

My FAIR LADY





Eliza

BURTON AND DISTRICT OPERATIC SOCIETY

Presents



Book and Lyrics
by
ALAN JAY
LERNER

Music
by
FREDERICK
LOEWE

Adapted from George Bernard Shaw's play and
Gabriel Pascal's motion picture 'PYGMALION'

Original production of the play directed by
Moss Hart

Produced by Music directed by Choreography by
FRANK DORAN STUART WAINWRIGHT PRUDENCE WOLLASTON

Scenic design Lighting design Costumes by
JAMES GRANT FRANCIS BATES HOMBURG

Commencing Monday 25th October
Wulfric Lower School, Horninglow

A History of Success

In 1935 Gabriel Pascal, an ardent admirer of Shaw, acquired the film rights to *Pygmalion*. A film, premiered in 1938, was a great success, but Shaw refused to allow a musical version to be produced. When Shaw died in 1950, Pascal tried again, to find a suitable composer and writer. Lerner and Loewe were approached and discussed the project, but not until 1954 did ideas begin to emerge. By now musical presentation was changing. Singing choruses were less essential and emotional reality of character and story were taking over.

From the inception of the idea, 'My Fair Lady' took nearly two years to write. Sadly Pascal died before it was finished. Lerner and Loewe were still working on the score when production started. It was suddenly realised that Rex Harrison needed another song in Act II and consequently 'Why can't a Woman be More Like a Man' was added. Act I was 25 minutes too long and a song before the ball scene 'Say a Prayer for Me Tonight' was cut: it appeared later in 'Gigi.'

Lerner and Loewe had already had notable successes with 'Brigadoon' and 'Paint Your Wagon' but 'My Fair Lady' opened on 15th March 1950 to a rapturous reception. Rex Harrison for Higgins was decided from the start, but a relatively unknown English actress - Julie Andrews - was chosen for Eliza. Stanley Holloway for Doolittle was also an obvious choice. Moss Hart, who directed the musical was also a key figure in its success, with marvellous costume design by Cecil Beaton.

Lerner used most of Shaw's original dialogue, but expanded the action to include extra scenes, like Ascot and the Embassy Ball. The ending was also changed, bringing Eliza back to Higgins, instead of marrying Freddy.

In 1964 Warner Brothers turned the musical into a film, again with Rex Harrison, but rejecting Julie Andrews in favour of Audrey Hepburn. The film won eight Academy Awards, including Best Film. Lerner could only comment on the unprecedented success that 'the right people at the right moment in their lives embarked on the right venture - and rather than extending their talents to the limit, expressed them to the limit.'

My FAIR LADY

CAST

(in order of appearance)

Mrs. Eynsford-Hill	BETTY HOOD	Alfred P. Doolittle ...	GORDON HEAD
Eliza Doolittle	ANNE DUNNING	Mrs. Pearce	ANN OAKLEY
Freddy Eynsford-Hill ...	ADRIAN BADER	Mrs. Hopkins	SUE BRIGGS
Colonel Pickering ...	MICHAEL DUKES	Mrs. Higgins	JOYCE BURTON
Professor Higgins ...	STEVE DUNNING	Lord Boxington	RICHARD DEAN
Bartender	RON JONES	Lady Boxington	JEAN ROGERS
Harry	ANDREW LAST	Zoltan Karpathy	IAN McGLYNN
Jamie	JOHN BIDDLE	Queen of Transylvania ...	PAMELA CLARK

Maids: LOUISE EVANSON, STELLA HAMBLETON, ROSEMARY TAYLOR, MAUREEN WOOLLEY

Servants: DEBBIE ROSEWAY, LINDA STUART
MAURICE GOODHEAD, MIKE MORLEY

Dancers: PAMELA CLARK, LOUISE EVANSON, MARGARET GORDON
GARY BLACKMAN, MIKE MORLEY

**Costermongers,
flower girls,
Ascot spectators
and guests at
the Ball:** GLENISE BLANT, BETTY BOOTH, LINDA CHIDLEY,
ANN HOLMES, CAROL HUSSEY, CAROLINE OAKLEY,
DONNA ROBBINS, JEAN ROGERS, DEBBIE ROSEWAY,
LINDA STUART, ANITA TAYLOR, MONICA WELTON,
MABEL WHITELAND

