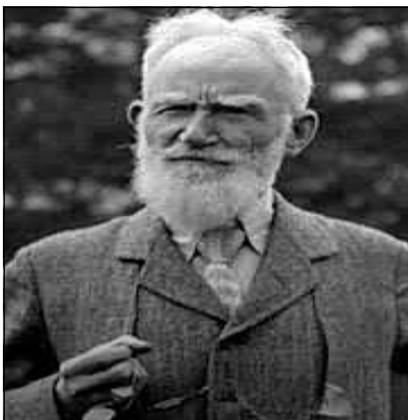
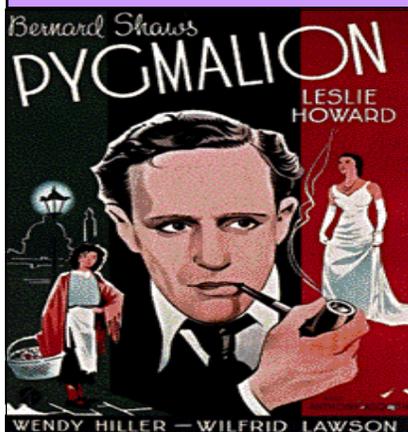


SHAW GUILD NEWS



George Bernard Shaw is the only person to have ever been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature and an Academy Award (the Oscars).

*The 1938 film production of *Pygmalion* starring Wendy Hiller and Leslie Howard and screenplay by GBS was triumphantly received by Hollywood. It was Wendy Hiller's first screen role and the film was nominated for best picture as well as Leslie Howard for best actor and Wendy Hiller for best actress. Only GBS actually won for best screenplay.



President's Column

What is the Shaw Guild?

The Shaw Guild is first and foremost an organization of volunteers, who support the Shaw Festival, one of Canada's most important arts organizations. We certainly support the Shaw through our fundraising efforts, having raised almost \$200,000 over the years. Just as important we assist by donating our time and energy, in the gardens, backstage, or hosting at performances, saving money that would otherwise have to be spent by the Festival.

For theatre lovers, The Shaw Guild also provides a unique opportunity to learn more about the art of theatre. With the enthusiastic support of Shaw company members, The Guild provides rare glimpses into the process of bringing a play from page to stage. We learn about this complex process by listening to Paul Sportelli's explaining how to write a new musical, visiting the scene shop where our talented craftspeople build sets and props, attending a set changeover in one of our three theatres, or listening to the head of design present a history of costumes in the 20th century.

Finally the Guild is also a "social club," through which our members meet like-minded people from our wonderful community. Each year, the Guild executive organizes a number of social events (the Presidents Luncheon, Curtain Call, theatre outings) which allow us to socialize and make new friends.

We hope that all of our Guild members will enjoy the programme of activities we have organized for you. And don't hesitate to contact me if you have ideas that could enhance our three objectives, helping the Shaw, learning about theatre and socializing with friends and company members.

Suzanne Hebert

Shaw elected not to attend the awards. "It's an insult for them to offer me any kind of an honor," he declared "as if they had never heard of me before - and it is very likely they never have. They might as well send some honor to George for being King of England."

In awarding George Bernard Shaw The Nobel Prize, the Committee wrote "for his work which is marked by both idealism and humanity, its stimulating satire often being infused with a singular poetic beauty"



Guild Dress Rehearsal: Sunday April 29.

Please note this is an afternoon rehearsal, starting at 2 pm. We meet in the lobby of the Royal George Theatre around 1:30 pm, and tickets will be distributed on a first come first serve basis. This event is free and restricted to Guild members. Please wear your nametag as proof of membership. There is no need to pre-register. For more information contact Livia Martin at 905-468-2226 or alliviamartin@sympatico.ca

This year's play is Shaw's *The Philanderer*, the author's second completed work for the stage. It focuses on such unsettling social issues as the constraints imposed on men, and especially women, by contemporary marriage and divorce laws.

Please remember that a dress rehearsal is just that, one last rehearsal before the play opens to the public. After weeks spent in rehearsal halls, it is one of only two or three opportunities for the actors, the director, the designers, the costume and props makers to evaluate how the play is working on stage, and to fine-tune staging, sound and lighting. We encourage all our members who attend the dress rehearsal to also attend a performance later in the season. The differences are often enormous!

Set Changeover: Wednesday June 6th, at 4:45 pm at the Royal George Theatre.

Join us to get a peek backstage at The Royal George Theatre, Guild members will enjoy the set changeover between the matinee performance of *The Philanderer* and the evening performance of *The Circle*. We will then be able to wander in the very restricted storage and dressing rooms areas.

This event is free and restricted to Guild members. Please wear your nametag as proof of membership. There is no need to pre-register. For more information contact Livia Martin at 905-463-2226 or at AlliviaMartin@sympatico.ca.

