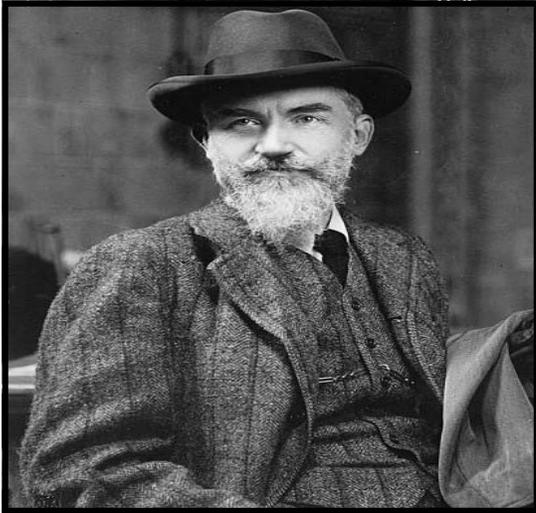


The Shaw Guild



Mrs. Warren's Profession was written in 1893 but in 1894 it was banned for public production by the censors for its treatment of the subject of prostitution. In 1894 the play was published in a collection of Shaw's plays called *Plays Pleasant and Unpleasant*. It was performed privately in London in 1902 at the New Lyric Theatre but the play did not receive a public production in London until 1925, the same year GBS was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature. The play premiered in New York City in 1905. Arrest warrants for disorderly conduct were issued to the producer and the actors immediately after opening night. The play closed and only after several months of hearings were the charges dropped.

President's Column

I write this on a frigid Thursday afternoon in mid-February. But this day also brings us the first 2008 rehearsal at The Shaw Festival, with the artistic team gathered in Rehearsal Hall 1 to read *Wonderful Town* together, for the first time. It's always an exciting day for those of us who love The Shaw, the promise of another great season to come, very soon, with spring.

As Colleen Blake wrote in her 2007 Annual Report, "despite the rollercoaster ride of the past few years caused by our very fluid and volatile environment, The Shaw Festival remains resilient and in 2007 delivered a season of unsurpassed artistic excellence. The strength of this company runs deep and transcends temporary financial challenges."

2008 is off to a wonderful start. The Shaw opened *Saint Joan* in Chicago in January to an almost sold out run, and tickets are also selling strongly for the new season. We hope that you will join us for a toast to the new Season on Sunday April 6 during the President's luncheon, followed by Show and Tell. And we hope that you will continue to volunteer throughout the year with the Guild members' usual enthusiasm and dedication.

Suzanne Hebert

President, The Shaw Guild

It is not in itself the subject of prostitution that initially troubled the censors, both British and American. They had licensed many plays in which the theme was introduced. It was Shaw's suggestion that prostitution was defensibly preferable to "legitimate" alternatives open to poor women. Dan Lawrence, Literary Advisor to The Shaw Festival, 1960.

It remains as true as it was in 1894 that we praise female virtue highly and pay it poorly, and pay female vice highly whilst we deplore it verbally. GBS, Letter to The Evening Standard, September 15, 1924.



Mrs Warren's Profession
by George Bernard Shaw
8th - 11th November

Mark Your Calendar

The Hosting Season begins April 1 with captains starting calls in mid-March. This year's captains are: Luba Fraser 486-4510, Mora Richmond 468-4303, Pamela Ward 468-8824, Ruth Belfie 468-5708, John Edmonds 468-9089, Lesley Fowler 468 5828, Kay Langlois 682-5911, Elizabeth Rothmel 935-1060, Ken Bell 468-1272, Al Martin 468-2226, Joanne Forsyth 468-4863, Sheri Webber 356-3538, Kathie Hill 468-2974, Bud Moulson 468-1348, Moyra MacEachern 468-1148, Violi Whitmee 468-8381. Captains will begin making calls starting with hosts whose last name begins with "N" and working down through the listing. Enjoy the season and remember to contact your captain should you have to cancel a booking because of an emergency. Jim White, Hosting Chair

The Presidents Luncheon – This years annual spring luncheon takes place on **Sunday April 6** in the Festival Theatre Lobby.

Doors will open at 11:45, with lunch being served at 12:30. Lunch is \$30 (thirty), and there will be a cash bar.

If you have any questions please call or email Katherine at 905-984-8513 or katji.stef@sympatico.ca. As we need to plan for attendance, please send your cheques, made to The Shaw Guild, no later than April 1, to:

The Shaw Guild,

Re: President's luncheon

PO Box 83,

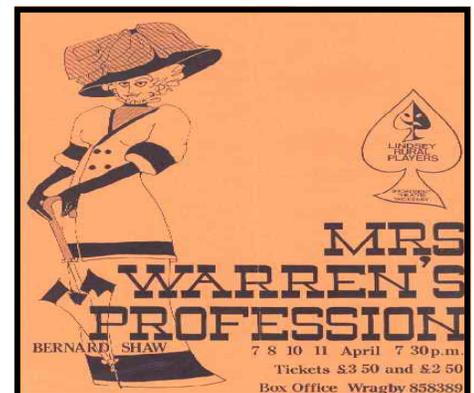
Niagara On The Lake ON, L0S1J0.

Show and Tell — Following the President's luncheon, starting at 2:30 pm, Colleen Blake, Executive Director of The Shaw Festival will join us for Show and Tell. Guild members will be the first to see and admire costume sketches and set maquettes of this season's plays. Please note that all Guild members are invited, and that you do not need to have attended the luncheon to join us.

