

SHAW FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2024 PLAYBILL

- An upcoming season of enduring classics, popular hits, a whodunnit and some exciting new voices -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (September 26, 2023) — Artistic Director **Tim Carroll** revealed a [Shaw Festival](#) season of great theatre experiences highlighted by stunning new works, beloved favourites, diverse voices, timeless classics and delights galore in our Spiegel tent.

“Last season, we brought you an astonishing range of live performances in all our theatres – from new works, hidden gems and reimagined classics – plus a dizzying array of concerts and events throughout our gardens and in our dazzling Spiegel tent,” said Artistic Director **Tim Carroll**.

“In 2024, at the Festival Theatre, you will see ***My Fair Lady***, one of the few perfect musicals; ***One Man, Two Guvnors***, the funniest show on the planet; and a new Sherlock Holmes,” continued Carroll. “Over at the Royal George Theatre, there’s Agatha Christie’s best murder mystery, ***Witness for the Prosecution***, Shaw favourite ***Candida*** and two new adaptations, one well-known – ***The Secret Garden*** – and one you won’t see anywhere else – ***The Orphan of Chao***. Two more Canadian premieres, Marcus Gardley’s ***The House That Will Not Stand*** and Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig’s ***Snow in Midsummer*** will be presented in the Jackie Maxwell Studio Theatre. All this and a season of music, laughter and good company in our Spiegel tent. So, come and feed your imagination, your curiosity and your capacity to be delighted.”

The 2024 season begins April 6 and runs until December 22.

FESTIVAL THEATRE

Lerner and Loewe’s

MY FAIR LADY

Book and Lyrics by Alan Jay Lerner

Music by Frederick Loewe

Adapted from Bernard Shaw’s play and Gabriel Pascal’s motion picture *Pygmalion*

Original production directed by Moss Hart

Co-directed by Kimberley Rampersad and Tim Carroll

Previews **May 4** • Available for review beginning **May 23** • Closes **December 22**

Based on Bernard Shaw’s ***Pygmalion***, this timeless musical favourite returns to The Shaw. Eliza Doolittle, the spirited cockney flower girl, is the subject of a bet between Henry Higgins, a professor of phonetics, and Colonel Pickering, a fellow linguist. The beloved musical features unforgettable songs such as “On the Street Where You Live,” “I Could Have Danced All Night” and “Wouldn’t It Be Lovely?”

Age Recommendation: 9+/Grade 4+

LERNER AND LOEWE's **MY FAIR LADY** is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS

By Richard Bean

Based on *The Servant of Two Masters* by Carlo Goldoni

With songs by Grant Olding

Directed by Chris Abraham

Previews **June 6** • Available for review beginning **June 21** • Closes **October 13**

All Francis Henshall wanted was some fish and chips. The perpetually hungry and one-time musician, turned bodyguard-minder, finds himself in a spot of trouble. In Brighton to collect a payout with his current employer, petty East End criminal Roscoe Crabbe, he takes another job with Stanley Stubbers, an upper-class buffoon. To prevent discovery and remain dually employed, Francis must do everything to keep these “two guvnors” apart. A comedy in the style of Commedia dell'arte, ***One Man, Two Guvnors*** is chock-full of comic romps, mayhem, spectacular sight gags and pratfalls.

Age Recommendation: 11+/Grade 6+

ONE MAN, TWO GUVNORS is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

SHERLOCK HOLMES AND THE MYSTERY OF THE HUMAN HEART

By Reginald Candy

Based on characters by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Directed by Craig Hall

Previews **July 24** • Available for review beginning **August 15** • Closes **October 13**

The master of deduction and observation returns to The Shaw. Filled with enough twists and turns to leave Sir Arthur Conan Doyle guessing, a new work by Reginald Candy introduces Sherlock Holmes to a villain so clever, so compelling and so lethal, he may have met his match. This production marks the third time the legendary detective, his trusted confidante Dr. Watson and landlady Mrs. Hudson have appeared on the Festival stage.

Age Recommendation: 12+/Grade 7+

ROYAL GEORGE THEATRE

Agatha Christie's

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION

Directed by Alistair Newton

Previews **April 6** • Available for review beginning **April 25** • Closes **October 13**

Adapted from her short story ***Traitor's Hands***, Christie's suspenseful puzzle of a play is

regarded as one of her great stage mysteries. When a wealthy widow is found brutally murdered, there is only one suspect: her handsome, charming, and much younger gentleman friend. Full of clever twists, shocking revelations and mounting tension, this high-stake fight to escape the hangman's noose will keep you guessing until the very end.

Age Recommendation: 14+/Grade 9+

WITNESS FOR THE PROSECUTION is presented by arrangement with Concord Theatricals on behalf of Samuel French Inc. www.concordtheatricals.com

THE SECRET GARDEN

A Play with Songs

Based on the novel by Frances Hodgson Burnett

Adapted for the stage by Jay Turvey and Paul Sportelli

Directed by Jay Turvey

Previews **May 31** • Available for review beginning **June 20** • Closes **October 13**

The evergreen classic gets a new adaptation at The Shaw. After the death of her parents, unloved and spoiled Mary Lennox is uprooted and moved to Yorkshire to live with her reclusive uncle in his cheerless mansion. There she meets her sickly cousin Colin and Dickon, a boy who knows all about animals and nature. When she discovers a walled garden with a locked door on the manor grounds, her curiosity is sparked into life. She soon realizes flowers aren't the only things that can bloom and thrive through constant care and devotion.

