

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***THE APPLE CART* AND NOËL COWARD'S *BLITHE SPIRIT*
READY TO WELCOME AUDIENCES**

THE APPLE CART: JUNE 13 – OCTOBER 7, 2023, JACKIE MAXWELL STUDIO THEATRE

NOËL COWARD'S *BLITHE SPIRIT*: JUNE 14 – OCTOBER 8, 2023, FESTIVAL THEATRE

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (June 13, 2023) — The Shaw Festival's 2023 season continues with **Bernard Shaw's *The Apple Cart*** and **Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit***. Each begin previews on June 13 and June 14, respectively.

Written ten years after World War I, *The Apple Cart* is a perceptive examination of what could happen when private enterprise purchases control of the government. Set in an imagined 1967 Britain, the deceptively mild-mannered King Magnus (**Tom Rooney**) matches wits with Prime Minister Proteus (**Graeme Somerville**) and his capitalist-minded cabinet, who seek to strip the monarchy of all political influence.

This production also features the talents of **Neil Barclay, Kristopher Bowman, Rais Clarke-Mendes***, **Sharry Flett, Sochi Fried, Martin Happer, Richard Lam, André Morin, Rebecca Northan, Travis Seetoo, Kelly Wong, Bahareh Yaraghi**, with Baillie Cohort understudies **Sanskriti Marathe**** and **Francis Masaba****.

Directed by former Associate Artistic Director **Eda Holmes**, The Shaw's production of *The Apple Cart* has set and costume design by **Judith Bowden**, lighting design by **Sophie Tang**, original music and sound design by **Ryan deSouza** and fight direction by **John Stead**. The production team includes **Allan Teichman**, stage manager, **Becca Jorgensen**, assistant stage manager and **Laura Lakatosh**, apprentice stage manager.

On stage at the [Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre](#) (10 Queens Parade) from June 13 to October 7 (available for review beginning June 24), *The Apple Cart* is recommended for audience members 14+/Grade 9+. Running time is approximately 2 hours and 50 minutes including one intermission. This production is sponsored by **James & Diane King**. The Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre is sponsored by **Paradigm Capital Inc.** *RBC Emerging Artists are sponsored by the **RBC Foundation** and **RBC Emerging Artists**. **The Baillie Cohort is supported by the **Baillie Family Fund for Education**.

Over at the Festival Theatre, **Mike Payette** makes his **Shaw Festival** directorial debut with **Noël Coward's** deadly funny classic, *Blithe Spirit*. To drum up material for his new book on the occult, novelist Charles (**Damien Atkins**) invites eccentric clairvoyant Madame Arcati (**Deborah Hay**) to his home to conduct a séance. Things don't go according to plan and Charles, who is now married to Ruth (**Donna Soares** [陸明慧]), finds himself quite literally haunted by the ghost of his late wife Elvira (**Julia Course**).

David Adams, Katherine Gauthier and **Jenny L. Wright** round out this uproarious comedy's cast where emotions ignite and vases take flight

The Shaw's production of **Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*** has set and costume design by **James Lavoie**, lighting design by **Kevin Lamotte** and original music and sound design by **Troy Slocum**. The production team includes **Martine Beland**, stage manager and **Ashley Ireland**, assistant stage manager.

On stage at the [Festival Theatre](#) (10 Queens Parade) from June 14 to October 8 (available for review beginning July 6), **Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*** is recommended for audience members age 11+/Grade 6+. Running time is approximately 3 hours including one intermission. This production is sponsored by the **William & Nona Macdonald Heaslip Foundation** and **Hummel Properties Inc.**

Generously sponsored by **The Slight Family Foundation**, the Shaw Festival's 2023 season runs through to December 23, with a playbill featuring [Mahabharata](#), [Gypsy](#), Noël Coward's [Blithe Spirit](#), [The Amen Corner](#), [Prince Caspian](#), [On the Razzle](#), [Village Wooing](#), [The Shadow of a Doubt](#), [The Playboy of the Western World](#), [The Apple Cart](#), [The Clearing](#), [A Christmas Carol](#) and Lerner and Loewe's [Brigadoon](#). This season's Outdoors @ The Shaw includes [Mother, Daughter](#), [The Game of Love and Chance](#), Rodgers and Hammerstein's [A Grand Night for Singing – One Act – in Concert](#), [Coffee Concerts](#), [Speakeasies](#), [A Short History of Niagara](#), [What's in Your Songbook?](#) and [Gospel Choir](#).

Direct bus service from downtown Toronto and Burlington to Niagara-on-the-Lake is available on the [Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express](#). Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$29 return per person. Ticket to a 2023 performance is required. Please pre-arrange with the Box Office. Schedule is subject to change. Please confirm dates and times with the Shaw Festival Box Office.

For more information or to purchase tickets or a seat on the Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express, please contact the Shaw Festival Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW or visit [shawfest.com](#).

Mask use at The Shaw: While the wearing of masks is now optional, their continued use is highly recommended indoors and remains at the discretion of the individual. While The Shaw maintains its [Duty of Care](#) measures, there remains an inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 in any public place where people congregate. The Festival continues to work closely with public health experts to ensure all necessary and reasonable precautions are being met to reduce the chances of exposure; however, patrons are encouraged to take what precautions they deem necessary to protect themselves and others. Patrons are also requested to refrain from attending any performance or event if presenting COVID-19 symptoms.

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The Shaw Festival wishes to acknowledge and honour the land upon which its patrons and company members gather as the historic and traditional territory of First Nations peoples. Recognition and thanks are extended to the Neutral Nation, the Mississauga and the Haudenosaunee for their stewardship of these lands over millennia.

About the Shaw Festival

Inspired by the spirit of Bernard Shaw, the Shaw Festival creates unforgettable theatrical encounters. The Shaw Festival is a place where people who are curious about the world gather to share the unique experience of live theatre and to create a deeper human connection with the artists, the beauty and abundance of Niagara and with each other. For more information, please visit [shawfest.com](#).

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