



12-2-1949

Program for the Stage Production Pygmalion

Curtain Club
Ursinus College

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CITIZENS OF COLLEGEVILLE

You are cordially invited
to witness a presentation of
George Bernard Shaw's

“PYGMALION”

† † †

THE CURTAIN CLUB

of

URSINUS COLLEGE

invites you, yea! urges you to attend its presentation
of this witty English classic.

† † †

Curtain at 8:15 p. m.

on the evenings of

Friday Dec. 2nd, and Saturday, Dec. 3rd, 1949

in

Thompson-Gay Gymnasium

† † †

To reserve tickets call Collegeville 3311 and ask for Mrs. Crews.

Price — \$1.00 inc. tax

By arrangements with Samuel French, Inc., N.Y.C.

About the Play

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The original Pygmalion was a bachelor king of Cyprus. He saw much to blame in living women. Therefore, being a sculptor, he made with wonderful skill a statue of ivory, so beautiful that no living woman compared with it. Pygmalion fell in love with his handiwork (in modern literature called Galatea) and kept the statue clothed in beautiful garments and arrayed in expensive jewelry. The goddess Aphrodite finally endowed the statue with life and as far as is known they lived happily ever after.

Shaw's play concerns a professor of phonetics, Henry Higgins, (Pygmalion), and his transformation of a cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle (Galatea) into a lady. Higgins' motives in bringing about this change are purely self-satisfying. He does it to please his love for phonetic dialects to satisfy his vanity in knowing that he *can* do it and to win a bet that he can pass Eliza off as a Duchess. He takes Eliza into his own home and proceeds to teach her the functions of speaking, dressing and acting as a lady.

Eliza's first test comes at "an at home" given by Henry's mother. Although great improvement is noticed in Eliza's manner of speech and dress, it is easily seen that she still has a great deal more to learn. Her appearance and quaint intermingling of proper speech with phrases from her former street life fascinate the guests, especially Freddy Eynsford Hill, who becomes infatuated and begins writing love notes to her.

At the end of six months, Eliza has completed her course. When seen in the last acts she displays the new ladylike qualities. She has at last completed her desire to become a lady and she wins Henry's bet for him. However, in so doing, she has lost the independence which she formerly had as a flower girl. Eliza cannot go back to being a flower girl, since she is now too much of a lady; and she cannot stay a lady since she does not have the monetary means. Therefore, Eliza is in a dilemma. How she solves the problem we are not too sure from the play because Shaw allows his audiences to draw their own conclusions.

In writing his play, Shaw has made a hero of Higgins since he feels that England needs a phonetic reformer. "The English have no respect for their language," says Shaw, "and they do not teach their children to speak. They spell it so abominably that no man can teach himself what it sounds like." In conclusion Shaw states that in spite of the Academy of Dramatic Art, there is still too much sham English on our stage, and too little noble English.

The Colledgeville audience will be fortunate in hearing several real English actors in the leading roles.

It is the opinion of many able critics that the Ursinus College Curtain Club productions compare favorably with some of the professional offerings.

“ PYGMALION ”

Directed by FRED BECKHARDT '50

Staged by JOE BEARDWOOD '52

THE PLAYERS

(In order of their speeches)

Clara Enyesford Hill	MARGE TAYLOR '51
Mrs. Enyesford Hill	VIRGINIA SMITH '50
A Bystander	EMILE SCHMIDT '51
Freddy Enyesford Hill	HAROLD GOLD '52
Liza Doolittle	AVIS ALLEN '52
Colonel Pickering	TOM SWAN '50
Henry Higgins	DON AIKEN '50
A Sarcastic Bystander	FRED BECKHARDT '50
Mrs. Pearce	MURIEL SCHOLL '51
Alfred Doolittle	BILL KELLER '50
Mrs. Higgins	NANCY BRASCH '51
Parlor Maid	PAT WOOD '51

Synopsis of Scenes

ACT I

Convent Garden at 11:15 p. m. during a heavy spring rain.
The action takes place under the portico of St. Paul's Church.

ACT II

Next day at 11 a. m. Henry Higgins quarters in Wimpole Street.

ACT III

Mrs. Higgins' drawing-room between four and five in the afternoon.

ACT IV

The Wimpole Street Quarters. Midnight.

ACT V

Mrs. Higgins' drawing-room. Late afternoon.

Any play with five acts and three scenes entails a tremendous amount of activity that is not obvious on the stage. The two people who deserve special mention for directing a great deal of this work are Fred Beckhardt '50, our student director, and Joe Beardwood '52, our stage manager.

Fred Beckhardt is one of the club's stalwarts. He has acted in "Mr. and Mrs. North," and "You Can't Take It With You." He directed several group productions and co-directed "Uncle Harry."

Joe Beardwood, in two short years, has supplied the lighting for "Sweethearts" and "Uncle Harry," and acted in "You Can't Take It With You." He is one of the originators and is chief engineer of WURS, the college radio station.

Committees for Pygmalion

BUSINESS — Joan Deacon '50, Chairman; Peg Corliss '50, Bob MacMurray '51, Dolores DeSola '53, Norma Titus '51, Norma Marmor '51, Tom Shaw '52.

COSTUMES — Jim Johnson '51 and Marge Paynter '51, Co-Chairman; Joan Deacon '50, Joanne Nolt '53, Marge Musfelder '53, Janie Everhart '53.

STAGING — Joe Beardwood '53, Chairman; Sally Ann Lanham '53, Ivy Leaman '52, Manuel Parseghian '51, Bert Husband '52, Jack Chesna '50, Tom Davis '52, Bill LeKernec '52, Dave Monjar '51, Susanne Deitz '51.

PROPERTIES — Pam Massino '52, Chairman, Mary McPherson '51, Ginny Wilson '51, Janet Reinbrecht '52, Mary Ann Townsend '53.

PUBLICITY and PROGRAM — Bill Jordan '50, Chairman; Stan Pelovitz '51, Dotty Shirtz '51, Ann Royer '51, Rusty Reed '50, Marna Feldt '53, Nancy Herrick '51, Joan Levine '53, Joni Graf '52.

PROMPTER — Nancy Bare '51

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Acknowledgements

Mrs. Stanley Omwake is at her important post backstage.

Mr. Geoffrey Dolman has given us the benefit of his experience in the staging of this play.

Miss Doolittle's costume in the fourth act was designed and made by Miss Muriel Scholl '51.

Mrs. Higgins had her drawing room painted last week with Glidden's Spread Satin secured from the local distributor, J. HANSELL FRENCH, INC., 516 W. Marshall St., Norristown, Pa.

Those of you in the audience who cannot see Mrs. H's* artistry in the settings and costuming of the play and Mr. H's particular and peculiar skills in the movements and speeches of the actors should come back stage after the play and meet these interesting people.

*Mr. and Mrs. H. are Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Helfferich, sponsors and co-directors of the Curtain Club.