

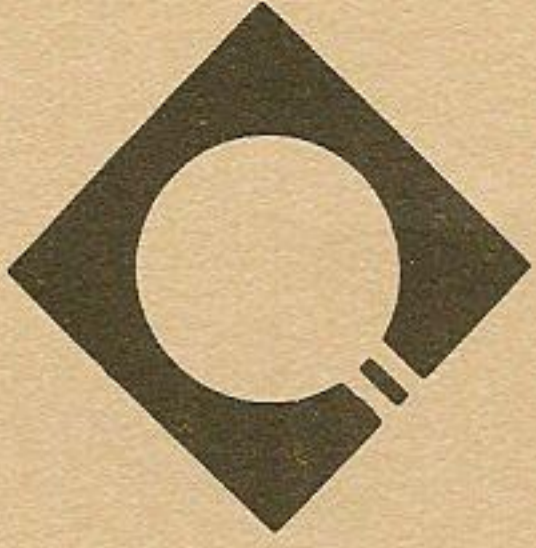
Misalliance

by

Bernard Shaw



The Questors Theatre Company



THE QUESTORS THEATRE COMPANY

First performance 23 November 1985

Misalliance was written in two months, between 8 September and 4 November 1909 and first produced the following February at the Duke of York's theatre in a season of repertory presented by the American manager Charles Frohman.

Frohman was persuaded to undertake the season by a number of eminent theatrical personalities of the day and expected great things of it — especially from Shaw, having seen his New York production of *Man and Superman* reach takings which broke all records for the theatre and exceeded even those for the Ziegfeld Follies. Alas, at the Duke of York's the season was not financially successful. But Frohman (who, incidentally was drowned when the Germans torpedoed the *Lusitania* in May 1915) can be credited with presenting the first performances of several fine plays, including Galsworthy's *Justice* and *The Madras House* by Harley Granville Barker. And, of course, *Misalliance*.

It was after hearing Barker read *The Madras House* that Shaw was inspired to write *Misalliance*. The link is not immediately obvious but Shaw may have been moved by some comic impulse to create his own version of the home life of the wealthy store owner in Barker's play. Certainly the character of Tarleton in Shaw's play was based in part on three celebrated businessmen — Andrew Carnegie, the founder of free libraries, William Whiteley who was assassinated by a young man reputed to be his bastard (imagine a play nowadays coming that close to real life!) — and Gordon Selfridge.

Barker crops up again in connection with the play as one of the passengers when in July 1906 Shaw made a balloon trip from Wandsworth Gasworks to Cobham Common in Surrey. It is not recorded whether Shaw's landing in Surrey was more felicitous than that of the aviators in his play, but the experience may have given

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MISALLIANCE

A Debate in One Sitting

by

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(As the Debate is a long one, there will be an interval of fifteen minutes. The audience is requested to excuse this interruption, which is made solely for its convenience.)

Characters and Cast (in order of appearance)

John Tarleton Junior ROBERT GORDON CLARK
Bentley Summerhays JOHN DOBSON
Hypatia Tarleton GWENAN EVANS
Mrs Tarleton PAM GOWER
Lord Summerhays KEN RATCLIFFE
John Tarleton DEREK BULLOCK
Joey Percival RAY CHILDE
Lina Szczepanowska OENONE GRANT
Julius Baker RICHARD BROWN

The Scene

John Tarleton's House on the slopes of Hindhead, Surrey.

The Time

31st May, 1909.

Set designed by PHIL PINKHAM
Costumes designed by STELLA BOND
Lighting designed by TIM HAYWARD
Sound designed by STUART DOLLIN
The play directed by JEFFREY SMITH

The performance will end at about 10.15pm.

Stage Manager : BRONWYN BECKFORD
Deputy Stage Manager : JENNY RICHARDSON
Assistant Stage Managers : BRIDGETT STREVENS
 TESSA CURTIS
 SYLVIA WALL
 RONA CHRISTIE
 VALERIE PALMER
 DAVID PALMER
 JULIA ALLEN
 JANE MANNING

Construction : NEVILLE GILLETT
assisted by : PETER PIERCE
 ALAN GILLETT

Properties : BOB RICKET
assisted by : JUDITH OLIVER
 KRYSIA SMITH

Wardrobe : STELLA BOND
assisted by : CHRIS BULLOCK
 HILARY MANN

Lighting Operator : ASHTAR THOMAS
Sound Operator : MIKE COOK
Make-up and Hair : JULIA CRUTTENDEN
 and GREASEPAINT LTD.

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 CHRIS SYDENHAM, ROGER BRACE, DAVE WHEATLEY,
 ROY BRIERLEY, ERIC LISTER, PHILIPPA FORSTER,
 ARTHUR BOARDMAN, JOHN STACEY

HOTPLATE

Delicious food is available in the Upper Foyer from
 6.30 pm during the run of theatre productions.

Interval refreshments will be served and you can buy tea
 or coffee tokens in advance.

Orders for Interval drinks can also be given at the bar
 prior to the performance.

Patrons are respectfully asked to refrain from taking
 refreshments into the auditorium.

YOU'VE SEEN THE SHOW

WHY NOT COME TO

AN OPEN INFORMAL DISCUSSION

ON THE PLAY AND THIS PRODUCTION OF IT?

On this occasion we are not inviting a guest speaker, but inviting you as members of the audience to come along and discuss quite informally with the cast and members of the production team what you thought of the production and the play — and their feelings about Shaw. Appropriately enough, the discussion will take place in the

BERNARD SHAW ROOM

at 7.45pm

on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd

We will also be using as a basis for the discussion reviews written by members of the audience.

It's always worth discussing a play by Shaw — do come along, either to contribute your views, or listen to those of others.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3rd 7.45pm IN THE SHAW ROOM

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him the idea for the crash which injects the eccentric Polish aviator into the action with such dramatic results.

Misalliance is a play which touches on some of Shaw's favourite themes: the relationships between men and women, husbands and wives, parents and children; the problems of conscience, character and disposition; and the idea of life as creative energy — "superabundant vitality" as Tarleton puts it. All this in a brilliant display of talk which, as J C Trewin has observed, holds the stage so that one hardly notices the passage of time. We have certainly found that to be true in rehearsal. We hope that it will be your experience also in performance.

"Drama", wrote Bernard Shaw ("I hate to be Georged in print") "is in discussion, which is the clash of minds." Enjoy the discussion!

Forthcoming Attractions

IN THE PLAYHOUSE

21 DECEMBER – 4 JANUARY

UNDER THE GASLIGHT

A Melodrama

by Augustus Daly

IN THE STUDIO

4 – 7 DECEMBER

HARD FEELINGS

by Doug Lucie

15 DECEMBER – 4 JANUARY

MICROMANIA

A contemporary Pantomime for 6 – 11 year olds

by Jane Dewey

ALSO COMING IN THE NEW YEAR

CAN'T PAY? WON'T PAY! by Dario Fo

BARTHOLOMEW FAIR by Ben Jonson

BLITHE SPIRIT by Noël Coward

GOOD by C.P. Taylor

WHOSE LIFE IS IT ANYWAY? by Brian Clarke

New and Prospective Members evenings are held every WEDNESDAY, commencing at 7.45 pm in the Grapevine bar. Included in the programme will be a comprehensive tour of the acting areas, workshops, wardrobe and rehearsal space.
