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HEARTBREAK¹³ HOUSE



Bernard Shaw



The Questors Theatre Company

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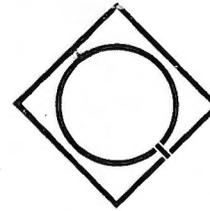


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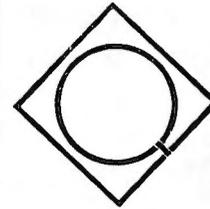
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THE QUESTORS THEATRE

FIRST PERFORMANCE

Saturday, 5th May, 1973

In his Preface to the play Bernard Shaw says "Heartbreak House is not merely the name of the play . . . it is cultured, leisured Europe before the war. When the play was begun not a shot had been fired . . .". This is, of course, the First World War which swept away for ever the whole fabric of life as it was before 1914.

The play is subtitled "A Fantasia in the Russian Manner on English Themes", and the plays of Chekhov had only recently been performed in England. Shaw felt it expedient to withhold "Heartbreak House" until 1919, partly because of its theme and partly because the theatre of the war years was given over to "entertainment" in the very broadest sense, and the play would not have received its due. Today the Chekhovian parallel is even more relevant than it may have been at the time of the original production, and the aim of the present production is to bring this aspect into relief. The play is of a way of life in decline and is autumnal in feeling and season. This is reflected in the abstract setting for the production, which is more concerned for the mood of the play than the strictly realistic.

At the end of Shaw's Preface to the play, comparing the Theatre with the world at large in all its futile forms, he writes:

"To the theatre it will not matter. Whatever Bastilles fall, the theatre will stand . . . Imperial Romanoff, said to have perished miserably . . . is perhaps alive or perhaps dead: nobody cares more than if he had been a peasant; the lord of Hellas is level with his lackeys in republican Switzerland; Prime Ministers and Commanders-in-Chief have passed from a brief glory as Solons and Caesars into failure and obscurity as closely on one another's heels as the descendants of Banquo; but Euripides and Aristophanes, Shakespeare and Molière, Goethe and Ibsen remain fixed in their everlasting seats".

If not actually seated, I hope that Shaw is standing beside them.

D.G.

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Give him a Guinness!

HEARTBREAK HOUSE

by Bernard Shaw

Characters in order of appearance:

Ellie Dunn ESTELLE LONGMORE
Nurse Guinness DOROTHY WOOD
Captain Shotover COLIN PRONGER
Lady Utterwood (Ariadne) RUTH TREMAYNE-SMITH
Hesione Hushabye SHEILA TIFFANY
Mazzini Dunn BERNARD McLAUGHLIN
Hector Hushabye PETER HOLMES
Boss Mangan TED SCRIVENER
Randall Utterwood ALAN DRAKE
The Burglar DAVID LORRAINE

The action takes place on a September evening in 1913, in the house and gardens of Captain Shotover's house in Sussex.

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Acts I and II (a warning bell will be rung three minutes before the performance recommences); and a short break between Acts II and III during which the lights will remain lowered.

Directed by DAVID GOWER

Designed by SPENCER BUTLER

The music used in this production is the Cello Concerto by Sir Edward Elgar

The flute is played by DON KINCAID

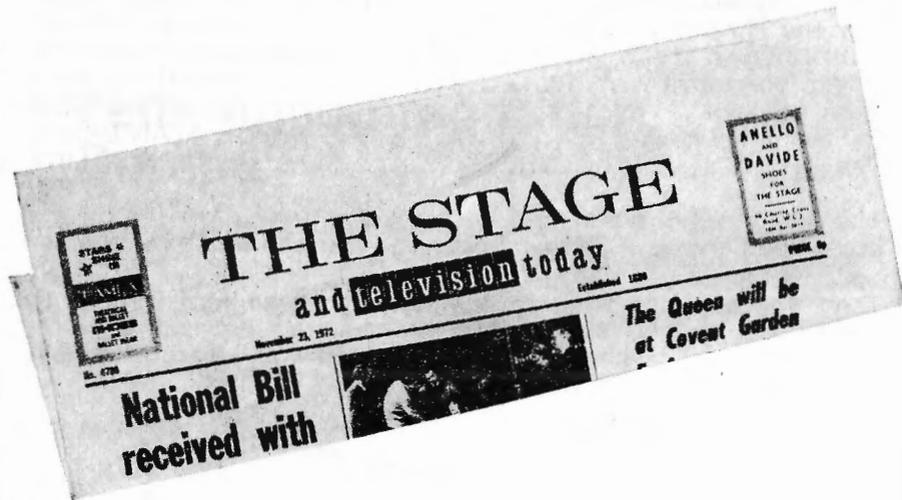
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EXHIBITION

During the run of HEARTBREAK HOUSE there will be an exhibition of paintings by SIDNEY KLUGMAN in the Foyer.

REFRESHMENTS

Sandwiches and coffee are available in the Foyer before performances and refreshments including ice cream will be served during the intervals.

FOYER BAR

The Foyer Bar is open on performance evenings from 7.00 p.m. to 7.45 p.m. and during the interval. It operates on a theatre licence and anyone attending a performance may use it, including guests. No bar membership is involved. **Interval drinks may be ordered at the bar before the performance commences.** The Grapevine Club continues as a private bar.

ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY THE BAR IS ALSO OPEN AFTER THE SHOW.

DISCUSSION

A discussion is held after each production by The Questors to which all members are invited. The discussion on HEARTBREAK HOUSE will be held after the performance on Saturday, 12th May in the Foyer.

MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE ARE REQUESTED TO REFRAIN FROM SMOKING IN THE AUDITORIUM.

LONDON THEATRE GUIDE

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