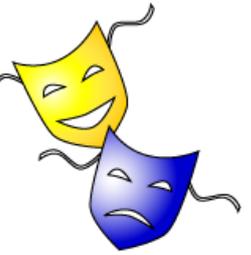


# Kilmardinny Players



## Newsletter – March 2016



### Bernard Shaw's "Pygmalion"

directed by Christina Dowers and Jane MacConnacher at The Turret Theatre, 9 Eastside, Kirkintilloch, Glasgow, East Dunbartonshire G66 1PY on Thursday 31 March, Friday 1 April and Saturday 2 April 2016 at 7.30 pm



Please visit our website to book tickets and download and print our posters and booking forms to distribute to those interested in our "Pygmalion". Members are requested to book early as we are already receiving bookings from people living in Kirkintilloch and some members of Kirkintilloch Players so early booking of tickets by our own

members is strongly advised. As usual you book on line or contact Christina and you can pick up and pay for tickets at the Turret on your chosen night to support us.

**A message from Christina, director:** I want to thank everyone in the cast for their efforts so far in developing their characters and learning their lines. There has not been the same amount of rehearsal time to spend discussing characters as in our Autumn productions but we have introduced the video recordings of some rehearsals which can then be used for cast to watch again together with directorial notes and also to perhaps think again how they could further develop their role or how to better act out a certain scene. Liz has also been good during rehearsals at voice coaching some of the cast who have asked for help.



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There has been some difficulty with moves this time with different rehearsal spaces and the fact that we are to do this production in a different acting space too. It means that right up until opening night we will be relying on our cast's patience to be flexible with their moves. I would want a Stage Manager from day one of rehearsals in future to be glued to the script noting every move, pause, or change of script in the book so that any changes or questions about direction can be sorted without fuss.

Unfortunately, Suzi is now unable to play the role of Mrs Pearce and it would be unreasonable to find someone else at this late stage other than myself to take on this role. It means, therefore, that from now on in rehearsals, Jane, my director in training, will be taking more charge of rehearsals and I hope all cast and crew will give her their support. I would like to thank Jane for assisting me and trying to learn what is a huge job of director. Jane has been a great help and puts in a huge amount of work and effort into the role of director which she has never done before – well done Jane! I am confident that after this production she will be able to go solo and direct a future drama for our group with everyone's support

**A message from Jane, director in training:**



A month to go until we take Pygmalion to the Turret and we are very close to being ready. On 7th March we start our rolling rehearsals to tidy up any loose ends. The cast are doing an amazing job and Christina has agreed to take the part of Mrs Pearce to complete our inspiring cast. Massive thanks to Christina for standing in at such short notice.

As our final month of rehearsals begin, can I please ask that anyone who is not already involved and is able to help in any way to please contact myself or Christina to offer your services or see us on 3rd March at our open night.

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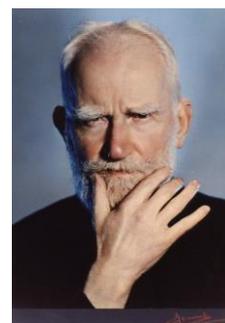
## “Shaw, Higgins and Me” by Paul Cockcroft

*“You have no idea how frightfully interesting it is to take a human being and turn her into a quite different human being by creating a new speech for her. It’s filling up the deepest gulf that separates class from class and soul from soul.” Pygmalion, Act Three*

*“I sold flowers. I didn’t sell myself. Now you’ve made a lady of me, I’m not fit to sell anything else.” Pygmalion, Act Four*

*“I think a woman fetching a man’s slippers is a disgusting sight: did I ever fetch your slippers? I think a good deal more of you for throwing them in my face.” Pygmalion, Act Five*

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was a socialist and feminist, whose political ideas deeply inform his most famous play, “Pygmalion” (1914). He was hostile to the existing class system and believed passionately in the power of education to transform lives as in a flower girl becoming a “consort for a king”. The play can also be read as a feminist fable – poor, vulnerable, young girl, the plaything of rich men, rises to become a strong, independent woman, confidently taking charge of her own life. The play relentlessly criticises marriage at every turn. It’s variously represented as inimical to individual freedom, condemning women to domestic servitude and a mere commercial transaction akin to prostitution.



For the last two months it has been my privilege to prepare for my role as Professor Henry Higgins in this marvellous play of ideas. Higgins, like Shaw himself, I suspect, is so absorbed by his intellectual pursuits as to seem incapable of expressing ordinary human feelings. He is arrogant, disdainful and appallingly, if comically, rude. For all his “modern” ideas, making him sympathetic to a modern audience is a challenge. I need to find the “light” of his real feelings (so often sublimated) to balance the “dark” of his bullying demeanour. But I have loved every minute of it. The language is glorious and for all his bluster,



Higgins shares Shaw’s belief in a better world. He is vulnerable, compassionate and idealistic if emotionally inarticulate. I believe him to be somewhat autistic in the light of his failure in empathy, particularly in Act Four. I am enjoying “being Higgins” and discovering something new about him almost every day. For an actor he combines significant technical difficulty with the endless fun of getting to say so many outrageous and witty things.