Show & Tell takes place in the Festival Rehearsal Hall. Please enter through Stage Door.

Shaw contended that many women in England were forced to choose prostitution over acute poverty or starvation because the opportunities for employment were so dismal. Mrs. Warren chose prostitution as a way out of poverty and then used some of her earnings to provide an education for her daughter, Vivie. An education which would give Vivie opportunities Mrs. Warren never had.

Rodney Higgenbotham, 1970



Recruitment Policy for our Docents Programme

Over the past few months, the Guild Executive has had several long discussions regarding the recruitment of new Docents. The consensus of the Executive is that maintaining the quality of the programme is the most fundamental criteria. We must also recognize the tremendous efforts which Shaw Festival personnel have expended over the last years to train the existing Docent team, and improve both the content and the delivery of our tours.

Finally, all Docents recognize that practice makes perfect and that it is extremely important that all Docents have the opportunity to conduct tours regularly throughout the season. The number of Docents must therefore remain limited, unless demand for additional tours increases drastically. Our analysis points to 30 Docents being the optimum number at this point.

The Executive has therefore adopted a policy that states that, in order to maintain the quality of Docents led back-stage tours, recruiting for new Docents will only take place when resignations occur, or to respond to increased client demand from The Shaw. We have also decided that ideally, candidates should have been active members of The Shaw Guild and/or The Shaw Festival for at least two years before they can be considered.

Gardening Committee Report

A re-organization of the Operations Dept. at Shaw has created an opportunity for our Guild Gardening volunteers to pursue a more creative involvement in the work we do to support The Shaw Festival.

Paddy Parr, Director of Operations, has advised The Guild that the economic challenges of the past few years have led to a decision by Shaw to out-source a portion of the grounds maintenance to Green Scenes Landscaping, a local company. They will conduct spring and fall major clean-ups; cut and trim the lawns; weed all flower and shrub beds; trim all bushes and shrubs as required, and dead-head all flowering plants.

With the landscaping company doing the weeding, sweeping and raking, the Guild Gardeners are now in a position to focus on their own projects, e.g. development and maintenance of the Green Room Garden and the Secret Garden.

Paddy praised the contributions of the Guild Gardeners in the past and is looking forward to a continuing relationship that will support the Shaw Festival goal of "looking our best" for our patrons.

Peggy Bell, Chair of the Gardening Committee will be meeting soon with the membership to discuss plans for the new season. She welcomes the involvement of new members and can be reached at 905-468-1272 or e-mail aircrew747@sympatico.ca

A new play about Shaw, *The Many Battles of Bernard Shaw* received a reading at the October 2007 meeting of the Playreading Group of the London Shaw Society. Written by Australian playwright Brian Gilchrist it uses Shaw's own words to illustrate the playwright's views on sex, politics, war, poverty, religion, education, dictators, the United States, and his world travels from Hollywood to China.

"*Saint Joan*," which is here for one more week and is not to be missed..... The drama's issues are laid out before you like a bounteous, all-you-can-eat intellectual buffet. The stage is full of age, experience, richness and sheer dramatic heft. This fine young actress (Tara Rosling) has a deep set of eyes and, most remarkably, manages to combine the gruff, physical unease of a dairymaid with the moves of a woman possessed by that most enviable of traits: certainty.

Chris Jones, Tribune Theatre Critic, Chicago Tribune, January 12, 2008.



Executive Committee

President	Suzanne Hebert	905-468-3590	sogestec@sympatico.ca
Past-President	Faye Goodwin	905-468-8981	Bob.faye@sympatico.ca
Vice-President	Carol Reid	905-680-1020	cm.reid@sympatico.ca
Secretary	Josie O'Brien	905-357-3577	obriens@vaxxine.com
Treasurer	Richard Ventresca	905-468-8310	richard.ventresca@sympatico.ca
Membership	Justin Venhuizen	905-468-3336	Justin.fran@sympatico.ca
Guild Activities	Katherine Stephaniuk	905-984-8513	Katja.stef@sympatico.ca
Information	Leonard Kooperman	905-262-1664	ddeaune@sympatico.ca
Hosting	Jim White	905-562-9679	jimwhite@sympatico.ca
Docents	Peter Barwell	905-468-7487	stay@brockhollow.com
Fundraising	Peter Gill	905-468-5190	gillhome@cogeco.ca
Orientation	Jack Harmer	905-468-0990	harmer@niagara.com

Membership

Thank you to those who have renewed their Guild membership for 2008. We encourage those who have not yet re-joined for 2008, to renew their membership as soon as possible so as to not miss being on the various lists allowing your participation in the upcoming events. From now on, we will only be sending copies of the Newsletter and other notices to paid-up members.

The renewal membership fee is \$15 per person (first year fees are \$20 per person). Each member of the Executive has a current list of paid-up members for 2008. If you need to check whether you are a paid-up member for 2008, please ask any Executive member or, specifically, the Membership Chair. If your address label on the envelope this Newsletter came in has an 'x' in the upper right hand corner, we have not yet received your 2008 membership fee.

If you have any questions, please contact the Membership Chair at: justin.fran@sympatico.ca or 468-3336.

A life making mistakes is not only more honourable, but more useful than a life spent doing nothing.

GBS