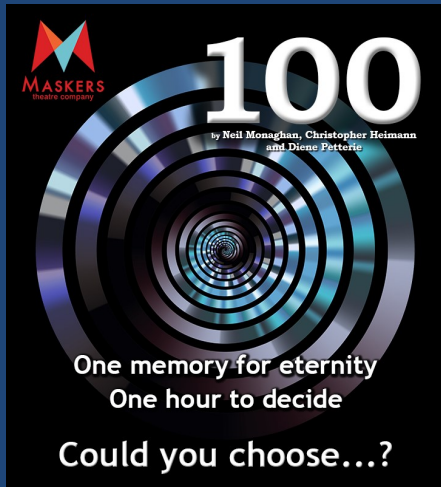


## FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIONS



25 - 29 October 2016

100

Maskers Studio Theatre

If you were given one hour, to choose one single memory from your life, whilst all others will be erased from your mind forever, what would you pick?

BOX OFFICE: via link on our website  
or 0333 666 3366



5 - 10 December 2016

Mistletoe Junction

Maskers Studio Theatre

The Christmas anthology will lift your spirits and push your nostalgia buttons. It is late December 1957 and the world is suddenly a very different place – the threat of nuclear war, Teddy Boys and, on the brighter side, television and Elvis Presley! We invite you to sing along and laugh at the quirky tales, all bound together with a collection of characters, each with their own story.

BOX OFFICE: via link on our website  
or 0333 666 3366

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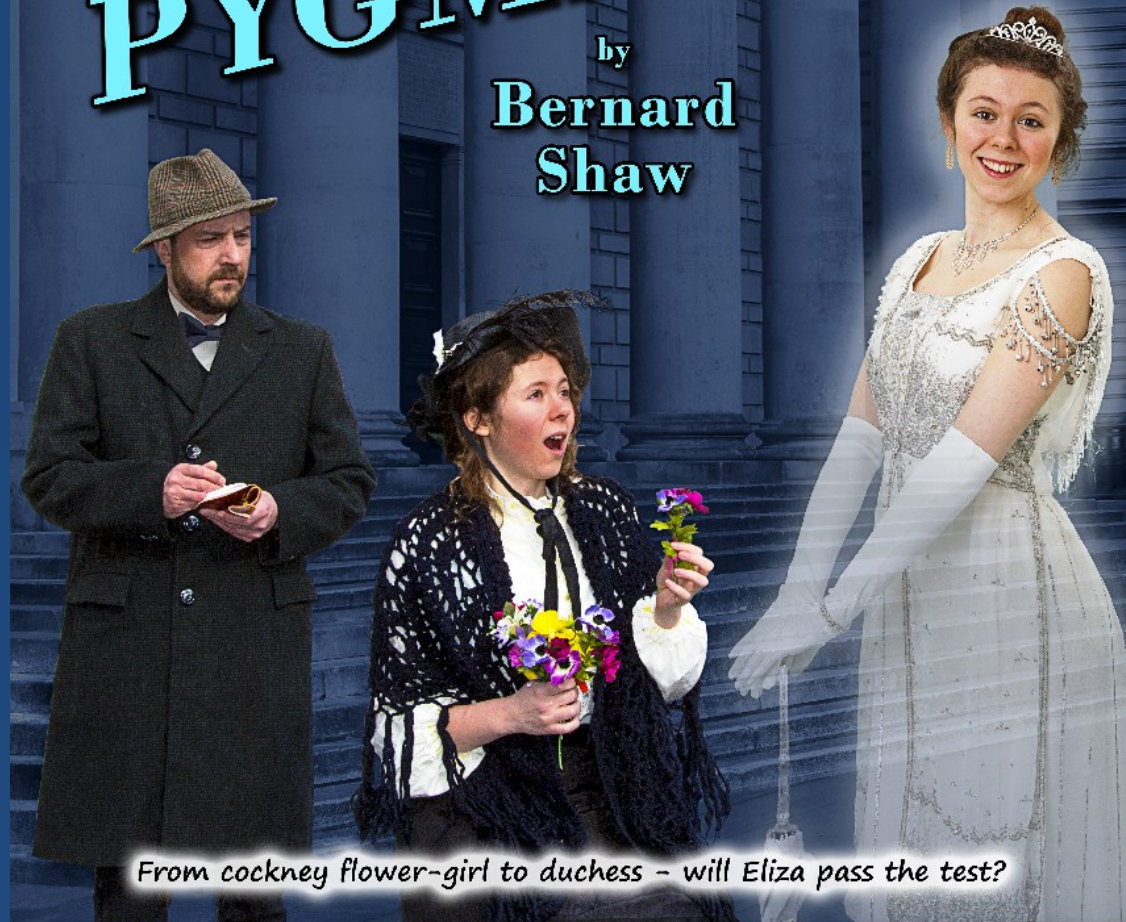
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In the Open Air

