



PEOPLE'S THEATRE

“I LIKE  
THIS PEOPLE'S  
THEATRE!”

*A celebration of the  
wit and wisdom of  
Bernard Shaw*

Wednesday  
21st September 1988  
at 7.30 pm

In the presence of The Lord Mayor  
and The Lady Mayoress

*A gala of entertainment in aid of the Theatre refurbishment*

PEOPLE'S THEATRE  
STEPHENSON ROAD, NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.





# **“I LIKE THIS PEOPLE’S THEATRE”**

*( A celebration of the wit and wisdom of Bernard Shaw )*

## **OVERTURE**

- “Brush Up Your Shavian”** With Joe Ging
- The Early Years:** Shaw’s childhood in Dublin and formative years in London are narrated by Christopher Goulding
- “Corno Di Bassetto”** His days as a brilliantly scathing music critic are portrayed by Gordon Mounsey
- “Pygmalion”** A well known scene from perhaps his most famous play with:  
Neville Wanless as Professor Higgins  
Anita Fishburn as Eliza Dolittle  
Eric Peel as Colonel Pickering  
Jude Jones as Mrs Higgins  
Helga McNeil as Mrs Eynsford-Hill  
David Tarkenter as Freddie Eynsford-Hill  
Barbara Harrington as Miss Eynsford-Hill  
Pat Dunn as The Maid
- “The Revolutionist’s Handbook”** Gordon Mounsey and Christopher Goulding present Shaw as the maturing wit and philosopher
- “Up in the Gallery”** Anne Cater sings a popular song of the period

## **~ I N T E R V A L ~**

- “The Chucker-Out”** The ‘GBS’ ego in full flight on every subject under the sun – and letters from a tiresome young admirer
- “My Hero”** Anne Cater sings a song from ‘The Chocolate Soldier’ – An adaptation of ‘Arms and the Man’
- Last Speech:** Shaw makes his last public speech while visiting the People’s Theatre in 1936, as portrayed by Gordon Russell
- “Shakes vs. Shav ”:** Shaw’s twilight years, his death and its aftermath – with John MacDonald and Gordon Russell
- “My Fair Lady”** We end our evening with a scene from the famous musical adaptation of ‘Pygmalion’ – (Cast as for ‘Pygmalion’)

## **T H E E N D**

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<i>Director</i> .....	Christopher Goulding
<i>Lighting</i> .....	Chris Webster
<i>Musical Direction</i> .....	Alan Johnson
<i>Rehearsal Pianist</i> .....	Joe Chapman
<i>Sound</i> .....	George Cousins
<i>Wardrobe</i> .....	Cindy Marshall
<i>Properties</i> .....	Gillian Kerr
<i>Stage Management</i> .....	Steve Robertson

*The Director gratefully acknowledges the help of:*

Alan Chappelow, Chatto & Windus (The Hogarth Press) Ltd,  
Anne Harris, Heather Saint, Peter Stattersfield, Frank Manders,  
Newcastle City Libraries, Keith Wigham at JAP and John Grey.

Playwright, critic, philosopher and wit, would-be social reformer, Bernard Shaw (he hated being called George) was a giant figure throughout the first half of the 20th century.

Born in genteel poverty in the Dublin of 1856, he was the product of a bizarre and loveless marriage. When he died in England ninety four years later, actors, writers and statesmen the world over gave their prepared tributes while an American newspaper offered a million dollars for the exclusive rights to his last words.

The People's Theatre has always had a special connection with Shaw. We are almost certainly the only theatre company in the country to have performed every single one of his many plays – this includes a possible world premiere – and he made his last public speech from the stage of our old premises in Rye Hill in 1936. In 1939 the BBC Radio Northern Service broadcast a programme about us. Shaw contributed a genial and generous recorded message beginning with the words which form the title of tonight's show "*I like this People's Theatre!*"

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*"The Search for Love" – the first volume of Michael Holroyd's long awaited biography of Shaw, published and released this month by Chatto & Windus, is for sale in the foyer of this theatre at £16.00.*



PEOPLE'S  
JUB

25 Year

BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE  
OF "CANDIDA"

The People's Theatre, Newcastle, this week is celebrating its silver jubilee with a production of George Bernard Shaw's "Candida," and the first of three performances was given last night.

In the "capacity" audience were some dozen original members of the theatre who were the guests of the company, and with them Lady Trevelyan, the president, who was accompanied by Sir Charles Trevelyan, rejoiced in the progress achieved by the theatre during the 25 years.

"An auspicious occasion," remarked Lady Trevelyan, in the course of a address, during which she mentioned congratulations had been received all parts of the world.

"As we look back, as we realize tiny was the seed sown, I think we congratulate ourselves and all who interested in the theatre and who well for its future, upon the development we have seen," said Lady Trevelyan; looked forward to the next 25 years confidence. The plays they had produced she said, were plays that had made mark upon the history of the drama in this country.

Following the performance there was a birthday party and a cake bearing candles, which Lady Trevelyan dealt in the traditional happy fashion. She gave the toast "The People's Theatre which was honoured with enthusiastic members of the company and friends.

#### UNBROKEN SERVICE

It is interesting to note that four original members of the theatre have an unbroken record of 25 years service. They are Colin Veitch, for many years chairman, who is playing the same part in the present production of "Candida" in the theatre's first performance of the play in 1911; Norman Veitch, for chief producer and for the last few years productions manager; Edith Veitch (Norman Veitch), the house manager, Arthur J. S. Crossdell.

Mr Shaw and Mrs Shaw are coming to Newcastle on Saturday to attend the final performance of the present season and will arrive at the Central Station shortly after 4 p.m. They are to be guests of Sir Charles and Lady Trevelyan at Wallington Hall over the week-end.

By the standard achieved last night Shaw should not be disappointed with the People's Theatre's presentation and performance of his play. In the judgment of the writer it will more than bear comparison with any professional production of the play that Newcastle has seen in the past quarter of a century.

The play is exceptionally well cast, and it was impossible last night to detect a flaw anywhere, collectively or individually. There was no sense of strain, as there might well have been having regard to the occasion. Each member of the company was not merely word perfect—a considerable achievement in itself, though one is accustomed to expect such efficiency at the People's Theatre—but each got right under the skin of his or her allotted role, and made one part rather than spectate at the emotional storm of "Candida."

starved, self-conscious, young men.

"Candida" is described as a mystery. When first written it may have been, but it is no longer. Will Mr Shaw be cross if one describes it as a lovely story of love?

If he should be, then he must watch closely the closing scene, when Greta Burke, as "Candida," takes two bruised

"This being my last speech in the theatre, I like it to be this one."

PEOPLE'S THEATRE  
HONOUR

"I Am Far Too Old"



PEOPLE'S THEATRE  
JUBILEE

25 Years' Progress

"I like this People's Theatre."

BERNARD SHAW SPEAKING ON A  
BBC RADIO BROADCAST, 1939.

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HIS "LAST  
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It is no disparagement to the players of the Newcastle People's Theatre to say that they were not "top of the bill" despite a sterling performance of Shaw's "Candida." The star was the great "G. B. S." himself. No one present will ever forget how, after the play, he walked on the stage, complete with his cane and

G. B. S. MAKES  
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Newcastle Occasion  
PEOPLE'S THEATRE  
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25 Years' Progress

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