

#### **IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# LERNER AND LOEWE'S MY FAIR LADY MAKES 'LOVERLY' RETURN TO THE SHAW

- The beloved musical begins previews on May 4 -

Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON (May 2, 2024) – Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady*, one of the most beloved musicals of all time, returns to the <u>Shaw Festival</u> stage. First performed at The Shaw in 2011, this new production of the timeless musical adaptation of **Bernard Shaw**'s *Pygmalion* is co-directed by Artistic Director **Tim Carroll** and Associate Artistic Director **Kimberley Rampersad**. The production also features choreography by **Ms. Rampersad**. Bursting with lush orchestrations, memorable songs, charming comedy and breathtaking romance, The Shaw's production of **Lerner and Loewe's** *My Fair Lady* begins previews on Saturday, May 4 at the Festival Theatre.

Cockney flower girl Eliza Doolittle (**Kristi Frank**) dreams of a better life. Through a chance encounter, she finds herself the subject of a wager between Henry Higgins (**Tom Rooney**), a renowned but misanthropic professor of phonetics, and his colleague Colonel Pickering (**David Alan Anderson**), an enthusiastic fellow linguist. Higgins vows to transform Eliza from a coarse, working-class nobody into an elite, upper-class socialite in six months. A new life and job prospects within her grasp, Eliza allows herself to be subjected to a series of intensive lessons in posh elocution and mannerisms under Higgins's eccentric and demanding tutelage.

Lerner and Loewe's *My Fair Lady* also features David Adams, Matt Alfano, Tat Austrie\*, Alana Bridgewater, Shane Carty, Sharry Flett, JJ Gerber\*, Élodie Gillett, Patty Jamieson, Gryphyn Karimloo\*\*, Graeme Kitagawa\*\*, Allan Louis, Tama Martin\*, Allison McCaughey, André Morin, Ruthie Nkut\*, Drew Plummer, Jade Repeta\*\*\*, Kiera Sangster, Jeremiah Sparks, Gabriella Sundar Singh, Taurian Teelucksingh\*\* and Jacqueline Thair.

The Shaw's 2024 production of **Lerner and Loewe's** *My Fair Lady* features music direction by **Paul Sportelli**, set design by **Lorenzo Savoini**, costume design by **Joyce Padua**, lighting design by **Mikael Kangas** and sound design by **John Lott**. The production team includes stage manager **Allan Teichman** and assistant stage managers **Kelly Boudreau** and **Annie McWhinnie**.

On stage at the <u>Festival Theatre</u> (10 Queen's Parade) from May 4 to December 22 (available for review beginning May 23), **Lerner and Loewe's** *My Fair Lady* is recommended for audience members 9+/Grade 3+. Running time is approximately 3 hours, including one intermission.

**Lerner and Loewe's** *My Fair Lady* is sponsored by **BMO Financial Group** and **Mary E. Hill. Vintage Hotels** is the Official Hotel Partner of the Shaw Festival's production of **Lerner and Loewe's** *My Fair Lady*.

The 2024 season at the Festival Theatre is supported by **Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund**.

Cast:

David Adams Matt Alfano Alfred P. Doolittle Swing

David Alan Anderson Colonel Pickering

Tat Austrie\* Ensemble

Alana Bridgewater Mrs. Eynsford-Hill/Ensemble

Shane Carty Harry/Lord Boxington

Sharry Flett Mrs. Higgins Kristi Frank Eliza Doolittle

JJ Gerber\* Butler/Dr. Themistocles/Ensemble

Élodie Gillett Lady Boxington/Ensemble

Patty Jamieson Mrs. Pearce/Queen of Transylvania/Ensemble

Gryphyn Karimloo\*\* Ensemble

Graeme Kitagawa\*\* Sir Reginal Tarrington/Ensemble

Allan Louis Zoltan Karpathy/Ensemble

Tama Martin\* Ensemble
Allison McCaughey Ensemble
André Morin Swing
Ruthie Nkut\* Swing

Drew Plummer Jamie/Ensemble

Jade Repeta\*\*\* Swing

Tom Rooney Henry Higgins Kiera Sangster Ensemble

Jeremiah Sparks Bartender George/Ensemble

Gabriella Sundar Singh Ensemble

Taurian Teelucksingh\*\* Freddy Eynsford-Hill

Jacqueline Thair Ensemble

## **Creative & Production**

Tim Carroll Co-Director

Kimberley Rampersad Co-Director and Choreographer

Paul Sportelli Music Director
Lorenzo Savoini Set Designer
Joyce Padua Costume Designer
Mikael Kangas Lighting Designer
John Lott Sound Designer

Angel Everett
Ximena Pinilla
Rose Tavormina
Assistant Set Designer
Assistant Set Designer
Assistant Costume Designer
Assistant Lighting Designer
Bex Tralli
Assistant Sound Designer

Matt Alfano Dance Captain
Élodie Gillett Assistant Director
Ryan deSouza Associate Conductor
Allan Teichman Stage Manager

Kelly Boudreau Assistant Stage Manager Annie McWhinnie Assistant Stage Manager

<sup>\*</sup> Emerging Artists are sponsored by the **RBC Foundation** and **RBC Emerging Artists**.

<sup>\*\*</sup> The Baillie Cohort is generously supported by the Baillie Family Fund for Education.

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> Christopher Newton Intern Jade Repeta is generously supported by Marilyn & Charles Baillie.

#### About 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** 

**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 (<a href="www.mtishows.com">www.mtishows.com</a>).

The Shaw Festival's 2024 season runs through to December 22, with a playbill featuring Lerner and Loewe's My Fair Lady, One Man, Two Guvnors, Sherlock Holmes and the Mystery of the Human Heart, Agatha Christie's Witness for the Prosecution, The Secret Garden, The Orphan of Chao, Candida, The House That Will Not Stand, Snow in Midsummer and A Christmas Carol. The Spiegeltent's season features The Shaw Variety Show, The Roll of Shaw, Kabarett, Cotton Club, Coffee Concerts, Footlights, Speakeasies, 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 <u>Toronto-Niagara Shaw Express</u>. Luxury buses are standard size wheelchair accessible, offer free Wi-Fi and have an on-board host. \$34 return per person. Ticket to a 2024 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 <a href="mailto:shawfest.com">shawfest.com</a>.

<u>Mask use at The Shaw</u>: Masks are not currently required in our theatres. Though wearing a mask is optional, it is recommended; however, the choice remains at the discretion and comfort of the individual. The Shaw continues to maintain its <u>Duty of Care</u> measures. 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 <a href="mailto:shawfest.com">shawfest.com</a>.

### **Connect with the Shaw Festival**

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