# PYGMALION

by  
Bernard  
Shaw



*From cockney flower-girl to duchess - will Eliza pass the test?*

Programme

£1

Wednesday 6 to Saturday 16 July 2016

HAMPTWORTH LODGE

Registered Charity no. 900067

maskers.org.uk



## Maskers at Hamptworth Lodge

Welcome to Maskers Theatre Company's open air production of *Pygmalion*.

This is our ninth year at this beautiful location and we think you'll agree that the Archery Lawn and its terraces are the perfect place in which to perform. We are very grateful to Richard and Charlotte Everett, the owners of Hamptworth Lodge, for allowing us to perform here and for all their help in ensuring that the preparations for this year's show went smoothly.

Maskers Theatre is now in its 48th year and aims to continue to bring award-winning quality theatre to its audiences for many, many years to come. We hope you enjoy the performance and your visit to this lovely house and its gardens and grounds.

We respectfully request that you take all your picnic leftovers and empties home. You may remain to finish your picnics at the end of the play but we ask that you vacate the grounds by 11pm (5.45pm for matinées). Thank you!

We look forward to seeing you again next year.

Details of other Maskers productions are on the back page of this programme - why not come and see us at The Nuffield Theatre or at our Studio Theatre in Shirley, Southampton? See our website for full details [www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk).



*Please take care when moving around the grounds as steps and paths may be uneven and slippery if wet.*

*Provision for smoking has been made in the parkland below the Archery Lawn - please use the sand buckets provided. We ask that you don't smoke in the grounds of the house - thank you!*

## Why not join Maskers?

Maskers are keen to welcome new members with an interest in any aspect of theatre - all things technical, directing, costumes, props, set design and construction, front of house, marketing and of course acting!

Enjoy the challenge of making theatre happen.

To find out more about Maskers Theatre Company, go to

[www.maskers.org.uk](http://www.maskers.org.uk)



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sup theatre company  
presents  
*John Godber's*  
**BOUNCERS SHAKERS**  
OCTOBER 4TH TO 9TH  
the **STAGE DOOR**  
78 West Marlands Road, SO14 7FW  
023 8063 0300  
[southamptonuniversityplayers.wordpress.com](http://southamptonuniversityplayers.wordpress.com)

## The Production Crew

<b>Director</b>	Meri Mackney
<b>Production Manager</b>	Brian Stansbridge
<b>Stage Manager</b>	Robert Osborne
<b>Deputy Stage Manager</b>	David Cowley
<b>Set Design</b>	Emma James
<b>Lighting Design</b>	David Cowley
<b>Sound Design</b>	Jamie McCarthy
<b>Costume Design &amp; Wardrobe Properties</b>	Allegra Carlton
<b>Lighting Operator</b>	Adam Taussik
<b>Sound Operator</b>	Paul Duell & Emma James
<b>Technical Crew</b>	Jamie McCarthy & Mike Matthias
	Nathan Weeks, Brian Stansbridge, Tom Foyle, Martyn Welch, Thomas Welch & Bob Gibson
<b>Set Construction</b>	Peter Hill & Graham Buchanan
<b>Set Erection</b>	Paul Duell, Emma James, Paul Green, Robert Osborne, Kristina Wilde & Adam Taussik
<b>Set Painting</b>	Emma James, Hazel Burrows, Meri Mackney, Robert Osborne, Alison Tebbutt & Adam Taussik
<b>Special Set Pieces</b>	Andy Burrows
<b>Lighting Consultant</b>	Clive Weeks
<b>Installation Manager</b>	Jamie McCarthy
<b>Front of House Co-ordinator</b>	Sue Robinson
<b>Box Office &amp; Refreshments</b>	Chris Baker

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There will be an interval of 20 minutes. Refreshments may be ordered in advance.