According to the date printed in the stone at the rear of the building, work began on what is now The George in 1913. It opened as *The Kitchener*, a vaudeville house used to entertain troops stationed on the Commons during World War 1. The building later officially became The Royal George and first operated as a roadhouse showing silent films and traveling shows until the end of the decade. Eventually the building was converted for sound in the late '30's, and became the Brock Cinema until 1972. The last movie shown to the public was Walt Disney's *Bedknobs and Broomsticks* starring Angela Lansbury.

In 1972 it became the home of the Canadian Mime Theatre until 1980, when the then new artistic director Christopher Newton purchased the building on behalf of the Shaw Festival. Renovations lasted a decade, transforming the building into a tiny Edwardian opera house.

Shaw Garden Tour, Saturday, May 19th.

The Shaw Guild presents its historic Niagara Garden Tour from 10 am to 4 pm. The Guild has arranged for six private and very special Spring Gardens to be opened just for you visit. Enjoy your easy walking tour of these wonderful Old Town gardens that help make Niagara-On-The-Lake such a marvelous place. On hand to make

Continued on the next page.

To make your visits even more enjoyable will be members of the Guild and Master Gardeners at each garden to help you appreciate the displays. In addition the tour will provide details on numerous historic homes you will see near the Gardens. Garden tour tickets are \$20.00 and available from the Chamber of Commerce or the Shaw box office 1-800 511-7429 or www.Shawfest.com starting on April 9th, 2007.

We are also looking for Guild volunteers to help with our fundraising effort for the Shaw at the Gardens. Shifts are from 10 am to 1 pm and 1pm to 4 pm., and include tickets to the other gardens, as well as the Appreciation night event for volunteers the evening of May14th. If you can help us please contact Pat Ward by phone at 468-8824 or email j.conve@marygate.com at your earliest convenience.

Spring Tour of Bed and Breakfasts

This years Spring tour of Niagara -On -The- Lake Bed and Breakfasts is planned for Sunday May 12th .

The tour is a wonderful opportunity to view both modern and historic lodgings establishments as well as two National Historic Sites, Willowbank and the Laura Secord House, in the village of Queenston. Between the hours of 12 pm and 6 pm. Visitors can partake in self guided tours, with volunteers to assist at the sites. A reception at Willowbank during this time frame will feature Reif Estates wine tasting, classical music, hors d'oeuvres, and the opportunity to shop at the enticing marketplace in Reif Hall or the Antique Showcase in the newly re-built Bluma and Bram Appel Barn on the Willowbank property.

Sponsored by the Niagara-On-The-Lake Bed and Breakfast Association, the tour will feature the following homes: **Hilltop Manor, Governor's Walk, Davy House, A Vineyard and View, Brockamour Manor and RiverVine French Country Accommodations of Distinction.** To start off this exciting day a buffet lunch will be provided by the Niagara-On-The-Lake Golf Club at a special price of \$12.95. Reservations for this buffet lunch can be made by calling 905-468-3424.

Tickets for the Spring house Tour are **\$20.00 per guest** and may be purchased in person at Avondale Stores in Niagara-On-The-Lake, Simpson's Pharmacy, the Niagara-On-The-Lake Golf Club, Reif Winery and Willowbank. Order by phone calling RiverVine at 905-468-0001 or at Willowbank at 905-262-1239. Tickets are also available on line at www.springhousetour.com.

In addition, ticket purchasers have a chance to win the Romance Getaway Package that includes an indulgent array of prizes valued at \$1500.

Please join us in support of two incredible charitable organizations as all proceeds from tickets purchased will go to support The School of Restoration Arts at Willowbank Heritage Estate and Red Roof Retreat in Niagara-On-The-Lake.

This and That

Scene Shop Visit

Sixty Guild Members braved the cold to join Shaw company members at the Scene Shop on March 6th. This year, we had the added bonus of listening to Jean Rumney explaining, with lots of examples on hand, how she colours and distresses costumes. Participants got to touch vests with bullet holes oozing blood, the rather disgusting bit of latex used to build up the Microbe's costume in last year's *Too True To Be Good*, and material covered with "rain" and "snow." As usual Leslie Turner entertained the group with stories about the construction of the sets from *Mack and Mabel* and the technically difficult stage floor for *Hotel Peccadillo*.



Leslie explaining set construction



Jean illustrating distressed costumes

February 24th, twenty-four hardy Guild members boarded a bus to Toronto's Historic Distillery District to see The Soulepper Theatre production of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill's *The Threepenny Opera*. The musical director is Shaw Festival's own Paul Sportelli. Written in 1928 it is a play populated by underworld figures headed by the infamous Mackie Messer (Mack The Knife). The magnificent score is deeply influenced by Jazz and the opening and closing ballad "Die Moritat Vom Mackie Messer" (Mack The Knife) has been performed by countless performers notable among them are Bobby Darin, Frank Sinatra and Ella Fitzgerald. The production received great reviews from the discerning Shaw Guild members.