Age Recommendation: 8+/Grade 3+

THE ORPHAN OF CHAO

Adapted by Michael Man

Based on the classical Chinese drama by Ji Junxiang

Directed by Courtney Ch'ng Lancaster

LUNCHTIME ONE-ACT

Previews **June 13** • Available for review beginning **June 21** • Closes **October 5**

Considered by many to be the Chinese *Hamlet*, this epic revenge tale is one of the oldest plays in the Chinese canon. After a violent palace power struggle leaves an infant orphaned, a benevolent doctor sacrifices his own son to keep the child – the last of the house of Chao – alive. Later adopted by his family's killer as son and heir, the orphan of Chao discovers the truth about his identity and exacts vengeance for the death of his clan. Told through beautiful music and insightful dialogue, this new adaptation by Michael Man is a powerful game of thrones rooted in blood, family, sacrifice and secrets.

Age Recommendation: 14+/Grade

CANDIDA

By Bernard Shaw

Directed by Severn Thompson

Previews **July 13** • Available for review beginning **July 31** • Closes **October 12**

Last seen at the Royal George in 2011, Shaw's popular and enduring romantic comedy returns to the Festival. Caught in an emotional tug-of-war between her charming socialist vicar husband and her "foundling", a young and aristocratic, but penniless, poet, Candida must ultimately decide which one truly needs her most.

Age Recommendation: 14+/Grade 9+

JACKIE MAXWELL STUDIO THEATRE

THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND

By Marcus Gardley

Directed by Philip Akin

Previews **June 12** • Available for review beginning **June 20** • Closes **October 12**

Inspired by Federico García Lorca's *The House of Bernarda Alba*, this steamy family melodrama is about love, rivalry, passion and one woman's struggle for survival. Set in early 19th century New Orleans, Beartrice, a wealthy free Black woman with three unwed daughters, finds herself at risk of losing everything after the death of her affluent, white common-law husband. No longer under French colonial rule, but governed by a new American government, she and her daughters face an uncertain future as racial divides widen and society begins to change.

Mature Content

Age Recommendation: 14+/Grade 9+

THE HOUSE THAT WILL NOT STAND is presented by special arrangement with Dramatists Play Service, Inc., New York.

SNOW IN MIDSUMMER

By Frances Ya-Chu Cowhig

**Based on the classical Chinese drama,
*The Injustice of Dou E That Moved Heaven and Earth***

By Guan Hanqing

Directed by Nina Lee Aquino

Previews **August 8** • Available for review beginning **August 15** • Closes **October 5**

Adapted from a 13th century drama from the Yuan Dynasty, this reimagined work is part ghost story, murder mystery and family drama. Young widow Dou Yi is sentenced to death for a murder she didn't commit. She curses her town with a devastating drought, which will only end when she is proven innocent. A visiting businesswoman and her young daughter may be the key to the town's redemption and Dou Yi's peace in the afterlife.

Mature Content

Age Recommendation: 14+/Grade 9+

SPIEGELTENT

THE SHAW VARIETY SHOW

Created by members of the Ensemble, this good old-fashioned variety show is packed with comedy, music and magic.

Previews **May 17** • Available for review beginning **May 24** • Closes **October 6**

THE ROLL OF SHAW

Created and directed by Travis Seetoo

An improvised and interactive adventure featuring members of the audience and Bernard Shaw's famous characters.

Previews **May 30** • Available for review beginning **June 13** • Closes **October 2**

KABARETT

A cabaret featuring music from Germany's Weimar era.

Previews **June 14** • Available for review beginning **June 22** • Closes **October 12**

COTTON CLUB

A musical revue full of sizzling numbers from the heyday of New York's hottest nightclub.

Previews **July 17** • Available for review beginning **July 31** • Closes **October 11**

FOOTLIGHTS

Revel in the hits from the Golden Age of Broadway.

Performances scheduled for July 6, August 3, August 24, September 21, September 27 and October 5

RETURNING IN 2024

COFFEE CONCERTS

Classical music concerts performed by members of the Shaw Festival Orchestra.

June 9, July 28 and September 29

SPEAKEASIES

An evening of Jazz featuring Associate Music Director Ryan deSouza, members of The Shaw Orchestra and special guests.

July 27, August 31 and September 21

WHAT'S IN YOUR SONGBOOK

An intimate and interactive evening of songs and stories. Accompanied by Associate Music Director Ryan deSouza, members of The Shaw's acting ensemble sing songs from their audition songbooks and tell the stories that go with those songs.

July 30, August 23 and September 11

GOSPEL CHOIR

Enjoy an inspirational and euphoric musical experience performed by the beautiful, uplifting and glorious voices of The Shaw Ensemble.

July 21, August 25 and September 22

HOLIDAY SEASON

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

By Charles Dickens

Adapted and originally directed by Tim Carroll

Directed by Ryan G. Hinds

Royal George Theatre

Previews **November 8** • Available for review beginning **November 14** • Closes **December 22**

Ebenezer Scrooge returns! The Shaw's charming annual production of the beloved classic ***A Christmas Carol*** will once again warm the cockles of the most frigid of hearts and remind all what the holidays are really about.

Age Recommendation: 6+/Grade 1+

Lerner and Loewe's

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Festival Theatre

Previews **May 4** • Available for review beginning **May 23** • Closes **December 22**

Age Recommendation: 9+/Grade 4+

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The 2024 season casts and creative teams will be announced at a later date. Further updates will also be available at shawfest.com. **Dates listed are subject to change.**

Tickets to the 2024 season will be on sale beginning November 4 for Friends of The Shaw and December 2 for the general public. Orders can be placed through the Box Office at 1-800-511-SHAW (7429) or online at shawfest.com. Patrons wishing to get front-of-the-line access to tickets can call 1-800-657-1106 x 2556 or visit shawfest.com to become Friends of The Shaw.

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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 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, visit shawfest.com.

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