, begins literary career by ghosting music criticism
1879/ Writes five unsuccessful novels
1883
1884 Elected member of newly-formed Fabian Society
1888/ Successful career as music critic
1894
1892 First play, *Widowers' Houses* produced
1893 *Mrs Warren's Profession*
1894 *Arms and the Man, Candida*
1895/ Successful career as drama critic
1898
1896 *The Devil's Disciple*
1898 *Caesar and Cleopatra*. Marries wealthy heiress Charlotte Payne Townsend
1899 *Captain Brassbound's Conversion*
1903 *Man and Superman*
1904/ Vedrenne and Granville-Barker
1907 productions at the Royal Court Theatre establish Shaw as successful playwright
1904 *John Bull's Other Island*
1905 *Major Barbara*
1906 *The Doctor's Dilemma*
1908 *Getting Married*
1910 *Misalliance*
1912 *Androcles and the Lion, Pygmalion*
1914 Publishes *Commonsense About the War*, arousing immense hostility
1919 *Heartbreak House*
1920 *Back to Methuselah*
1923 *Saint Joan*
1925 Awarded Nobel Prize for Literature
1928 Publishes *The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism*
1929 *The Apple Cart*
1936 *The Millionairess*
1943 Charlotte dies
1950 2 November: dies at home in Ayot St Lawrence



Bernard Shaw Quotes

Nothing is ever accomplished by a reasonable man

The longer I live the more I see that I am never wrong about anything, and that all the pains that I have so humbly taken to verify my notions have only wasted my time

I never resist temptation because I have found things that are bad for me do not tempt me (*The Apple Cart*-1930)

There are some experiences in life which should not be demanded twice from any man, and one of them is listening to the Brahms Requiem

Is the devil to have all the passions as well as all the good tunes? (*Man & Superman*-1903)

Chess is a foolish expedient for making idle people believe they are doing something very clever when they are only wasting their time

Do not waste your time on Social Questions. What is the matter with the poor is poverty; what is the matter with the rich is Uselessness

Do not try to live for ever. You will not succeed

The thought of two thousand people munching celery at the same time horrified me (explaining why he turned down an invitation to a vegetarian dinner)

If you cannot get rid of the family skeleton, you may as well make it dance

Patriotism is a pernicious, psychotic form of idiocy

Patriotism is your conviction that this country is superior to all others because you were born in it

Peace is not only better than war, but infinitely more arduous

Reviewing has one advantage over suicide; in suicide you take it out on yourself; in reviewing you take it out on other people

What we call education and culture is for the most part nothing but the substitution of reading for experience, of literature for life, of the obsolete for the contemporary real

Life does not cease to be funny when people die; any more than it ceases to be serious when people laugh

The reasonable man adapts himself to the world; the unreasonable man persists in trying to adapt the world to himself. Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man

The worst sin towards our fellow creatures is not to hate them, but to be indifferent to them; that's the essence of humanity

Covent Garden



Covent Garden market, c. 1910



Shelling peas, Covent Garden 1922

On a Saturday – the coster's business day – it is computed that as many as 2,000 donkey-barrows, and upwards of 3,000 women with shallows and head baskets visit this market during the forenoon... Flower-girls, with large bundles of violets under their arms, run past, leaving a trail of perfume behind them...

As you walk away from this busy scene, you meet in every street barrows and costers hurrying home. The pump in the market is now surrounded by a cluster of clattering wenches quarreling over whose turn it is to water their drooping violets, and on the steps of Covent Garden are seated the shoeless girls, tying up the halfpenny and penny bundles...

From London Labour and the London Poor, Henry Mayhew (1851)

Dustmen

One half at least of the dustmen's earnings is, I am assured, expended on drink, both man and woman assisting in squandering their money in this way. They usually live in rooms for which they pay from 1s.6d. to 2s. per week rent, three or four dustmen and their wives lodging in the same house. These rooms are cheerless-looking, and almost always unfurnished - and are always situated in some low street or lane not far from the dustyard...

Henry Mayhew

Events of 1912~13

Robert Scott reaches the South Pole to discover Amundsen has beaten him to it

Albert Berry in the USA makes the world's first parachute jump from an aeroplane

Henri Semiet makes the first non-stop flight from Paris to London. An airmail service begins between the two cities

L'Après Midi d'un Faune, ballet created by Nijinsky, premiered

The first issue of *Pravda* appears

Carl Laemmle founds Universal Studios in Los Angeles

The first Keystone Cops film is released

Richard Strauss' opera *Ariadne auf Naxos* premiered

DH Lawrence writes his play *The Daughter-in-Law*

Jung publishes his *Theory of Psychoanalysis*

The House of Lords rejects a Bill for Irish Home Rule

The first Royal Command Performance Variety Bill includes Irving Berlin's Alexander's Ragtime Band

Grand Central Station, New York, the world's largest railway station, opens

Suffragette leader Emmeline Pankhurst jailed for inciting arson

Dr Harry Plotz discovers typhus vaccine and Professor Behring makes a new serum for diphtheria

The Rite of Spring, ballet by Stravinsky, premiered

The Panama Canal is opened

Marcel Proust publishes first volume of *A La Recherche du Temps Perdu*

Proscenium

George Woollands and Margaret Rendle founded Proscenium in 1924. The company's first production was the now little-known *The Tide*, by Basil McDonald Hastings. Since then the company has performed nearly two hundred and fifty plays, using Harrow as a base since 1945. In this time Proscenium has built up a strong reputation for performing challenging plays (both classic and contemporary) to a high standard.

If you would like to find out more about Proscenium, please contact:

The Secretary, Proscenium, 020.89542761

Our Next Production

will be at the Compass Theatre, Ickenham from November 15th-18th

For full details of this, and our other productions in the 2000/2001 Season, join our free mailing list.

If you would like to do so, please give your name and address to one of our ushers, or contact

The Secretary, Proscenium, 020.89542761

In accordance with the requirements of the Council:

"Persons shall not be permitted to sit or stand in any of the gangways intersecting the seating, or to sit in any of the other gangways."