Outing to Soulepper



Tristan

Fifty Guild members and friends attended the special session put together by Paul Sportelli on *How to Write a musical*, featuring the music and lyrics of *Tristan*. Paul's energy and passion absolutely energized the room, and we had the added bonus of *Tristan's* two stars, Jeff Madden and Glynis Reaney singing excerpts from the musical. We are particularly thankful to Paul, who was directing the music for *The Threepenny Opera* on the evening of February 14th (the day of the big snowstorm), and drove to Niagara-On-The-Lake on the morning of February 15th for our workshop, and then drove back to Toronto that afternoon for another performance of Brecht/Weill musical.

The President's Luncheon and Show and Tell

Eighty Guild members, and our guests, Colleen Blake and Janet Hanna of The Shaw enjoyed a delightful luncheon prepared by the Shaw Green Room on Sunday March 25th. The President's luncheon marks the official beginning of the Shaw season for our Guild members, an opportunity to meet old friends and make new ones.

Our thanks go to the organizing committee, who decorated the Green Room in spring colours, with tulips, pussy willows, lilac table cloths and fanned serviettes.

After the luncheon, we moved to one of the rehearsal halls to hear Colleen Blake present a passionate as always description of the 2007 plays, and were able to see the set maquettes and costume sketches of many upcoming productions.

Bring all your friends to see *Mack and Mabel*, the first production, on stage April 3rd.



Suzanne Herbert introducing new members at the luncheon

Colleen Blake presiding over Show and Tell

Special note-- The Philanderer will have fifteen performances that include a fourth act. To get all dates go to the Shaw Festival website, go to playbill and in May, June and July these performance are marked by an asterisk. The first one is a May 25th matinee.

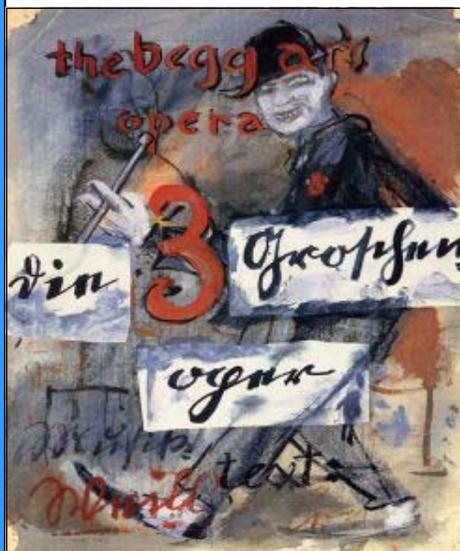
The celebrated dancer Isadora Duncan wrote to Shaw declaring that “given the principles of Eugenics, they should have a child together, think of it “she declared, “with my body and your brains what a wonder it would be.” “Yes,” Shaw replied. ” But what if it had my body and your brains?”

Editors Column

The Threepenny Opera is a revolutionary piece of musical theatre adapted from an 18th Century Ballad Opera, John Gay's *The Beggars Opera*. The protagonist, in the original opera is an elegant Highway man who for Brecht/Weill becomes a dangerous anti-hero criminal, Mackie Messer or Mack The Knife. The play offers a socialistic critique of the capitalistic world and challenges conventional notions of property and asks the question "who is the biggest criminal the one who robs a bank or the one who founds one."

In 1935 Weill fled Germany to the U.S. via Paris and Brecht fled to the U.S. in 1941 via Siberia.

The Threepenny Opera both in attitude and music has inspired such hit musicals as *Cabaret* and *Chicago*.



Original 1928 poster in German

VOLUNTEERING

There are so many opportunities for volunteering with the Guild.

Gardening: Join our gardeners on Monday Mornings. New helpers are always welcome and no prior expertise is required. Bring enthusiasm and a willingness to help out.

The Docents: We provide backstage tours all through the Shaw season. The Guild provides special training for those interested in leading tours of the Festival Theatre.

Hosting: Welcoming patrons to the performance and ensuring that it's the correct performance.

Fair and Fete: One can assist with this grand and festive annual fundraiser in many different capacities.

Communication: Helping out by calling many members by phone to update them on events.

Fundraising : Assisting with our special event fundraisers such as the Garden Tour.



Dear Editor

I was fascinated by Collen Blake's presentation of the scenery and costumes during "Show and Tell." The miniature construction of the sets are works of art and it has certainly piqued my interest in seeing all the plays this season. The Guild members are fortunate to see and hear about the inner workings of the Shaw Festival. Lets have more of these seminars. D.L.

Send letters to the editor to ddeaune@sympatico.ca or to The Shaw Guild, PO Box 83, NOTL, On, L0S 1J0.