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**Thursday 3 March : open evening 7.30 pm Lower Lesser Milngavie town Hall – for all members not just those involved**

**in “Pygmalion”:** We have decided to try to run a workshop offering members hints, ideas and practical tips on how to try to best learn lines and a time to reflect on certain scenes and to discuss with directors how best to interpret their roles. It also is an opportunity to involve our members who are not in the cast to come along and share their thoughts and expertise too.



- One part of the room for Craig to video/audio record scenes/long speeches cast wish to work on;
- Other part of the room a workshop run by Molly giving tips she suggested in her article in our last June newsletter, using the Pygmalion script;
- Hall way and kitchen area to be used for others who simply want a prompter and a couple of actors running through sticky bits with the actors who want to concentrate on particular scenes and discuss with directors and others how best to develop their roles;

**Rehearsal dates remaining and venues:**

Mon 29 February Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

**March 2016**



Thu 3, Mon 7 March Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 10 March Main Milngavie Town Hall

Mon 14 March Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 17 March Main hall, Westerton Primary school

Mon 21 March Main Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 24 March Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Monday 28 March (Easter Monday) Get in

Tue 29, Wed 30 March (dress/technical rehearsals)

Thur 31 March, Friday 1 April and Saturday 2 April – performance nights

Sunday 3 April Get out

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## Dates for diaries:



our committee at any time.

**Our next Committee meeting:** will take place on **Wednesday 2 March at 7.30 pm in the Westerton Lesser Hall**. All members are welcome to attend the meeting and give their views. We also welcome new members to join



## **Let's do dinner on Friday 8 April and celebrate our "Pygmalion" success!**

Those who went to the Christmas meal enjoyed this social evening, Liz and Deirdre are willing to organise another such social meal out. Let us know if you wish to join us at Garvies in Milngavie on Friday 8 April by mid March so that Liz can make a booking in advance.

## **Bearsden Community Festival : 3 September : "The Lesson": taken from "My Fair Lady" and "Pygmalion"**

We will be performing a Twenty Minute drama at New Kilpatrick Church on Saturday 3 September 2016 as part of the "Good Old Days" event for the Bearsden Community Festival entitled "The Lesson" – more details nearer the time.



## **2016 Plans: Autumn director and play and venue**

**wanted** : Please come forward with plays you wish to direct or be directed. We really need even more members to put themselves forward for the group's productions. Please remember any member may put forward a play for a possible future production to the committee for consideration.

We have the Turret in Kirkintilloch for March but it would be great if we could find a closer venue for our Autumn production. We could continue to rehearse our Autumn play in the Milngavie town hall as it is proving suitable for this purpose. We really require acting space for the week of the production – an acting space preferably with a stage or a studio theatre space.



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## Guess the play quote:



**Paul correctly guessed it I hope without googling it!** *“It's from "Noises Off" by Michael Frayn. Probably the most hilarious play ever written about making theatre. It's Lloyd speaking.”*

*“Tim, let me tell you about my life in the Big Apple. I have Hamlet's ghost on the phone for an hour every evening after rehearsal complaining that Polonius is sucking sourballs through his speeches. Claudius is off every afternoon doing a soap, and Gertrude is off the entire week doing a commercial for Gallo wine. Hamlet himself, would you believe, has come down with a psychological problem. Then, last night, Brooke rings me to say that she's very unhappy here and she's got herself a doctor's certificate for nervous exhaustion. I haven't got the time to find and rehearse a new Vicky. I have just one afternoon, while Hamlet sees his shrink and Ophelia starts divorce proceedings, to cure Brooke of her nervous exhaustion with no medical aids, except a little whisky - you've got the whisky - a few flowers - you've got money for the flowers - and a certain fading bedside manner. So, I haven't come to the theatre to hear about other people's problems. I've come to be taken out of myself, and, preferably, not put back again.”*

## Have a read, can you tell me which character from which play delivers this quote?

*“If you want to be a playwright...go and get yourself a job as a butler in a repertory company, if they'll have you. Learn from the ground up how plays are constructed and what isactable and what is not. Then sit down and write at least twenty plays one after the other, and if you can manage to get the twenty-first produced for a Sunday night performance, you'll be damned lucky!”*

## Local non professional groups : SCDA One Act festival:

We have taken part in this One Act Festival before so those who may be interested in taking part again may like to attend this year's festival to see how it is run. The following is information supplied by the SCDA:



Glasgow District needs your support. The District first round of this year's festival takes place at the Eastwood Park Theatre on Friday 4th March and Saturday 5th March. Tickets price £8 are available from the theatre box office or via their website.

