



Wednesday, January 8, 2003

Honors College celebrates works of Shaw

By **Jeff Samoray**, OU Web Writer

To provide a co-curricular, academic thrust to the **Meadow Brook Theatre/Shaw Festival International Residency**, Oakland University's **Honors College** is providing a series of events to further explore the works of playwright George Bernard Shaw.

The scheduled activities include a panel discussion offering an introduction to the works of Shaw, informal post-show conversations about the plays and a film festival.

"We want to create an academic experience around the Shaw Festival residency for the entire university and surrounding community," said Jude Nixon, professor of English and director of the Honors College. "This is the kind of programming the Honors College seeks to create – it's culture-expanding and co-curricular. Though the events are not tied to a particular academic course, they are tied to many of the things we do at Oakland University."

The tie between the **Honors College** and Shaw also is a natural one since Nixon and Brian Murphy, professor of English and associate director of the Honors College, have research interests in Shaw and his contemporaries.

"I'm a Victorianist, so Shaw is in the mainstream of the area in which I work," Nixon said. "And Murphy teaches film courses at OU and has acted in a number of different Shaw performances, so it's easy to see how we have connections to this area."

Shaw (1856-1950) was one of the English language's most prolific playwrights and is considered a prophet of the twentieth century. He illuminated the evolving roles of individuals and families as well as the revolutionary changes to the social conventions of the Victorian Era.

"I think one of the reasons Shaw remains popular is that his texts provoke the kinds of issues and concerns that we deal with today," Nixon said. "The complexities of humans and human nature is explored, and he often deals with the complexities of gender roles."

One of the largest reparatory companies in North America, the **Shaw Festival**, based in Ontario, Canada, has produced the works of Shaw since 1972.

To purchase tickets for the MBT/Shaw Festival Residency's performances of "**Candida**," which runs from Jan. 8 to Feb. 2, call the MBT Box Office at (248) 377-3300. For a complete schedule of performance dates, times and more information, visit the **Meadow Brook Theatre** Web site.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

Opening presentation

- Shaw – Our Contemporary: A panel discussion introducing the works of Shaw will be held by Brian Murphy, professor of English and associate director of the Honors College, and Jackie Maxwell, artistic director of the Shaw Festival, on Friday, Jan. 10, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Honors College Lounge in Vandenberg Hall.

Post-Show Conversations at Meadow Brook Theatre Informal discussions of the play "Candida" will follow these three 2 p.m. matinee performances:

- Aestheticism and the New Woman – Brian Murphy, professor of English and associate director of the Honors College, on Sunday, Jan. 12.
- Fabian Socialism – Jude Nixon, professor of English and director of the Honors College, on Sunday, Jan. 19.
- Love and Truth in Candida: A Good Marriage? – John Reed, professor of English at Wayne State University, on Sunday, Jan. 26.

Shaw Film Festival

- "The Devil's Disciple" – The 1959 film version, starring Burt Lancaster and Laurence Olivier, will be shown Wednesday,

Jan. 15, at 7 p.m. in the Honors College Lounge in Vandenberg Hall.

- "Caesar and Cleopatra" – The 1946 film version, starring Claude Rains and Vivien Leigh, will be shown Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m. in the Honors College Lounge in Vandenberg Hall.
- "Major Barbara" – The 1941 film version, directed by Gabriel Pascal, will be shown Wednesday, Jan. 29, at 7 p.m. in the Honors College Lounge in Vandenberg Hall.

SUMMARY

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