RICHARD DEAN, MAURICE GOODHEAD, MICHAEL HACKETT,
IAN HARRIS, STAN HUNT, BOB HUGHES, RON JONES,
MIKE MORLEY, WILLIAM POOLE, PETER SHARPE

Footmen: JIM THORNLEY,

The place is London. The Time, 1912

ACT I

Outside the Opera House, Covent Garden — A cold March night

Street Entertainers The Three Buskers
"Why Can't the English" Higgins
"Wouldn't It Be Lovely?" Eliza and Cockneys

A tenement section, Tottenham Court Road

"With a Little Bit of Luck" Doolittle, Harry and Jamie

Higgins' study — The following morning

"I'm an Ordinary Man" Higgins

A tenement section, Tottenham Court Road — Three days later

Reprise: "With a Little Bit of Luck" Doolittle and Ensemble

Higgins' study — Later that day

"Just You Wait" Eliza
"The Rain in Spain" Higgins, Eliza and Pickering
"I Could Have Danced All Night" Eliza, Mrs. Pearce and Maids

Near the race meeting, Ascot — a July afternoon

Inside a club tent, Ascot —

"Ascot Gavotte" Full Ensemble

Outside Higgins' house, Wimpole Street — Later that afternoon

"On the Street Where you Live" Freddy

Higgins' study — Six weeks later

The promenade of the Embassy — Later that night

The ballroom of the Embassy

"The Embassy Waltz" Higgins, Eliza, Karpathy and Full Ensemble

ACT II

Higgins' study — Three o'clock the following morning

"You Did It" Higgins, Pickering, Mrs. Pearce and Servants
Reprise: "Just You Wait" Eliza

Outside Higgins' house, Wimpole Street

Reprise: "On the Street Where You Live" Freddy
"Show Me" Eliza and Freddy

Covent Garden — 5 o'clock that morning

Reprise: "Wouldn't It Be Lovely" Eliza and Cockneys
"Get Me to the Church on Time" Doolittle, Harry, Jamie and Ensemble

Upstairs hall at Higgins' house — 11 o'clock that morning

"A Hymn to Him" Higgins

The conservatory of Mrs. Higgins' house — Later that day

"Without You" Eliza and Higgins

Outside Higgins' house, Wimpole Street

"I've Grown Accustomed to her Face" Higgins

Higgins study —

There will be an interval of 20 minutes
between Act 1 and Act 2.

ORCHESTRA

- First Violin** : Howard Jones (Leader);
Nicola Hartley
- Second Violin** : Christine Carr;
Peter Lawson
- Viola** : Anne Boulby
- Cello** : Andrew Robinson
- Double Bass** : Tony Mortimer
- Oboe** : Tony Reynolds
- Flute** : Julie Shipley;
Dianne Mullins
- Clarinet** : Christine Bassett;
Christine Eales
- Bassoon** : Katherine Last
- Trumpet** : Paul Thursfield;
Malcolm Dawn
- Trombone** : Howard Smith
- Percussion** : Ron Mander
- Continuo** : Vic Benson, L.T.C.L.
- Relief Pianist** : Carol Hough



ANNE DUNNING as Eliza Doolittle

Although only taking one principal part with Burton — as Carrie Pipperidge in 'Carousel' — Anne has played several leading roles with Derby Societies including Irene Molloy in 'Hello Dolly,' Babe Williams in 'Pajama Game' and Tzeitel in 'Fiddler on the Roof.'

As Eliza, we see her first as a downtrodden Cockney flower girl in Covent Garden, where the arrogant Higgins states that he could pass her off as a duchess in six months. She decides to go to his house for elocution lessons "to make me a lidy." Higgins accepts the challenge and after many trials and tribulations Act I closes on the glittering Embassy Ball where Eliza, like Cinderella, has been accepted as a princess.