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**Glasgow District Plays** Information supplied by competing clubs **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**

Rutherglen Rep –Such A Parcel of Rogues: At the start of the eighteenth century, the failure of the Darien Scheme saw Scotland in dire straits – it was said no family was left unaffected whether high-born or lowly, and the Watson family were not immune to the effects. More than three hundred years later, it seems the Hamilton family will be similarly cursed when proponents of the referendum for Scottish independence seek to undo what is seen as the damage caused by the earlier ‘solution’ to Scotland’s problems – the Act of Union.

New Victory Players *The Guilt Card:* *The Guilt Card* concerns a woman whose life is blighted by the machinations and emotional blackmail of her sickly elder sister.

The Rats Invited to a party in a London flat, Sandra Grey and David Forrester find themselves alone. Somebody knows about their affair, and somebody has locked them in ...

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March** Kirkintilloch Players Youth- *The Lonely Road to Freedom*

In the modern age, where everyone is busy and wrapped up in their own problems, do we notice when people are struggling? Laura is a normal teenager, in a relationship with Michael, going to parties, doing well at school. Then all that changes and tragedy strikes. Did her friends and family miss something? Was Laura’s voice not heard? The action repeats and we see how things really are. This thought-provoking play makes us all think.

Kirkton Players – *Effie’s Burning:* Effie Palmer, a burns patient, has been admitted to hospital after a fire started in her room at the Laurels. Nobody knows how it started. Effie has been institutionalised since the age of thirteen because she is a little ‘simple’. Scared and alone in an unfamiliar environment she is treated by Dr Ruth Kovacs. Ruth is also alone in a world ruled by Mr Jessop Brown. By agreeing to treat the ‘troublesome patient in Room 7’ Ruth finds in her an inner strength that she never knew she had, and slowly unravels the complex past of Miss Palmer.

Kirkintilloch Players – *MOT:* A man calls at a woman’s remote country cottage apparently seeking help after a car breakdown during a rainstorm. She invites him to stay indoors while waiting for a tow-truck to arrive. Polite conversation begins to turn more pointed and the woman comes to realise that her visitor is not the casual passer-by he originally purported to be but has a hidden agenda.

## Paul's Glasgow Theatre Highlights - March 2016

Some great plays still running if you didn't catch them in February:

**"Blackbird"** at the **Citizen's** until the **5<sup>th</sup>**  
<http://tinyurl.com/dontcomesoclosetome>

**"The Crucible"** at the **Lyceum** until **19<sup>th</sup>**  
<http://tinyurl.com/hyster1cal>

and **"The Destroyed Room"** at the **Tron** until the **5<sup>th</sup>**  
<http://www.tron.co.uk/event/the-destroyed-room/>

(Find more details about these in the February edition)

But what's new?

### Play of the Month

#### **"Hangman" by Martin McDonagh**

This modern master of black comedy makes a welcome return to the stage with what was widely regarded as the best new play of last year. It's already won the **UK Critics Circle Theatre Award** and is probably being nominated for an **Olivier** as you read this (29<sup>th</sup> Feb?) Transferring from the **Royal Court** to **Wyndham's** in the West End, it's being broadcast as part of **NTLive** on **3<sup>rd</sup> March**.

Trailer here: <http://bit.ly/1RdiQ3h>

Full details and venues here: <http://tinyurl.com/blacklaugh>

Tickets for **GFT** here: <http://tickets.glasgowfilm.org/>

For those of us otherwise engaged that night (rehearsals!), there will be encore broadcast on **22<sup>nd</sup>** at **Glasgow Fort**:  
<http://tinyurl.com/hangm2>

### Elsewhere

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The **Citizens** has the **RSC's** touring production of "**A Midsummer Night's Dream**" from **29<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April**. Not another "Dream", I hear you cry but the twist here is that in every venue the "Rude Mechanicals" will be played by local amateur actors. Our am dram colleagues also get to perform on the stage of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre in Stratford. How cool is that?

Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/rudelocals>

Also at the **Citz**, Newcastle's **Northern Stage** production of "**Get Carter**" runs from **8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>**: <http://tinyurl.com/getwho>  
The **Tron** has the latest from that restless innovator, **David Leddy**. "**International Waters**" runs from **22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>**

Details here: <http://www.tron.co.uk/event/international-waters/>

### Further Afield

The **Lyceum** has "**I am Thomas**" in a joint production with **Told by an Idiot** and the **National Theatre of Scotland** from **23<sup>rd</sup> March to 9<sup>th</sup> April**. Described as a "brutal comedy with songs", it tells the story of Thomas Aikenhead who was the last person to be executed for blasphemy in Britain. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/forcssake>

Happy Theatre Going,

Paul ☺

Follow me on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TheatreScottish>

PS. Theatre company **Told by an Idiot** take their name from a line spoken in which Shakespeare play? On come on now! First prize is a free weekend in February. Two weekends if you can name the famous American writer whose novel is titled by another line from the same speech. Can you name the novel too? Answer(s) next month. ☺

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