

February
24/25/26/27
at 8 p.m.
Gymnasium
Bäumlihof
(Bus 34, Drei Linden,
direction Riehen)



The Semi-Circle
presents
Bernard Shaw's

Pygmalion

Director: Richard Levitt

Pygmalion

Cast of characters

(in order of appearance)



Clara Eynsford-Hill
Mrs. Eynsford-Hill
Freddy Eynsford-Hill
Eliza Doolittle
Colonel Pickering
Henry Higgins
Mrs. Pearce
Alfred Doolittle
Mrs. Higgins
Parlormaid

Helen Baldomero
Ruth Meier
Oscar Baldomero
Lesley Stockreisser
Peter Broberg
Norman Koeth
Joan Kuster
Bryan Taylor
Barbara Clark
Ann Stafford

Bystanders: Brian Acton, Nicholas Degen, Peter Degen, Chris Heye, Lisa Nixon, Grayson Richards, Doreen Richter, Kathrin Schärer, Paul Schmid, Ann Stafford, Joy Stone, Ursula Werfeli, Bob Williamson.

Directed by Richard Levitt

The action of the play takes place in London 1912.

There is no business
like Shaw business!
ROCHE

ACT I	Covent Garden
ACT II	Higgins' study
ACT III	Mrs. Higgins' drawing-room
ACT IV	Higgins' study
ACT V	Mrs. Higgins' drawing-room

A Synopsis of Tonight's Play

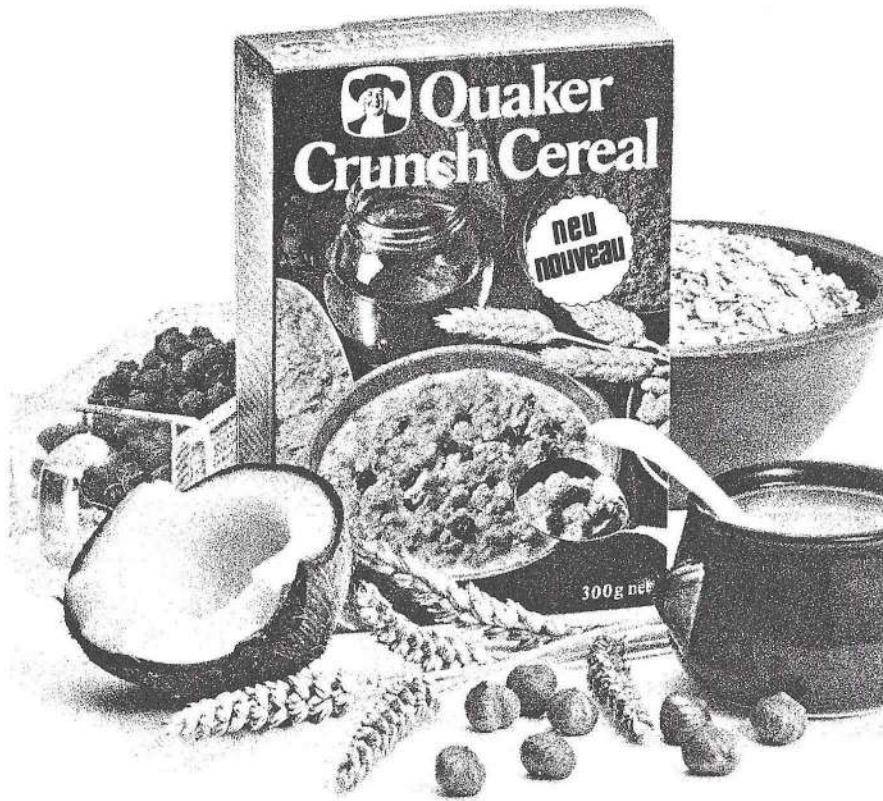
Hmmmmmm! Quaker Crunch...

Die knusprig frische Köstlichkeit aus Getreideflocken, Früchten und Nüssen, leicht mit Rohzucker und Honig überzogen.

Übrigens: mit Milch oder Joghurt schmeckt's nochmal so gut!

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On a typically English evening a crowd of people are sheltering in the porch of St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden, where a strange man is taking down notes on everybody. This is, of course, Professor Henry Higgins. Higgins meets Colonel Pickering, who is also an expert on language. In the crowd is Eliza Doolittle, a Cockney flower-girl, and a turmoil ensues as Higgins criticizes her and others for their incorrect speech. Eliza overhears Higgins claim to Pickering that he could create a duchess out of her.

