

# Kilmardinny Players



**Newsletter – January 2016**

**A Healthy and drama filled New Year**



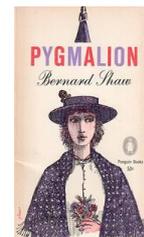
**Spring 2016 production Thursday 31 March to Saturday 2 April**

The final curtain fell for “Top Girls” and we were auditioning once again for our March 2016 production. I tried my very best to find Darcy and Bingley to cast our adaptation of “Pride and Prejudice” but alas they stood us up. However, I felt our group would be up for the challenge of Bernard Shaw’s “Pygmalion” and that was clear from the great auditions and we now have a great cast. I then spent some days by the pool (in Florida) thinking over my set design and the sunshine gave me some good ideas. My teacher hat will be on once again as I teach Jane all I know about directing – then you can adapt your own style Jane and direct in the Autumn?

Anyway, here are some notes about Bernard Shaw and “Pygmalion”. Christina

**Bernard Shaw’s “Pygmalion” directed by Christina Dowers and Jane**

**MacConnacher:** Based on classical myth, Bernard Shaw’s *Pygmalion* plays on the complex business of human relationships in a social world. Phonetics Professor Henry Higgins tutors the very Cockney Eliza Doolittle, not only in the refinement of speech, but also in the refinement of her manner. When the end result produces a very ladylike Miss Doolittle, the lessons learned become much more far reaching. The successful musical *My Fair Lady* was based on this Bernard Shaw classic.



**The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it. They spell it so abominably that no man can teach himself what it sounds like.**

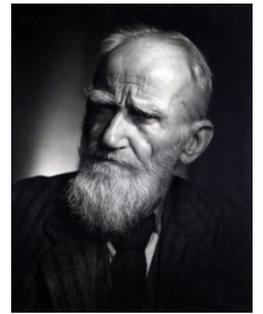
**Bernard  
Shaw**

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**"My speciality is being right when other people are wrong." [Bernard Shaw](#)**

Born on July 26, 1856 in Dublin, Ireland; George Bernard Shaw was a known playwright, journalist, orator, reviewer and a socialist. He was born to poor parents and suffered financially. It was in 1876 when he moved to London he earned fame as playwright, politician and celebrity. He became the force of a developing Fabian society. He did not like George in his name and just liked using Bernard Shaw. Shaw was a committed vegetarian, a socialist and he opposed the First World War He won Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925 and an Oscar in 1938 (Pygmalion). He is the only person to receive both awards. He did not follow any religion but favored religious beliefs: "my religious convictions and scientific views cannot at present be more specifically defined than as those of a believer in creative revolution." Throughout his life he wrote more than 60 plays. His work dealt with political and social issues. He was known to dislike aristocrats and nobleman. One time he received invitation from local lord stating: "Lord C. Will be home Tuesday between 4 and 6". Bernard Shaw returned invitation and wrote down: "George Bernard Shaw too". Bernard died at an age of 94 when he fell down the ladder while trimming a tree.



"HIGGINS. The great secret, Eliza, is not having bad manners or good manners or any other particular sort of manners, but having the same manner for all human souls: in short, behaving as if were in Heaven, where there are no third-class carriages, and one soul is as good as another."

— **George Bernard Shaw, Pygmalion**

**Our cast for Pygmalion:**

Eliza Doolittle : Lisa Colquhoun	Alfred Doolittle: Colin Price
Professor Higgins : Paul Cockcroft	Colonel Pickering : David Hutchinson
Mrs Higgins : Noelle Ryan	Mrs Pearce : Suzi Bagley
Mrs Eynsford Hill : Emma Reid	Miss Clara Eynsford Hill : Aimi Philips
Freddy Eynsford Hill: David MacLean	Parlormaid: Katerina Vasilaki McKay
Bystander: Sarah Blackburn	Sarcastic Bystander : Deirdre Campbell

Other Bystanders for Act 1 and/or servants for scene changes: Sarah Blackburn, Katerina Vasilaki McKay, Susan Moir and Liz Good. Help with costumes : Moira Crawford