The audience is respectfully requested
not to smoke in the Auditorium.

The Society cannot accept responsibility
for any articles left in the cloakroom.



STEVE DUNNING as Henry Higgins

Steve has played many leading roles with Derby, Nottingham, Ripley and Long Eaton Operatic Societies, to name but a few, besides his three roles with Burton — Hajj in 'Kismet,' Billy Bigelow in 'Carousel' and Francois Villon in 'The Vagabond King.' His other successes range from Robin Oakapple in Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Ruddigore' through to Fagin in 'Oliver' and Kipps in 'Half a Sixpence' amongst others. He has previous experience of the work of Lerner and Loewe, having played Lancelot in 'Camelot.'

As Henry Higgins, a professor obsessed with phonetics, he is quite oblivious to the charms of any female. Having accepted Pickering's challenge to make Eliza a duchess, we see Higgins becoming more and more exasperated by the Cockney mannerisms and moralities that confront him.

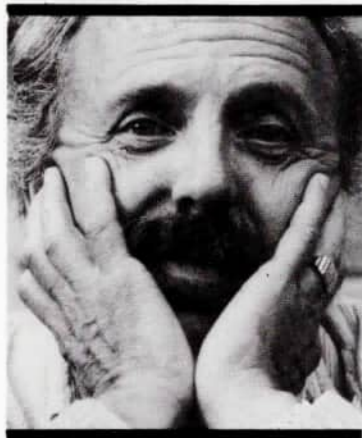
As the second act opens, Pickering is congratulating Higgins on the triumph at the ball, both having completely forgotten Eliza's part in the experiment. Higgins awakes next morning to find his 'guinea pig' has flown and suddenly realizes that he is not as self sufficient as he thought. She returns to find him alone in his study, nostalgically listening to recordings of her voice.



MICHAEL DUKES as Colonel Pickering

Mike has been connected with dramatic art in Burton for nearly 20 years and is currently a producer at the Burton Drama School. He has played in the Society before — in the first production of 'The Vagabond King,' — and with the Argosy Players and the Burton Shakespeare Society where he took the part of Petruccio in 'The Taming of the Shrew.' Some of his other successes include Henry II in 'The Lion in Winter,' John Gabriel Borkman in the play of the same name by Ibsen, and Captain Keller in 'The Miracle Workers.'

Having met Higgins outside the Opera House in Covent Garden, and issued the challenge for which he is prepared to pay all expenses, Pickering becomes the steadying influence on Higgins and the only source of encouragement for Eliza. Although he too forgets her triumph, congratulating only Higgins after the Ball, as Eliza stands by, forgotten.



GORDON HEAD as Alfred P. Doolittle

Gordon has played with many Societies including Stamford, Kettering and Doncaster Operatic Societies and several Gilbert and Sullivan Societies. He is currently a member of both the Burton and Ashby Societies. His past roles are also far-ranging — Fagin in 'Oliver,' Baron Zeta in 'The Merry Widow,' Bunthorne in 'Patience,' Major Stanley in 'Pirates of Penzance' and Tabarie in 'The Vagabond King.'

As Eliza's father, an always broke, Cockney dustman, he relies on 'A Little Bit of Luck' to see him through. He is quite happy to leave her in Higgins' care in exchange for a five pound note. It is through Higgins' influence with an eccentric millionaire that Doolittle is forced to move up to the middle class, as the millionaire dies, leaving Doolittle £4,000 a year. Disgusted with his new respectability Doolittle finds it necessary to marry Eliza's mother so 'I'm Getting Married in the Morning.'



JOYCE BURTON
as Mrs. Higgins

As an enthusiastic member of the Society, Joyce comes out of the Chorus, to take on this small, but important, part.

As Mrs. Higgins, she is prevailed on, against her better judgement, to introduce her son's protegee to society at the 'Ascot Opening Day,' but she soon becomes taken with Eliza. It is to Mrs. Higgins that Eliza flies for help when Henry becomes unbearable.



