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**JOAN**

*by George Bernard Shaw*

SEASON: 3rd NOV - 1st DEC 2012  
PREVIEW NIGHT 2nd NOV

## Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw, the celebrated dramatist, was born in Dublin in 1856. He died in 1954, at the age of ninety-four, having seen two world wars and at least five major revolutions around the world. The author of more than sixty plays, he won the Nobel Prize for Literature after writing *Saint Joan*, and an Academy Award for his screen adaptation of his own play, *Pygmalion*. A master of dry wit, complex characters and sophisticated argument, Shaw used his work to make points about the world that challenge and engage the audience on many levels. *Saint Joan* premiered in 1923.

## Joan

Joan of Arc, a village girl from the Vosges, was born about 1412; burnt for heresy, witchcraft, and sorcery in 1431; rehabilitated after a fashion in 1456; designated Venerable in 1904; declared Blessed in 1908; and finally canonised in 1920. She is the most notable Warrior Saint in the Christian calendar, and the queerest fish among the eccentric worthies of the Middle Ages. Though a professed and most pious Catholic, and the projector of a Crusade against the Husites, she was in fact one of the first Protestant martyrs. She was also one of the first apostles of Nationalism, and the first French practitioner of Napoleonic realism in warfare as distinguished from the sporting ransom-gambling chivalry of her time. She was the pioneer of rational dressing for women, and, like Queen Christina of Sweden two centuries later, to say nothing of Catalina de Erauso and innumerable obscure heroines who have disguised themselves as men to serve as soldiers and sailors, she refused to accept the specific woman's lot, and dressed and fought and lived as men did.

As she contrived to assert herself in all these ways with such force that she was famous throughout western Europe before she was out of her teens (indeed she never got out of them), it is hardly surprising that she was judicially burnt, ostensibly for a number of capital crimes which we no longer punish as such, but essentially for what we call unwomanly and insufferable presumption ... there were only two opinions about her. One was that she was miraculous: the other that she was unbearable.

Bernard Shaw, Preface, *Saint Joan*

## Director's Note

The Genesian Theatre management invited me to direct *Saint Joan* for them. I began my theatre career at this theatre and, fundamentally, believe that this is where it all began for me - my fortunate life. I agreed to explore the play as a pay back to this community theatre. I owe it an awful lot.

That it was a G.B. Shaw play was even more tantalizing for me.

I have directed *Misalliance*, *Man and Superman* (without the *Don Juan...* sequence) several of the one acts and, of course, *Heartbreak House* for the Genesians. That cast included Gaynor Mitchell, Pat East, Dennis Allen, Charles Zara and Michael Barnacoat amongst several others. That Michael Barnacoat is in this cast too, is a very pleasing bonus for me. Michael Schell was the Lighting Designer then, and, is still a demonstration of amazing longevity and creativity.

I should like to thank all the artists 'exploring' this great play with me! It is no simple task. Some of the company are new to me and some come from other adventures in my career: John Grinston, Marty O'Neill. I, particularly, am excited to have Sabryna Te'o and Niyat Berhan, two recent graduates of NIDA, coming to work with us on this project.

*Saint Joan* is a great and formidable play: intellectually muscular, amazingly funny, technically challenging. The rehearsals have been very stimulating and fun. I hope you as an audience can discover the genius of G.B. Shaw.

The Genesian Theatre have vision and courage, indeed, to present it for you.

*Kevin Jackson*

## Kevin Jackson

Kevin Jackson began his theatre career as a member of The Genesian Theatre before graduating from the NIDA Acting Course in 1971. Kevin has worked as an actor, director and teacher of acting since that time, both nationally and internationally.



**SABRYNA TE'O - Joan** Sabryna graduated from NIDA in 2011. While studying, she played Viola in Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*, Luyska in the Australian premier of Mikhail Bulgakov's *Flight* & Mimi in a commissioned play *Rare Earth* by Ian Wilding & directed by Chris Mead. Sabryna's love for telling stories started in high school under the teachings of Terry Karabelas & Damien Ryan, leading to her acceptance into NIDA straight from high school. Since graduating drama school she has worked with Sport for Jove, before following the wind around the world for 3 months, travelling by herself.

**MICHAEL BARNACOAT - Couchon** From 1965 to 2006 (*Man for All Seasons*) Mike has performed in 23 plays for The Genesis Theatre. He has made over 70 television commercials, soap operas *Number 96*, *All Saints*, *Restless Years*, *Young Doctors*, *GP*, *Home & Away*. He worked for BBC, Granada, ABCTV and Channel 9 TV Mass presenter. His films include *Our Lips Are Sealed* (Captain), *Danny Deckchair* (Dick Lleyton) & *Australian Enemy* (Superintendent) - to be released. He worked at the Independent, Ensemble, Phillip Street theatres, Seymour Centre & Adelaide Festival as well as played a Butler in *LA Noire*.