Technical Director : Craig Dowers      Voice coaches, Liz, Suzi, Aimi

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**Rehearsal dates and venues: January 2016**

Thu 7, Mon 11, Thu 14 January at Lower Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Mon 18 January at Main Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 21, Mon 25, Thu 28 January at Lower Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

**February 2016**

Mon 1, Thu 4, Mon 8 February Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 11, Mon 15 February Main Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 18, Mon 22 February Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 25 February Westerton Lesser Hall

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, Thu 17 March Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

Mon 21 March Main Milngavie Town Hall

Thu 24 March Lesser Milngavie Town Hall

**Week of Show at the Turret Theatre in Kirkintilloch (starting times tbc)**

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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**Thanks to The High School of Glasgow :** The Senior School at Anniesland has taken our theatre flats and stored them for us which is a great help to us while Kilmardinny House is closed. Thanks also go to those members who took some props/furniture and stored them in their homes/garages.



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

Please come forward with plays you wish to direct. For example, we have no proposals for our Autumn 2016 production so far. 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 would also ask members to make suggestions for social evenings – workshops, fundraiser events such as quiz or any other ideas and we could try to arrange a couple of these in addition to our rehearsals for “Pygmalion”.

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## Paul's Glasgow Theatre Highlights - January 2016

January is the poorest month with many theatres still running their seasonal offerings for the benefit of those who like to see a Christmas show in the middle of January!!! [See last month's Newsletter for details] Some are taking a breather before launching their new programmes. The **Tron's** a venue for **Celtic Connections**. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/troncc>  
I'm just going to have to stay in and learn my lines for "**Pygmalion**".

### Play of the Month

#### **"The Weir" by Conor McPherson**

The play that made him famous gets a revival at the **Lyceum** from **15<sup>th</sup> January to 6<sup>th</sup> February**. Ghost stories told in a Leitrim bar take a very dark turn. Funny and scary. If you've somehow avoided seeing it before, then you're out of excuses. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/pubscare>

**NLive's** offering is another classic revival. The **Donmar Warehouse** production of **Christopher Hampton's "Les Liaison Dangereuses"** will be show at the **GFT** on the **28<sup>th</sup>**. The appearance of **Dominic West** should bring out the celebrity obsessed. Production details here:

<http://tinyurl.com/LLDatDon>

Book for the GFT here: <http://www.glasgowfilm.org/>

**"The Sound of Music"** is at **Edinburgh's Playhouse** from **5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>**. Too sweet for me after all that seasonal overeating (or at any time of the year for that matter!) Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/yeughydoodle>

### The Year Ahead

Space permits a look ahead to the coming year. Among the highlights:

**Rona Munro's "James Plays"** will tour throughout Scotland, England, Australia and New Zealand courtesy of the **National Theatre of Scotland**. If you missed them at the **2014 Edinburgh Festival**, they're at the **King's Theatre** in **April**. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/NTSJames>

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**Zinnie Harris** has reworked **Aeschylus' "Oresteia"** for the **National Theatre of Scotland**. She's called it "**This Restless House**" (There's euphemism for you!) It's in three parts and you can see all three in one day if you want a real gloom fest. It's at the **Citz** in **April** and **May**. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/more-gloom>

The **Royal Shakespeare Company** is celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bard's death by touring a new production of "**A Midsummer Night's Dream**". The twist is that in each venue, the roles of the "rude mechanicals" (the original AmDram group) will be played (appropriately enough) by local amateurs. It's at the **Citz** from **29<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> April**, which could be a problem for some of us...but there are matinees! Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/local-dream>

Lots of musicals this year including, "**American Idiot**" (King's in May/June), "**Breakfast at Tiffany's**" (Royal in May), "**Guys and Dolls**" (King's in June) and "**The Commitments**" (Royal in December). There's much more. Check out the **ATG** website for details: <http://www.atgtickets.com/>

Finally those naughty "**Ladies of Perpetual Succour**" (see September's Newsletter") will be effing and blinding their way between **Dundee** and **Newcastle** in **June** and **July**. Details here: <http://tinyurl.com/noeffingere>

Happy Theatre Going,

Paul ☺