ADRIAN BADER
as Freddy Eynesford-Hill

Adrian has played the tenor lead in many of Burton's productions, since he joined in 1969 after leaving the Cwmbran Operatic Society. Amongst his most memorable parts are Barinkay in 'The Gypsy Baron' and Sou Chong in 'Land of Smiles' with Alexis in 'The Sorcerer' being one of his many G & S roles.

As Freddy, a rich, well-meaning but ineffectual aristocrat, he becomes besotted with Eliza after meeting her at Ascot. The feeling is not mutual, but he perseveres, even camping outside the Higgins' house to catch a glimpse of her - 'On the Street Where You Live.'



ANN OAKLEY
as Mrs. Pearce

Ann has also taken the lead in many of Burton's productions. Besides many G & S roles, her favourite being Gianetta in 'The Gondoliers', her repertoire ranges from the more standard operettas such as 'The Gypsy Baron,' playing Saffi and 'The Vagabond King' playing Katherine, to the more modern musicals such as 'Kismet' and 'Carousel' where she played Marsinah and Julie respectively.

As Mrs. Pearce she has to manage the Higgins' household, and exert a little reason on her employer besides giving what motherly help she can to Eliza.

PREVIOUS PRODUCTIONS

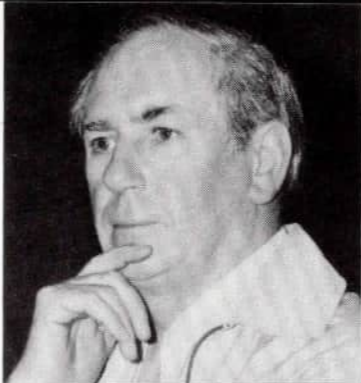
"The Gondoliers"	February 1952
"The Mikado"	November 1952
"Patience"	October 1953
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	1954
"Pirates of Penzance"	1955
"Iolanthe"	1956
"Yeoman of the Guard"	1957
"Princess Ida"	1958
"The Vagabond King"	1959
"Merrie England"	1960
"The Gondoliers"	1961
"The Rebel Maid"	1962
"Song of Norway"	1963
"Pirates of Penzance"	1964
"The Merry Widow"	1965
"Yeoman of the Guard"	1966
"White Horse Inn"	1967
"The Mikado"	1968
"The New Moon"	1969
"Orpheus in the Underworld"	1970
"The Gipsy Baron"	1971
"Princess Ida"	1972
"Pink Champagne"	1973
"The Land of Smiles"	1974
"Iolanthe"	February 1975
"La Belle Helene"	1975
"Patience"	February 1976
"Summer Song"	1976
"The Merry Widow"	1977
"Oklahoma"	1978
"Kismet"	1979
"H.M.S. Pinafore"	February 1980
"Carousel"	1980
"Ruddigore"	February 1981
"The Vagabond King"	1981
"The Sorcerer"	February 1982

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Wollaston**
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David Hussey
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The Wulfric School
East Staffordshire Education Committee
Allied Breweries
Lloyds Bank
A. E. Taylor & Son, Measham, Outfitters.
Belper Musical Theatre
Burton School of Speech and Drama

Halifax Building Society
Britannia Building Society
'Jackets' Waterloo Street
Jaspers
Derby Playhouse
Ellis of Burton, Tailors

Myra Mesaritis — a tribute

It was with a sense of deep sadness and great loss that we heard of Myra's passing earlier this year. She was so much a part of the musical community in Burton and of the Operatic Society in particular.

Her musical talents were well known and her professionalism universally acknowledged.

Myra was a person of great courage, warmth and integrity, with a dynamic personality and an enthusiasm for music that infected all who worked with her.

As Musical Director of the Society she was deeply loved and respected, not only for her musical ability, but for her keen sense of humour and devotion to her work. Her passing leaves us much the poorer, but to have worked with her was a privilege that we shall always cherish.

A. R. Thompson, Chairman.

The Society will pay its own tribute to Myra at a Memorial concert to be held on Friday 4th February 1983 at the Town Hall.



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