Toilet facilities are located in the parkland below the Archery Lawn along with a designated smoking area. Please do not smoke elsewhere in the grounds of the lodge.

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## For the Company

**Technical Manager** --- Jamie McCarthy; **Marketing Director** --- Ruth Kibble; **Marketing Team** --- Angela Stansbridge, Sarah Russell, Leah Barlow, James Norton, Clive Weeks; **Front of House Director** --- Chris Baker; **Front of House Display** --- Leah Barlow; **Box Office Manager** --- Chris Baker; **Photography** --- Clive Weeks; **Bar Manager** --- Leah Barlow

## Director's Notes



Pygmalion has been great fun to direct, not least in making a few adaptations to suit the open air of Hamptworth. Although many people know the title and have a reasonable idea of the play, it has rapidly become clear to me that many people remember the musical adaptation, *My Fair Lady*, rather better. I hope you will not miss the songs and the Ascot scene too badly! For me, Shaw's observation and caricature of London society of the time is the great strength of the play, along with his acerbic wit.

When Shaw wrote the play, he wrote it partly in essay form as he explored and expounded his views on the superficiality of London society and his support of the emancipation of women. These essays really helped me to understand and, I hope, portray the tone and messages he wanted to convey. He also finishes with a long explanation of what he imagined would happen to the characters after the end of the play. Our ending is faithful to this and does not adopt the 'Hollywood' ending found in the film, which demanded a romantic and not a pragmatic ending. I haven't been able to resist including the Embassy garden party, however – a scene which Shaw wrote for the film, not the stage.

This is pre-Great War London society at its most shallow and two-dimensional, debunked by Higgins' ability to train Eliza to hoodwink them all simply by adopting their manner of speech and behaviour. However, Eliza shows us reality when she rejects the possibility of merging permanently into that society. For all her inevitable ignorance, she knows and understands so much more than they do and could not live so superficial a life. She is also so much more mature than Higgins, who, despite his years and education, behaves very much like an overgrown infant. He salutes Eliza's emancipation and independence at the end but cannot actually come to terms with it himself. I suspect this may have been the situation of many of the liberal-minded but essentially patriarchal and patronising men of the time who claimed to support the emancipation of women.

I hope you enjoy the show. We have certainly had a lot of fun developing and rehearsing it, challenging our own preconceptions and trying not to burst into song!

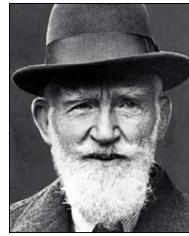
*Meri Mackney*

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This is Meri's third production at Hamptworth Lodge, having previously directed *Anne Boleyn* and *The Jungle Book*. Meri has been a Masker for more years than she cares to quantify as actress, director, stage manager and every backstage role going as long as it doesn't involve heights! Meri is currently the Chairman of Maskers Theatre Company. She is delighted to be working with her wonderful cast and crew for this show and hopes the audience will enjoy it as much as she does. Meri says, 'I have always admired this play, which has so many underlying currents but which can also be enjoyed as a piece of whimsy. It seems a perfect choice for a balmy (I hope!) summer evening's entertainment.'

## G. Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw is well known for his witticisms and one-liners and these abound in this entertaining but also thought-provoking comedy.



“He knows nothing; and he thinks he knows everything. That points clearly to a political career”

Henry Higgins, Professor of linguistics, seeks to impress his new best friend, Colonel Pickering, by vowing that he can pass off a cockney guttersnipe as a ‘lady’ among high society. Eliza Doolittle just wants to learn to speak well enough to get a job in a flower shop rather than roaming the streets with her basket, which requires, as Higgins says, rather better English than that required for a duchess. They have just six months to achieve this transformation. Higgins quickly finds that it is easier to change speech patterns than language or attitudes.

Bernard Shaw pokes fun at the manners and thinking of pre-First World War society and challenges the unfair dependence of women on men in that society. In the play, there is no physical attraction between Higgins and Eliza, their natural spheres are too distant from one another for that and Higgins never for a moment forgets the flower-girl in the illusion he has created. Others see and accept the new Eliza but for Higgins she will always be a ‘squashed cabbage leaf’.