Eliza turns up at Higgins' house and asks him to teach her to "talk like a lady in a flower shop". Higgins takes her in, much to the chagrin of Mrs. Pearce, his housekeeper. Alfred Doolittle now appears on the scene and tries to get money from Higgins, as compensation for losing his daughter. Higgins and Pickering realize that they have much to do.

Henry's mother is giving an "at home" afternoon and is expecting the Eynsford-Hills, who were also among the crowd sheltering in Covent Garden. Henry arranges for Eliza to be invited, to test her out in society for the first time. She behaves beautifully but, although her diction has been greatly improved, her vocabulary has remained that of a Cockney flower-girl, which rather puzzles the other guests. Freddy Eynsford-Hill takes an immediate fancy to Eliza. Mrs. Higgins scolds Colonel Pickering and her son for their treatment of the girl.

After the ball, Higgins, Pickering and Eliza return home. The two men gloat over their success. A scene now follows in which Eliza vents her feelings: she has won the evening, but gets no recognition from them. She leaves the house and meets Freddy, who proposes to her.

Higgins is seemingly lost without Eliza. He finds her at his mother's home. Alfred Doolittle appears again. He is now a wealthy man and is about to marry Eliza's sixth "stepmother". Eliza declares herself a free woman and Higgins shows real feelings towards her. Everyone goes off to Doolittle's wedding, leaving Higgins alone in the house

A Word from the Director...

There are certainly not many people in the English-speaking world who will not have heard of Eliza Doolittle and Professor Henry Higgins, but how many realize that in the play no one sings a note not one bloody note !

You will not hear of the "Rain in Spain" nor will you see a sumptuous Ascot gavotte. What you are going to see is Shaw's play, "Pygmalion", which opened in London in 1914. It was an immediate success and remains one of the great classics of the English theatre.

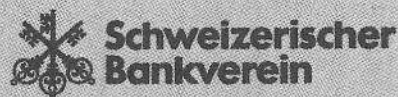
As Director, I have chosen to do away with a closed-in set and have opted for an open stage, with only the barest suggestion of place "the play's the thing!", and so are the actors.

This year's cast is almost a complete change from that of our last production. Again we have several fledglings, trying out their wings, and our former Director is on stage with the Semi-Circle for the first time. All told, about twenty members are on stage tonight, but we can always use new talent. So why not search your actor's heart and jump in at the deep end and join us next time.

Covent Garden awaits you!



Richard Levitt



'I don't want to talk grammar, I want to talk like a lady'
Eliza Doolittle

Both grammar and pronunciation receive careful attention at

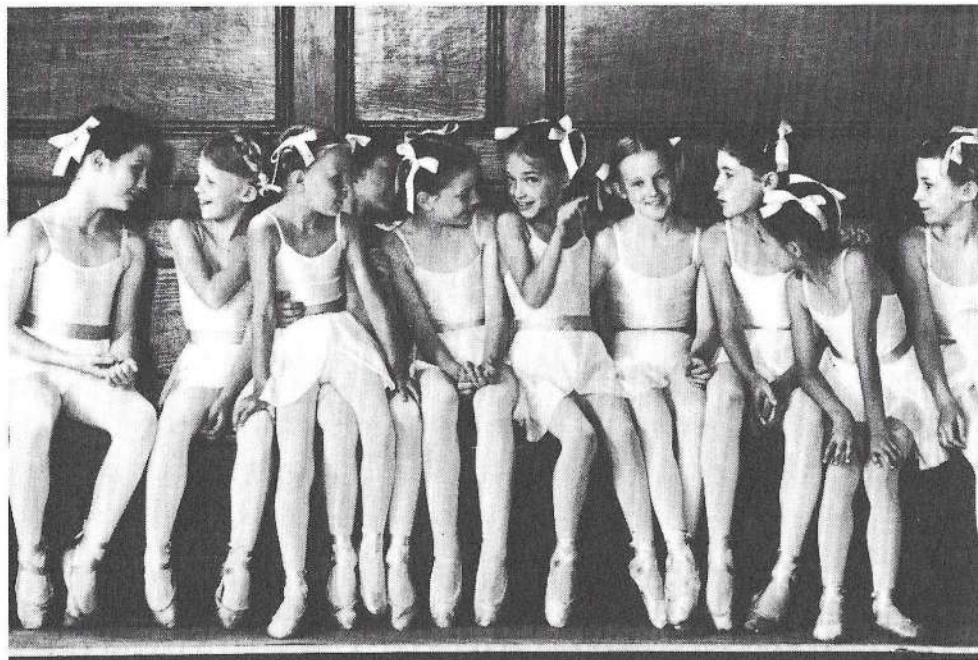
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw, widely considered to be the most influential writer of his age, was born in Dublin in 1856 and died in 1950. His family was of the Irish gentry, "revolving impecuniously in a sort of vague second cousinship around a baronetcy".

