

MAN AND SUPERMAN

Written By GEORGE BERNARD SHAW

Directed By JACK CLAY

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Unarguably one of the supreme achievements in High Comedy, *MAN AND SUPERMAN* was composed by Shaw just at the beginning of the century and directly after he was captured in marriage by an Irish "millionheiress." Shaw was already middle-aged, with an impressive reputation as a journalist-critic in music, art and drama, and as an essayist and orator for Socialism. Though a failed novelist, he had already begun to prove himself a successful dramatist in the new serious drama derived from Ibsen. By contract Shaw had agreed not to spend his wife's money. Nevertheless her resources enabled him for the first time to write exactly as he pleased. *MAN AND SUPERMAN* is the result. It is a vast work, with a typical preface, a long three-act love-chase comedy, and an extended dream scene based on Mozart's *DON GIOVANNI*. Further, the work is capped with a jaunty *REVOLUTIONIST'S HANDBOOK*.

Shaw as usual displays his wide-ranging and cranky mind on several subjects. Mostly here he focuses on sex, marriage, and the genetic evolution of man. Underlying all are the economic hang-ups that obstruct. In his best contrary mode, Shaw reverses the conventional love-chase and insists that in reality man does not pursue woman, but is in fact pursued by her. This ruthless ch and wild flight define a basic human conflict, that between femi and masculine creativity. The former perpetuates the race; the latter creates new minds in science, art and philosophy. The engagement is ferocious, and the way to resolution lies straight through Hell.

Shaw's concept of action is witty debate. This idea is both his greatest weakness and his incomparable strength. We have concentrated on letting Shaw's arguments speak as clearly as possible.

SCENES

ACT I: The study of Ramsden's London townhouse, Spring 1905.

ACT II: The driveway of Mrs. Whitefield's country place in Richmond.
-- Ten-minute intermission --

ACT III: Hell, about 50 years after the final curtain of *DON GIOVANNI*.
-- Ten-minute intermission --

ACT IV: The garden of a rented villa in Granada, Spain.

Costume Design JEANNE ARNOLD
Set Design REGAN HAINES
Lighting Design COLLIER WOODS
Sound Design JACK CHANG
Technical Director MARK HOFFMAN
Stage Manager JANE E. GREEN

THE CAST

(in order of appearance)

Roebuck Ramsden **RON HENEGHAN***
Parlor Maid **KERRY SPAULDING**
Octavius Robinson **JAMES LUDWIG***
John Tanner **BRIAN SENTER***
Mrs. Whitefield **JESSICA MARLOWE GOLDSTEIN***
Ann Whitefield **PAMELA THOMAS***
Miss Susan Ramsden **LISA ESTRIDGE-GRAY***
Violet Robinson **CAROL JOHNSON***
Henry Straker **DAVID VEACH***
Hector Malone **KARL BURY***
Donna Ana **SARA DeBOER***
Don Juan **SETH PANITCH***
Commander **RON HENEGHAN***
The Devil **WILLIAM HILL***
Mr. Malone **DAVID MORDEN***
Maid **BETSY BERGER**
Butler **BRAD SIMONSEN**

PRODUCTION CREDITS

Assistant Stage Manager Kerry Spaulding
Dialect Coach Judith Shahn
Dialect Captain Carol Johnson
Wig Stylist Joyce Degenfelder
Propmaster Craig Brown
Master Electrician Brian Wennerlind
Assistant Lighting Designer Tricia Tolliver
Sound Engineer Bill Spaulding
Set Construction Crew Bob Boehler, Craig Brown, Chuck Driscoll, Donald Dugan, Laura Hibbs, Tanya Hordney, Mark Hoffman, Brent Meyers, Shawnrick Ogdahl, Diane Palmieri, Michael Perrone, Kim Petterson, Leilah Stewart
Costume Construction Crew Cynthia Abbott, Susan Edie, Jennifer Mathiesen, Sarah Murdock, Nanci Nelson, Jill Nishimura, Kim Petterson, Pauline Smith, Sean Sullivan
Running Crew Jeannette Allen, Betsy Berger, Michelle McGowan, Sandra Ruckdeschel, Michele Schneebeck, Brad Simonsen
House Management Sarah Chambreau, Young Chung, Elena Mihailova, Hye Rey Yom
Production Office Staff Robert Menna, Stepan Simek, Margo Whitcomb

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Intiman Theatre Company, A Contemporary Theatre, The Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Empty Space Theatre, The Bathhouse Theatre

SUGGESTED READING

Shaw, of course. Otherwise, start with Michael Holroyd's new three-volume biography: it is definitive.

* Member of the Professional Actor Training Program, Thesis Production

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MAN AND SUPERMAN



by George Bernard Shaw

Silvis

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