When the play was adapted for film in 1938, Bernard Shaw himself wrote the screenplay and won an Oscar for it. In it he gave way to Hollywood pressure to go for the ‘romantic’ ending rather than the pragmatic ending he insisted on for the play. Later the play was adapted into a musical, My Fair Lady.

“Hell is full of musical amateurs”

Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin in 1856 but came to London aged just twenty. He was a shy man who created the persona of G.B.S., showman, satirist, controversialist, critic, wit and dramatist to enable him to speak out politically and socially. He wrote 52 plays and died in 1950, remaining physically and mentally active up to his death.

“Without art the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable”

## Cast List

<b>Eliza Doolittle</b>	Katherine Evans
<b>Henry Higgins</b>	Jonathan Barney-Marmont
<b>Colonel Pickering</b>	Adam Taussik
<b>Mrs Higgins</b>	Hazel Burrows
<b>Mrs Pearce</b>	Jenni Watson
<b>Mrs Eynsford-Hill</b>	Maria Head
<b>Clara Eynsford-Hill</b>	Katarina Smith
<b>Freddy Eynsford-Hill</b>	Christopher Gardener
<b>Alfred Doolittle</b>	William Baggs
<b>Karpathy</b>	Paul Baker
<b>Parlourmaid</b>	Sue Dashper
<b>Ambadress</b>	Bridget Wilkinson
<b>Ambassador / Taxi Driver</b>	Jonathan Shepherd
<b>Bystander</b>	Marie McDade
<b>Sarcastic Bystander</b>	Joanna Iacovou
<b>Butler</b>	Bruce Atkinson
<b>Bystanders / Garden Party Guests / Maids</b>	Brenda Atkinson, Bruce Atkinson, Molly McDade, Paul Baker, Sue Dashper, Jill Desborough, Alan Watson, Marie McDade, Jo Iacovou, Bridget Wilkinson

## Acknowledgements

Masks give our appreciation and thanks to:

- 🌸 The Everett Family (Hamptworth Lodge)
- 🌸 Hamptworth Golf & Country Club (Wet weather car parking)
- 🌸 Costume Workshop IOW (Costume rental)
- 🌸 Emphasis Event Productions (Technical equipment)
- 🌸 Southampton University Players (Props/costumes)
- 🌸 Winchester Operatic Society (Scenery items)
- 🌸 Angela Barks (Liaison with Winchester Operatic Society)
- 🌸 Sarah Spencer-Stonehill (Flower arrangements)
- 🌸 The Gregg School (Rehearsal space)
- 🌸 Union Southampton Performing Arts (Furniture)





## The Cast Continued



### Ambassador / Taxi Driver - Jonathan Shepherd

This will be Jonathan's fifth production with Maskers and his second at beautiful Hamptworth Lodge having previously appeared in *Anne Boleyn* in 2013. He is looking forward to playing the Ambassador, alongside Bridget Wilkinson, to whom he has been married or romantically linked in a number of previous stage productions over the years!



### Bystander - Marie McDade

This will be Marie's third outing on the Hamptworth stage – from Shakespearean fairy to Kipling's jungle panther she is finally in human form – and looking forward to period costume that includes an umbrella!



### Sarcastic Bystander is played by Joanna Iacovou

Joanna has a Masker for just over 12 years. Her favourite roles have included Ruby Birtle in *When we are Married* and Rita in *Educating Rita*. In 2014 she had a very successful directorial debut with *Our Town* which won two Curtain Call awards. She is keen to direct again but, for now, she is pleased to be back at Hamptworth as Sarcastic Bystander – one of the most famous bit-parts in theatre.



### Butler - Bruce Atkinson

Bruce has been a Masker for many years and played many roles. He enjoys the open air shows and has previously been seen at Hamptworth as an elder of the wolf pack in *The Jungle Book* and Dr John Reynolds in *Anne Boleyn*. He is having fun getting his tongue round the interesting names invented by the cast for their characters at the Embassy Garden Party.

## Bystanders / Garden Party Guests / Maids



## Rehearsing in Pygmalion





## The Cast



### **Eliza Doolittle - Katherine Evans**

This is Katherine's third production with Maskers. She has dreamed of playing Eliza since appearing as a bystander in *My Fair Lady* when she was 12, though she will have to be careful not to burst into song this time! She is currently studying Classics part-time at Reading University alongside pursuing her musical and dramatic interests.



