

Leeds Arts Centre
Amateur Theatre Company



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Civic Theatre - 23rd to 27th April 1996

PYGMALION

George Bernard Shaw

Born in Dublin in 1856 the last in a long line of increasingly impoverished Anglo-Irish gentry.

On his arrival in London in 1876 he became an active Socialist and was one of the first members of The Fabian Society, a society committed to social justice and equality.

He first began writing for the stage in 1883, setting out to challenge the prevailing theatrical conventions by introducing to the theatre subjects previously confined to the law courts, parliament or gentlemen's clubs; subjects such as slum landlords, war, religion, public health, economics and the position of women.

By the outbreak of the first World War his position as a playwright was unchallenged throughout the world. He was indeed the most controversial literary figure of his age.

Although he wrote less as he grew older, he never completely stopped and was working on a comedy when he died in 1950 at the age of 94 .

Pygmalion

“I call it (*Pygmalion*) a romance because it is the story of a poor girl who meets a gentleman at a church door and is transformed by him into a beautiful lady. That is what I call a romance. It is also what everybody else calls a romance, so for once we are all agreed”. (*Shaw*)

Eliza Doolittle, like so many others at that period in history, was a woman whose world was organised to keep her in her place at the bottom of the heap. A chance encounter with Professor Higgins enabled her to rise to undreamed of heights - but which of them had the steepest learning curve.....?

Pygmalion was written in 1913 and first produced in Vienna and Berlin. Frequently staged during Shaw's lifetime, it has remained popular and was filmed in 1938. In 1956 it was adapted on Broadway as *My Fair Lady*, which became one of the most successful musicals of all time. The film version of *My Fair Lady* was released in 1964.

In case you have ever wondered, Pygmalion was a character from Greek mythology - a sculptor on the island of Cyprus. He sculpted an ivory statue of a woman and then fell in love with it. In answer to his prayers, Aphrodite gave life to the statue whom Pygmalion called Galatea.

by Bernard Shaw

CAST

Clara Eynsford-Hill	Caroline Rake
Mrs Eynsford-Hill	Denise Forton
Freddy Eynsford-Hill	Mark Clay
Eliza Doolittle	Kathryn Heneachon
Colonel Pickering	Malcolm Brown
Henry Higgins	Brian Butler
Mrs Pearce	Betty Triggs
Alfred Doolittle	Gordon Wilson
Mrs Higgins	Mary Nelson
Parlourmaid	Shirley Broadbent
Bystanders	Dave Mallinson
	Tony Nelson, Jean Blundell
	Margaret Savage

PRODUCTION TEAM

Stage Manager	Martyn Drake
Assistant Stage Managers	Dave Mallinson
	Gwyneth Hadley
Set Design	Malcolm Brown
Set Construction Co-ordinator	Richard Francis
Set Construction	Stuart Wilton and LAC team
Prompt	Christine Wilson
Properties	Doreen Parker, Trudy Stewart, Andre Kilner
Costumes	George Judd, Maggie Rhodes, Pat Townsley and LAC wardrobe team
Lighting	Laurie Ball, Peter Waddicor
Sound Recording	Jim Marshall
Sound Operation	Jonathan Coope
Front of House Manager	Shirley Burgess
Box Office Managers	John and Dorianne Pemberton

Directed by Joyce M King

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Leeds Arts Centre would like to thank Lloyds Private Banking for their sponsorship and de Vere Hotels for allowing us to take publicity photographs at Oulton Hall.



Costume Hire

Costumes of various types and periods are available for hire from the Leeds Arts Centre costume collection at reasonable rates either by drama societies or by individuals for fancy dress occasions.

Please telephone Mrs Margaret Rhodes, our wardrobe mistress to discuss your requirements - Leeds (0113) 275 6796

Civic Theatre Staff

Theatre Manager - *Steven Cartwright*

Assistant Manager - *Vivien Simpson*

Chief Technician and Lighting - *Peter Waddicor*

Technicians - *Sandy Clark, Chas Elliott*

Catering for Crown Point Foods - *Shirley Tarran*

Box Office - *Helen Richmond, Shirley Shortall, Sylvia Gooding*

In accordance with the requirements of the Licensing Sub-Committee of Leeds City Council:

- The public may leave at the end of the performance by all exits and entrance doors and such doors must at that time be open.
- All gangways, passages and staircases must be kept entirely free from chairs or any other obstructions.
- Persons shall not be permitted to stand in any of the intersecting gangways, or stand in any other unseated space in the auditorium, unless standing in such a space has been specially allowed by the Licensing Committee. A notice is exhibited in that part of the auditorium in which standing has been sanctioned.
- The safety curtain must be lowered and raised once immediately before the commencement of each performance to make sure it is in proper working order.

Next Week...



Headingley Amateur Operatic Society

presents

Oliver

Evenings at 7.15 p.m.

Saturday Matinee at 2.00 p.m.

Leeds Arts Centre....

Leeds Arts Centre was formed in 1945 as an amateur Society to encourage and foster interest in the Arts. Members come from all walks of life and include some who have worked in and others who aspire to the professional theatre.

Our activities are now mainly centred around the theatre with the Drama Group mounting four or five plays each year at the Civic Theatre. These often include a musical or review type show.

The Green Room Group puts on plays and other forms of entertainment in the rehearsal rooms to give members valuable experience of acting and producing before they tackle major parts or productions in the Civic Theatre. Prospective members are welcome to attend these performances.

The Fine Arts Group meets twice each week throughout the year for drawing, painting and other creative work. Annual exhibitions are held of members' work.

In addition there is a variety of social activities for members, such as theatre visits, outings, parties etc.

Interested in Joining?

We are always glad to welcome new members and our lively Green Room Group provides a friendly atmosphere in which younger and less experienced members develop their potential - making friends in the process.

If you are interested in acting, producing, drawing, painting (pictures or scenery), set building, making costumes, helping back stage, front of house or even with publicity and think you might like to join the Centre, or would like more information please have a word with one of our members tonight or write to:

The Secretary, Leeds Arts Centre,
c/o Civic Theatre, Cookridge Street,
Leeds LS2 8BH

**The next
Leeds Arts Centre
production will be....**

Relatively Speaking

by Alan Ayckbourn

Greg and Ginny are living together but Greg suspects that he is not the only man in her life and follows her when she claims she is going to visit her parents. Misunderstanding follows misunderstanding to create a hilarious situation ideal for a summer evening's entertainment.

This is without doubt one of Ayckbourn's funniest plays - don't miss it!

**Directed by Jonathan Coope
25th to 29th June 1996**

**Book at Civic Theatre Box Office,
Cookridge Street, Leeds -**

Tel:(0113) 245 5005 or 247 6962

FRIENDS OF LEEDS CIVIC THEATRE

Join the 'Friends' and support this
delightful little theatre.

Application forms available from the foyer.