



P Y G M A L L I O N

by Bernard Shaw

PROGRAMME NOTES

Pygmalion – In Greek legend, a sculptor and king of Cyprus. He fell in love with his own ivory statue of his own ideal woman. At his earnest prayer the goddess Aphrodite gave life to the statue and he married it.

(Brewer's dictionary of phrase and fable)

From the Daily Sketch, Saturday 11th April 1914 (edited):

Tonight's Pygmalion...is expected to cause the biggest theatrical sensation for many years... One word in Shaw's new play will cause sensation. Mr Shaw introduces a certain forbidden word.

Will Mrs Patrick Campbell speak it? Has the censor stepped in, or will the word spread? If he does not forbid it then anything might happen!

It is a word which, although held by many to be a meaningless vulgarity, is certainly not used in decent society. It is a word which The Daily Sketch cannot possibly print. And tonight it is to be uttered on the stage.

Literary men and women will be there from Chelsea and Hampstead and the Garden Suburb, leaders of London society, middle-class matrons and maidens, all accustomed to hearing only what is pure and clean and wholesome – and Shakespearean. It will come as a shock to the upper circle if they hear Mrs Pat uttering a word never before heard except from Covent Garden porters.

But if the censor does pass the word, and if the audience at His Majesty's does approve of it, then it will become the catchword of the season. And girls from Golders Green, maidens from Maidstone, young ladies from Lewisham will all pick up this revolting epithet like the suburban girl does in the play. She shocks and distresses her mother – so will they!

Mrs Patrick Campbell did utter the dreaded word.

The laughter was timed at 75 seconds.

Act 1 - Under the portico of St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, 11.15 pm.

Act 2 - Professor Higgins's study, the next morning.

INTERVAL OF 15 MINUTES

Act 3 - Mrs Higgins's drawing room, afternoon, some months later.

Act 4 - Professor Higgins's study, midnight, some months later.

Act 5 - Mrs Higgins's drawing room, next morning.

Running time: about 2 hours 30 minutes, including interval.

PYGMALION

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First performance of this production 29th April 2000

CAST

in order of appearance:

Bystander
Sarcastic Bystander
Other Bystanders

Mrs Eynsford-Hill
Clara Eynsford-Hill
Freddie Eynsford-Hill
Professor Henry Higgins
Eliza Doolittle
Colonel Pickering
Mrs Pearce
Alfred Doolittle
Mrs Higgins
Parlourmaid

Tom Butler
Sheri Desbaux
Julia Bradley, Anne Devlin
Helen Eardley, Becky Mackenzie
Evan Rule, Juliet Turner
Hilary Shearing
Rebecca Hands-Wicks
Michael Smith
Ian Recordon
Annabelle Williams
Ken Ratcliffe
Jo Arundel
Nick Hawker
Pam Gower
Amani Al-Aidroos

CREW

Directed by
Designed by
Costumes designed by
Lighting by
Assisted by
Musical advisor
Sound adviser
Stage manager
Deputy stage manager
Properties
Lighting operator
Sound operator
Prompter
Construction

Wardrobe

Assistant stage managers

Hair and make-up

Photography

David Emmet
Tessa Curtis
Emma Goodwin
Joel Schrire
Andy Macdonald
Tim Godfrey
Ian Howlett
Jon Webster
Brin Parsonage
Dinah Squire
Bernard Brady
Paul Wilson
Barbara Neville
Jon Webster, Tom Butler
Chris Bennett
Teresa Atkinson, Valerie Chung,
Sarah Goodwin, Robin Lill,
Julie Nash
Mike Appleby, Chris Bennett,
Anna Jablowska, Chris Tomlins
Joanna Bolton, Lynn Jackson,
Runa Skjerdal, Sarah Smith
Martin Sapsed

Special thanks to Joy McQuade for the loan of furniture

Thanks to:

Alec Atchinson, Helen Carter, Colin Horne, Jo Perse, Jenny Richardson,
Bob Reavel, John Rolfe, St Barnabas Church, Adrienne Talbot,
The Original Black Brass Co. and Nigel Worsley

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FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS

20th, 21st & 27th, 28th May at 11am & 2.30pm

GRANVILLE THE UGLY DUCKLING *by Antony Quinlan*

IN THE STUDIO - *Free To Members, Open To Non-Members*

"You're big and ugly and you've got dirty grey feathers", hollers Granville's sister. Poor little duckling, he'll never win a beauty contest. Worse still, there's no place for him in a family of beautiful swans. Alone and frightened little Granville faces the wilderness, embarking on a terrifying journey to who knows where. But it's a journey of discovery and change, an epic adventure story of death-defying bravery as Granville struggles to escape the bullies of the farmyard, his nasty sister, a stuck-up hen and Old Ma Braithwaite's aromatic cooking pot all on the way to a "happy ever after" ending. Ideal for children of all ages!

27th May - 3rd June

KING LEAR *by William Shakespeare*

IN THE PLAYHOUSE - *Open To Non-Members*

Shakespeare's masterpiece is perhaps the first and greatest play dealing with 'a family at war'. Full of intrigue, violence and sex it charts the devastating effects that denial, deceit and the absence of love can cause between parent and child, husband and wife, brother and sister. Through one act of simple honesty, a hot bed of resentment and thwarted passions is exposed, releasing a storm of violence and madness destroying everything it touches. A beautiful and moving play, containing much of Shakespeare's greatest writing - a definite '*not to be missed*'.

17th June - 1st July

LADY BETTY *by Declan Donnellan*

IN THE STUDIO

This exciting and startling play, set in Roscommon in the West of Ireland in the late 1700's, is the true and tragic story of a servant girl, Betty, who, made pregnant by her master, is cast out of her community to a life of poverty and isolation. An ironic twist of fate, many years later, forces her to confront her tragedy once more and her life is turned upside down. Lady Betty was first performed in 1989, to great critical acclaim, by the "Cheek By Jowl" Company and we are grateful to Declan Donnellan for giving us the rights to perform this stunning piece at The Questors.

1st July - 8th July

THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE *by John Dighton*

IN THE PLAYHOUSE - *The 53rd Student Group's Graduation Production*

There's a certain type of farce that is so quintessentially English that only the English can do it - and this is it! One of the best examples of its kind, this classic farce from 1948 imagines the mayhem that results when a girls' school is billeted on a boys' school just after the war.

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