### **Henry Higgins - Jonathan Barney-Marmont**

Jonathan's last show with Maskers was *Metamorphosis* playing Gregor Samsa which could not be more removed from this role. Swiftly after that it was a run at The Mayflower Theatre in *An Inspector Calls*. Jonathan enjoys playing characters at all points of the spectrum and so has enjoyed playing Higgins. He relishes a return to open air theatre after acting in *The 39 Steps* at the Minack Theatre three years ago.



### **Colonel Pickering - Adam Taussik**

Since Adam was the Sarcastic Bystander in Maskers' last production of *Pygmalion* a few years ago, he has been up and down the social spectrum, from servants to kings, ending up as Baloo in *The Jungle Book*. Coming from India, Colonel Pickering has much in common with the bear, inspiring the young hero. When not in uniform, he has another life in Student Services at the University of Southampton.



### **Mrs Higgins - Hazel Burrows**

Hazel has been a member of Maskers since the early 70s. Playing wives, maids, old men, fairies, aristocrats even a pig. Over the last few years she has taken up the challenge of directing, the most recent being Maskers' production of Alan Ayckbourn's *Ten Times Table*. Playing Mrs Higgins in *Pygmalion* has now come her way. The part of a mother who is intelligent, refined and independent... type cast again!



### **Mrs Pearce - Jenni Watson**

Jenni has been acting since the age of three. Over the years she has performed for many local groups, including Maskers. Her favourite roles include Vladimir (*Waiting for Godot*), Lady Booby (*Joseph Andrews*), Paulina (*A Winter's Tale*), the Red Queen (*Alice*) and Nancy (*Sitting Pretty*). Jenni would like to thank her dialect coach in helping her prepare for the part of Mrs Pearce in *Pygmalion*.



### **Mrs Eynsford-Hill - Maria Head**

Maria has been with Maskers for many years. She played Sonia in Brien Friel's *Afterplay* and also appeared in *Room at the Inn*, a 1940's Christmas anthology. The last time she performed open air theatre was as Mistress Page in *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at Mottisfont. She is greatly looking forward to performing in the open air once more in such a beautiful setting, hopefully with lovely warm weather!



### **Clara Eynsford-Hill - Katarina Smith**

This is Katarina's first appearance with the Maskers and she is excited to be playing the rather silly, but funny and energetic Clara. She is also thrilled to get the experience to perform at the beautiful Hamptworth Lodge. Previous experience included playing Helena in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and Margot in *The Diary of Anne Frank* with Southampton University Players.



### **Freddy Eynsford-Hill - Christopher Gardener**

Christopher Gardener first approached theatre at the age of 12 after discovering a talent for impersonating sci-fi androids. Since then, he has performed with several theatre groups in a range of productions, including four pantomimes, *The Great Gatsby*, *Our Town* and *Silly Cow*. Playing the amusingly buffoonish but lovably earnest Freddy Eynsford-Hill has been an extremely enjoyable experience for Christopher.



### **Alfred Doolittle - William Baggs**

William has been performing for Maskers for several years now. He started as a mouse in *Can you Hear the Music* before playing a tiger in *The Jungle Book*, a lover in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, two kings - James I and Richard II, Algernon in *Ernest* and now a dustman in *Pygmalion*. It's always a pleasure to perform in the Hamptworth summer show and he looks forward to going back for the fifth time.



### **Karpathy - Paul Baker**

Paul joined Maskers in 1996 and has been in every production in the open air since. Other roles Paul has portrayed include Thomas Cromwell in *Anne Boleyn* and Weasel Norman in *Wind In The Willows*.



### **Parlourmaid - Sue Dashper**

Sue has been a member of Maskers for a number of years now. She has been involved in plays in the Studio, the Nuffield Theatre as well as outdoor productions for the company. Her most recent performance was as Mrs. Samsa in *Metamorphosis*, and this will be her fourth appearance at Hamptworth.



### **Ambassador - Bridget Wilkinson**

This is Bridget's first appearance with Maskers, but she has acted and directed with Southampton University Players for many years. Favourite acting roles include Jones, the schizophrenic murderer in *Semblance of Madness* and the childlike Rose Mundy in *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Bridget is delighted that for *Pygmalion*, her son, Tom, takes to the stage for the first time. With her husband in the crew, it really is a family affair!