At school he found he could learn nothing that did not interest him and generally remained at the bottom of his class.

From 1871 to 1876 Shaw worked in the office of a Dublin estate agent as a cashier, and during this period he submitted to magazines and newspapers numerous literary contributions which were invariably rejected.

In 1876 he followed his mother and sisters to London, where his early efforts as an author of fiction met with little success. Essentially shy, he trained himself to be a brilliant platform speaker and educated himself at the British Museum, consequently becoming interested in cultural subjects and producing many music, art and theatre reviews.

In 1882 he became an active Socialist, and as a member of the Fabian Society he was closely associated with many social reformers including the Webbs. He is almost as well known as a pamphleteer and essayist as he is as a playwright, and wrote on many social aspects of his day.

His first major success as a dramatist was in 1894 with "Arms and the Man", and from then until 1939 he wrote 47 plays including "The Apple Cart", "The Doctor's Dilemma", "Man and Superman" and "Saint Joan". He was awarded the 1925 Nobel Prize for Literature.

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**The Players
and the Director**

Peter G. Broberg

This is the first time that Peter appears as an actor in a Semi-Circle production. A founder member of the group, he directed "Dear Charles", "Hay Fever", "The Importance of Being Earnest" and "Present Laughter". He studied in London at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama and is a Gold Medallist of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He has been a member of several theatre groups in various countries, and in recent years has been directing and acting on the open-air stage of the Burgfestspiele Rötteln, near Lörrach.

Helen Baldomero

Helen, a Shropshire lass, came to Basle with her husband in 1981. Trained in London in haematology, she now works as a member of a research team at the Kantonsspital. A newcomer to the Semi-Circle, she appears on stage for the first time.

Oscar Baldomero

Oscar, Spanish by birth and educated in England, has been in Basle since 1981. He works as an anatomical preparator for a Swiss surgical foundation. A new member of the Semi-Circle, he appears on stage for the first time.

Ann Stafford

Ann has lived in Switzerland since she was two years old and is now twenty. She took part in an acting course at school and appeared in Purcell's "The Fairy Queen" at Oberwil Gymnasium. She was our prompter for "Night Must Fall" and played an adenoidal schoolgirl in the Semi-Circle's first workshop production, Noël Coward's "Fumed Oak".

Ruth Meier

Ruth appeared in "Present Laughter" and "Blithe Spirit". After two years backstage, helping with stage management and as wardrobe mistress, she is now on stage again. This is Ruth's 13 th year in Basle. Her latest hobby is collecting antique buttons and clothes.

Lesley Stockreisser

"Pygmalion" is the third Semi-Circle production in which Lesley has appeared. After leaving drama school, where she became an associate of the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, she "rested" for 13 years (no mean feat, with two small sons) and then jumped back in with "Blithe Spirit" and "Separate Tables". She now teaches English in Basle.

Bryan Taylor

Bryan, who hails from Warwickshire, has been in Basle, working as a translator with one of the chemical firms, for almost twenty years. Also a founder member of the group, he is making his sixth appearance in a Semi-Circle production.

Barbara Clark

A founder member of the Semi-Circle, Barbara has appeared in all but one of the Semi-Circle productions. She has been engaged in pharmaceutical research in Basle for the last 17 years. Her hobbies, apart from acting, are gardening and collecting and dressing antique dolls.

Joan Kuster

Joan came to Basle from Liverpool in 1967 and is now a housewife with a twelve-year-old daughter. She joined the Semi-Circle in 1977 and has assisted behind the scenes with many previous Semi-Circle productions. After prompting in "The Importance of Being Earnest", Joan played Miss Erikson in "Present Laughter", the maid in "Blithe Spirit" and Lady Matheson in "Separate Tables".

Norman Koeth

A native New Yorker, Norman has been living and working in Basle as a teacher and translator for many years. Last season he played Hubert in the Semi-Circle production of "Night Must Fall". When he is not acting, he spends his time with his puppet theatre.