**JOHN WILLIS-RICHARDS - Tremouille / Executioner** This is John's 4th foray on the Genesis stage. He has played Elyot in Coward's *Private Lives*, Lord Goring in Wilde's *An Ideal Husband* and he was recently seen as the shy, stammering Duke of York in *Crown Matrimonial*. John trained at UWS Nepean and in 2008 he graduated in the role of Sir Winston Churchill in a Howard Barker play about Stalin. A year later in 2009 he found himself in San Francisco directing American students in David Williamson's *Emerald City*. He is privileged to be working with such a dynamic cast, and a great piece of writing.

**BRYNN LOOSEMORE - Dunois** Brynn's theatre credits include *Entertaining Mr. Sloane* (New Theatre), *Piranha Heights* (Shedding Skin), *The Possibilities* (Sidetrack Theatre), *Ruby Moon* (Devil May Care), *Hammerhead (is dead)* (Griffin Independent), and has played featured roles in TV productions including Steven Spielberg's *The Pacific* (HBO) and *Packed to the Rafters* (Channel 7).



**SAMUEL SIDA - Blue Beard / Courcelles** Sam trained as an actor at the Alain Debock Studio in Paris. He started acting in amateur theatre, performing in various plays including *Finissez Vos Phrases* by Jean Tardieu, *Les Fables de Lafontaine*, *Iphigénie* by Jean Racine, *La ronde* by Arthur Achinitzler. Sam has lived in France, Canada, UK, Germany and Singapore before making it to Sydney, his home for the past 4 years. It was in Sydney where he discovered the thrill of Theatresports and learned about acting for camera through NIDA's open program, which led him to act in some exciting short films.

**NIYAT BERHAN - Robert / La Hire / L'advenu** Niyat began his theatrical career at the Old Mill Theatre and the Hayman Theatre in Perth, working on productions ranging from new Australian works such as *The Odyssey of Runyon Jones* and *The Trial of Wild Gil Hiccup* to more classical productions such as Shakespeare's *Richard the Third* and *Romeo and Juliet*. Since moving to Sydney he has graduated from NIDA and been fortunate enough to work with directors such as Jennifer Hagan, Tom Healey, Morgan Dowsett, Chris Meade, and Russian director Sergei Tcherkasski.



**TERRY HOU - All the Pages** Terry's theatre journey began as a child actor working abroad before studying formally under Terry Karabelas and Lynda O'Brien at Barker College. He has participated in various school productions including *Romeo and Juliet* at Kilarney, *Alarms/Excursions*, *Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Away*. He also performed in *Keep/Tell* at the University of Sydney. Terry is proud to officially begin his journey under the guidance of Kevin Jackson and Constantine Costi. Terry plays the guitar, piano and flute with equal inadequacy and is an avid footballer and sprinter.



**JASPER GARNER-GORE - Charles / The Dauphin** Jasper Garner-Gore graduated from Melbourne University in 2009 and relocated to Sydney in 2010. Recent stage credits include *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* (Epicentre Theatre Company), *The Merchant of Venice* (Genesian Theatre) and the self-produced *Cycles* (Sydney Fringe Festival). Additionally Jasper has made TV appearances including *Rescue* (Nine & Southern Star) and *The Librarians* (ABC). Recently Jasper has also directed a successful production of *Passione Appassionata*, a short opera composed by Laura E. Goodin & Bernard Leon.

**MARTIN SEARLES - The Chaplain** This is Martin's second production with the Genesian Theatre, having appeared earlier in the year as Joe Gargery in *Great Expectations*. Martin studied Drama at the Australian National University in Canberra, graduating in 2007. He performed extensively in theatres around Canberra over the last ten years before moving to Sydney in March. Past stage credits include *Angels in America* (Papermoon), *Much Ado About Nothing* (Papermoon), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (Papermoon) and *Sense and Sensibility* (Free Rain).



**JAMES MOIR - Warwick** After performing in *Journey's End* and *Terra Nova*, thankfully this will be the first Genesian Production where James's son doesn't see his father drop dead on stage. Or maybe he likes it?

