



★ 75TH BIRTHDAY PRODUCTION ★

30th April – 10th May 1997 at 7.30pm



George Bernard Shaw's  
irresistible classic

# Pygmalion

Transplanted cockney  
flower girl blossoms  
into lady



BOX OFFICE TELEPHONE: (01926) 426341

Box office opens: Saturday, 19th April, 10.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.  
and subsequent Saturday mornings.  
Weekdays 7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.



# Pygmalion

by Bernard Shaw

Director - WILLIAM WILKINSON

## CAST

Professor Henry Higgins -	DAVID BIDDLE
Eliza Doolittle -	ANN WILLIAMS
Colonel Pickering -	BILL BOSWORTH
Alfred Doolittle -	BRYAN FERRIMAN
Mrs Pearce -	JULIET GRUNDY
Mrs Eynesford-Hill -	ANNE WOOD
Clara Eynesford-Hill -	KIRSTY LEAHY
Freddie Eynesford-Hill -	MARK JEFFRIES
Mrs Higgins -	BETTY READING
Parlourmaid -	CATHERINE WALKER
Bystander -	CHARLIE HARTWELL
Sarcastic Bystander -	DOUG WATSON
Her Excellency the Ambassador's Wife -	JOY OLVER
His Excellency the Ambassador -	DOUG WATSON
A Policeman -	CHARLIE HARTWELL
Guests and Passers By -	JUDY MURDOCH
	LINDA GOMERSALL
	MARGARET REES
	STEPHEN RUSH
	ANDREW SALMOND
	& Other Members of the Company

*Neppomuck - JOHN FENNER*

## THE ACTION TAKES PLACE .... in London in 1912

- Scene 1 - Portico, St Paul's Church, Covent Garden
  - Scene 2 - A London taxi (heard but not seen)
  - Scene 3 - Professor Higgins Study, 27a Wimpole Street ... next day
  - Scene 4 - Teaching Eliza, a room at 27a Wimpole Street ... the second day
  - Scene 5 - The Conservatory, Mrs Higgins' house in Chelsea ... 3 months later
- 20 Minute Interval**
- Scene 6 - The Ambassador's Residence ... another 3 months later
  - Scene 7 - Back at 27a Wimpole Street, Professor Higgins Study ... the same night
  - Scene 8 - Various streets of London's West End ... later the same night
  - Scene 9 - And to Chelsea, the Conservatory ... next morning

Music by Edward Elgar and Franz Lehár

## PRODUCTION STAFF

- Set Design - DAVID ELLIS
- Stage Manager - SARAH PICKERING
- Deputy Stage Manager - MARGARET BOSWORTH
- Wardrobe - MARGARET SHEPHERD, MADELINE GORRILL, ANN GLADDY, SARAH HATTON
- Properties - KATY RUSH
- Lighting & Sound Operation - PETER BARTLEY, JASON EDWARDS, DON SYKES
- Lighting & Sound Design - WILLIAM WILKINSON WITH THE LOFT LIGHTING WORKSHOP
- Assistant Stage Managers - CATHERINE LEMON, LIZ COMPTON, HELEN WALL
- Set Construction - DAVID ELLIS, BON GREY, RICHARD MOORE, GRAHAM TAYLOR, CATHERINE DEOTTO, MARTINA COOK
- Hair Styles - MARK JEFFRIES
- Theatre Technician - SUE HAMILTON
- Photographs - CHRISTOPHER BRADBURY
- Programme Cover and Poster Design - DAVID ELLIS, GUS MACDONALD

# Loft spruced up and looking in its prime

*Pygmalion*, by Bernard Shaw, runs to Saturday, May 10, Loft Theatre, Leamington.

LAUGHTER and merriment was the order of the night as both the audience and cast clearly enjoyed this production of Bernard Shaw's popular play. Star of the show was 'Enry' Higgins, lovingly played by David Biddle, who sulked, gloated and flung himself about the stage like an overgrown bratty schoolboy, earning himself a strict telling off from his mother, Betty Reading—the only character who displayed any common sense and could put him in his place. It was impossible to dislike him.

His comic movements and mutterings made him appear so attractive it was hard to take his threats and thoughtless actions seriously.

A sense of comedy was prevalent throughout. Ann Williams as Eliza Doolittle marvellously captured the comic effects of Eliza's struggles to 'talk proper' and her timing was superb.

The 'scene stealer' award must go to Bryan Ferriman as Alfred Doolittle, gloriously miserable in his newly found wealth and exasperated at being forced into 'middle class morality', not all it's cracked up to be it would seem.

Perhaps the treatment of the script

was a little too lighthearted. It was difficult to appreciate Eliza's unhappiness and frustration and difficult to work out Henry's feelings towards her although Bernard Shaw sketched such a complicated character it may well have been his intention to leave the audience a little confused at the end.

But no matter, this was a great all-round performance under William Wilkinson's direction. The set was marvellous and the time flew by. Definitely well worth a visit.

Sarah Portlock

OUTLOOK Rating \*\*\*\*

## Still fresh

When Leamington's Loft Theatre was choosing a play to celebrate its 75th birthday what could have been more appropriate than a repeat performance of the first major play ever performed at the theatre back in 1922.

George Bernard Shaw's classic play *Pygmalion* has been a consistent favourite among audiences and the Loft's excellent interpretation of the play, proved that it is as popular today as it ever was.

The cast clearly enjoyed the production as much as the audience with both leading cast members giving faultless performances.

David Biddle was truly exceptional as the arrogant and sulky Henry Higgins and Anne Williams complemented him perfectly as veritable Eliza Doolittle. But it was Loft stalwart Bryan Ferriman who captured the show, as he has a habit of doing, this time with his performance as Eliza's dustman dad.

The production was both a fitting tribute to the last 75 years and a good indication that there's more to come.

Charlotte Beavers