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Previous Semi-Circle Productions

May 1975:	Wilde: LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME (reading)
December 1976:	Shaw: HEARTBREAK HOUSE (reading)
May 1977:	JUBILEE REVUE (jointly)
January 1978:	Melville: DEAR CHARLES
September 1978:	OLD TIME MUSIC HALL (jointly)
January 1980:	Coward: HAY FEVER
October 1980:	A SEASIDE SHOW (jointly)
February 1982:	Wilde: THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST
February 1983:	Coward: PRESENT LAUGHTER
February 1984:	Coward: BLITHE SPIRIT
March 1985:	Rattigan: SEPARATE TABLES
March 1986:	Williams: NIGHT MUST FALL

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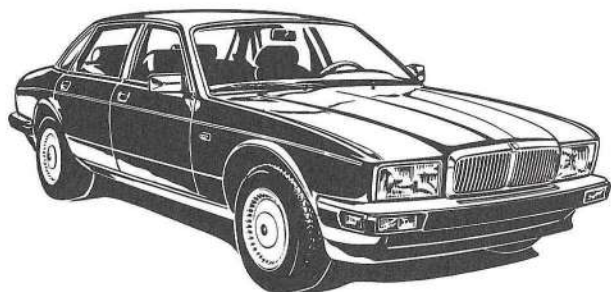
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Behind it all

The Semi-Circle can look back on 1986 with some satisfaction, and not without good reason.

Our major production for the year was our first-ever thriller, Emlyn Williams' "Night must Fall", which was a great success, and all concerned had a lot of fun putting on the show (including Mrs. Bramson who was "murdered" several times!). This success will certainly prompt us to play another thriller sometime in the future.

As usual a number of playreading sessions were held during the year, and most certainly for me, another first was in the shape of a "Workshop" production of Noel Coward's one-act play "Fumed Oak", which was performed at the Rekizet in Ettingen, and directed by Muriel Taylor. We shall continue with more workshops this year, since they give opportunities for new (and old) members to try their hand at directing and acting, and are also lots of fun.

The group will also be taking part in a one-act play festival in Berne in April, together with other English-speaking amateur theatre groups in Switzerland which should be a great experience.

I hope that you will enjoy tonight's performance of Pygmalion as much as we have in putting the show together.

Peter Nixon



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Bob Williamson, Grayson Richards

Gillian Jespersen, Joy Stone

Diana Zuger

Penny Ehrsam, Sheila Nixon,
Lisa Nixon

Jean-Pierre Zuger and volunteers
Sheila Nixon, Andreas Kilian
Penny Ehrsam
Penny Ehrsam, Hans Tschumi
Hans Peter Laager

The Semi-Circle would like to thank all those members and non-members
not mentioned by name whose generous help has made this production
possible.

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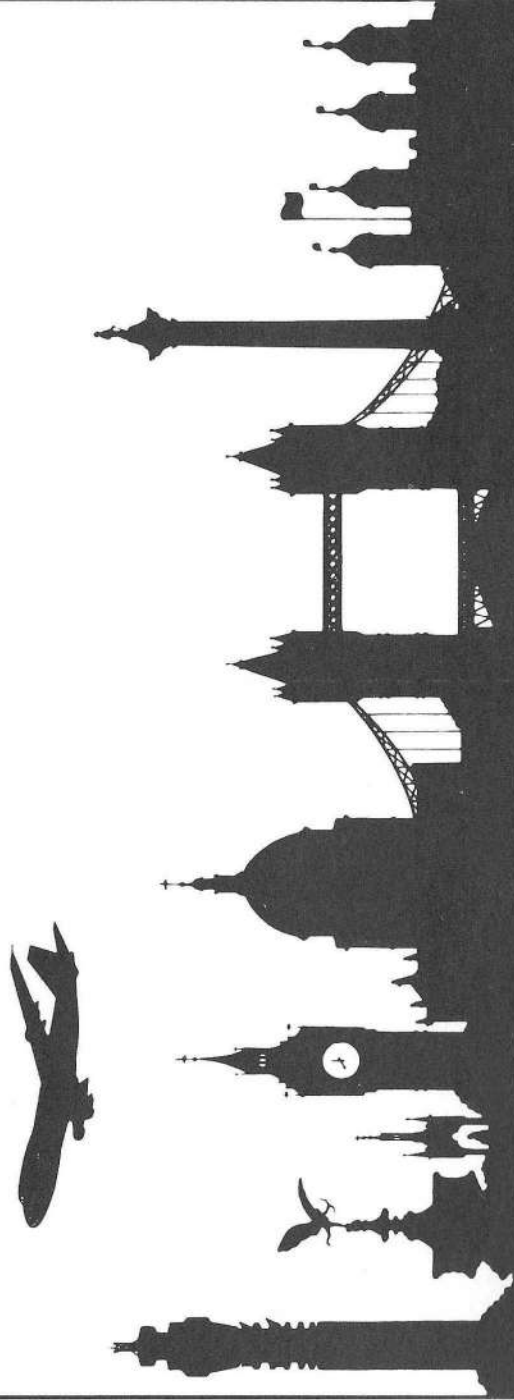
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