**JOHN GRINSTON - Steward / Inquisitor** After studying in Paris with Jacques Le Croque, John made his Australian debut with New England Theatre Company as Brer Fox in *The Adventures of Brer Rabbit*. A run as Grunyon the Sheep in *Wallaroo Goes Walkabout* at Bondi Pavilion was followed by roles of more human nature at New Theatre, where his director on several occasions was Kevin Jackson. John has appeared in *Chess* at Theatre Royal. In Shakespeare he has played Feste, Prospero and Clammidio. On TV he was Henry Lawson in *Michael Willesee's Australians* and a suspected spy in the ABC's *I Spy*.



**MARTY O'NEILL - Archbishop** Marty O'Neill has done it all - would-be priest, law graduate and thespian - perfect training for his interpretation of the Archbishop of Rheims; recent credits include *Dead White Males* and *Money and Friends* for the Genesians, *Julius Caesar* and *The Farnsworth Inverntion* for New Theatre, not to mention 20 odd productions for the New in the 70s & 80s. To top all that off, he made not one but 2 commercials as Napoleon Bonanparte in the 80s - power simply oozes outa him!

**JORDAN WATT - Pulengey / d'Estivet / English Soldier** Jordan's highlights have been playing Albany in *King Lear*, Leon in *Speaking in Tongues* and the triple-gendered role in *Sylvia*. For the Genesian Theatre he has translated and directed the works of Lorca and the world's first non-professional production of *Mousetrap*. There has been the usual number of commercials and never-seen student short films. He also moonlights as Barry Nielsen, the Genesian Theatre's Director and has made a career out of doing things to small animals.



## **PRODUCTION**

Director

Assistant Director

Set Design

Costume Design

Lighting & Sound Design

Composer

Production Stage Manager

Production Manager

Dramaturg

Set Construction

Set Detailing

Costume Assistant

Photography

Graphic Design

**Kevin Jackson**

**Constantine Costi**

**Owen Gimblett**

**Emma Kingsbury**

**Michael Schell**

**Timothy M Carter**

**Lilianna Komljenovic**

**Roger Gimblett**

**Symeon Thompson**

**Owen Gimblett, Grant Fraser,**

**Members of the Company**

**Barry Nielsen**

**Susan Carveth**

**Craig O'Regan, Mark Banks,**

**Tom Massey**

**Matt Roden, Tom Massey**

## **CREW**

Stage Manager

Lighting & Sound Operation

**Lilianna Komljenovic**

**Mark Nagle, Amy Roberts**

## **CAST**

Joan

Couchon

Tremouille / Executioner

Dunois

Blue Beard / Courcelles

Robert / La Hire / L'advenu / Gentleman

All the Pages

Charles / The Dauphin

The Chaplain

Warwick

Steward / Inquisitor

Archbishop

Pulengy / d'Estivat / English Soldier

**Sabryna Te'o**

**Michael Barnacoat**

**John Willis-Richards**

**Brynn Loosemore**

**Samuel Sida**

**Niyat Berhan**

**Terry Hou**

**Jasper Garner-Gore**

**Martin Searles**

**James Moir**

**John Grinston**

**Marty O'Neill**

**Jordan Watt**

## **About the Genesian Theatre**

The Genesian Theatre Company is a non-professional group operating from an historic church in Kent Street, in the heart of the Sydney CBD. We boast among our alumni numerous household names in Australian theatre and film such as Bryan Brown, Baz Luhrmann, Judi Farr, and John Bell. We are, however, just as proud of the hundreds of talented amateur actors, directors, designers, lighting and sound specialists who have contributed to Sydney's unique little theatre over the years.

Over the years the company has developed into a theatre providing a training ground for young actors and a place where those who love the theatre can meet, share and extend their knowledge of the performing arts. The Genesian Theatre is one of Sydney's most active theatre companies. In addition to six main stage productions each year we run classes, workshops and many other activities.

The building which houses The Genesian Theatre Company was originally St John's Church, and dates from 1868. It has served as both a church and a poor school until 1932 when it became the Kursaal Theatre, housing the Sydney Repertory Company. In 1938 it became the first Matthew Talbot Hostel. Since 1954 it has been the home of The Genesian Theatre Company which was formed in 1944.

## **Membership**

If your interest is in acting, directing, stage management, sound, lights, publicity, admin, etc, or if you just want to experience being a member of the group, we would welcome you as a member. You don't need to be experienced, we can provide training and can cater to different levels of involvement. Please see our web site for further information.

Coming next to the Genesian Theatre...

# charley's **AUNT**

*by Brandon Thomas*



SEASON: 12th JAN - 23rd FEB 2013  
PREVIEW NIGHT 11th JAN