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"Arts For All"

(All Arts - All Ages - All Abilities)

L/VAC administers Grassroots funds to 15 small arts organizations in five counties,

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Art Galleries at L/VAC house 24 visual art exhibits each year featuring local, national, and international exhibits. In conjunction with VSU, high school, middle school, and elementary school, art shows are curated each year with scholarships to encourage its youth. One of L/VAC's adult juried shows offers \$2,500 in prizes.

L/VAC sponsors Art Classes in the Center and out in the community for the underprivileged and people with disabilities - such classes as calligraphy, watercolor, oil, acrylics, drama and social dance. Many art classes as well as yoga and writing classes are offered free to everyone.

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Art isn't just beautiful; it's good business!

1204 N. Patterson St., Valdosta, GA 31601
Phone: (912) 247-2787 - Fax: (912) 242-6690
Roberta George, Executive Director



SEABORN JONES

Poetry reading Saturday

VALDOSTA — Seaborn Jones of Lizella is the winner of Snake Nation's Press's annual poetry contest.

There will be a publication/reception and reading by Jones at the Lowndes/Valdosta Arts Center at 1204 N. Patterson at 2 p.m. Saturday, free and open to the public.

The Violet Haas Reed Poetry contest, named for the mother of the three sister editors who run the press: Roberta George, Nancy Phillips and Constance Meister, draws poets' submissions from all corners of the world. This year's farthest entrant was from Australia, but there were unexpected submissions from Bolivia, Paris and Bosnia.

Jones, an ex-Marine, works as a naturalist with the Museum of Arts and Science in Macon, Georgia. Over the years he has been the recipient of two Individual Artist Awards in Poetry from the Georgia Council for the Arts. He was also selected as Georgia Author of the Year by the Georgia Council of Authors and Journalists. At the Bread Loaf Writer's Conference in Vermont, he served as the Alan Collins Scholar in Poetry.

"We are very excited that a Georgia poet has finally won this award", said Ms. Phillips. "Seaborn has been a finalist every year for three years, and we have loved his poems right from the beginning."

Ms. Phillips explained that the selection is narrowed down to about 30 manuscripts out of 300 submissions, and Robert Earl Price, a well-known Atlanta poet, was the final judge for this competition. The Violet Haas Reed Prize is \$500, 50 books and publication and distribution of 2,000 books.



Madison artists

Watercolors by Southern Artists League members Sidney Connor Ashley and Lu Sands of Madison, Fla., are on display at the Community Gallery of the Thomasville Cultural Center. Their exhibit closes Friday. Ms. Sands, left, and Ms. Ashley, center, recently attended the annual festival of the American Society of Portrait Artists in Montgomery, Ala. They are shown photographed with the featured artist and recipient of the John Singer Sargent Medal, Everett Raymond Kinstler. Kinstler, famous for his portraits of celebrities including Presidents Reagan and Clinton, singer Tony Bennett, and writer Tom Wolfe, was presented the Medal at the ASOPA Award Ceremony at Montgomery. — Contributed photo

Professional artist exhibits at The Times

By **BEN BUTLER**
Times Staff Writer

VALDOSTA — The Southern Artists League chose Valdostan Don Pettigrew as the Artist of the Month of February and March.

Several of his art works are on exhibit in the lobby of *The Valdosta Daily Times*.

A native Georgian, Pettigrew received a bachelor of arts degree in art from Mercer University. A professional artist since 1975, his animal and landscape paintings are included in public and private collections on five continents and across the U.S. from Maine to Hawaii.

Pettigrew said that recently he has become interested in painting domestic animals like cats and dogs.

"I paint a lot of different things because I'm interested in a lot of

different things," he said. "I don't have a high sounding philosophy about it. I just really enjoy painting.

"It's what I do best."

His awards include the Governor's Artist of Excellence Award, first place in the Georgia Wildlife Management Area Stamp Competition, finalist in the Federal Duck Stamp Competition, purchase award in the National Print Competition and numerous awards at regional art shows.

He is a member of Atlanta's exclusive Watercolor Collective which exhibits annually at the Atlanta Arts Festival and is a member of the local Southern Artists League.

Pettigrew considers himself a realist and though he is best known as a watercolorist, he also works in oils, etching, sculpture and mylar lithography.



Painting of the Converse-Dalton-Ferrell House, headquarters of the Valdosta Junior League, is among the art works of Don Pettigrew on exhibit in the lobby of *The Valdosta Daily Times* during February and March. — Photo by Paul Leavy



Lillian Brooks' painting above is one of several featured in the lobby of 'The Valdosta Daily Times.' — Times photo

Lillian Brooks Artist of Month

HAHIRA — For the past 20 years, Lillian Brooks and her husband have lived on the outskirts of Hahira — a small, South Georgia town whose economy has always been tied to nature and the soil.

These elements combined with her fondness for history and antiques have led her to paint what some deem an unusual subject for women.

About half of her subjects are vintage mechanical objects — tractors, cars or trucks.

"For me to be interested, it has to be weathered and rusty," she said. "Mother Nature's palette can be a rich tapestry of color and texture. I love what the elements and time can do with man's metal and wooden castoffs."

Though normally considered an artist who paints rust, her focus is always light shadow and contrast.

These themes run through all her watercolors regardless of subject.

Mrs. Brooks is self-taught. She began painting in the '80s and has been exhibiting and selling her work at art fairs and outdoor shows ever since.

Mrs. Brooks is also receiving international exposure for 10 of her prints which are being put on transfers for T-shirts to be distributed by Barber and Co.

What started as a hobby is an occupation now for her and her husband. They travel the Southeast for much of the year, meeting and talking with new and established customers.

Some of her paintings can be seen in the lobby of *The Valdosta Daily Times* where she is the featured Artist of the Month for the Southern Artists League.

McKey - Southern Artist League Member



Valdosta Symphony Orchestra unveils its first poster for sale

Before a capacity audience, the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra unveiled its first poster ever on opening night of the 1996-97 concert season Saturday on the stage of Whitehead Auditorium.

The poster features a copy of the Earle McKey original, "Azalea & Honeysuckle Vines," from the collection of Dr. and Mrs. John Steedley. The display poster was framed courtesy of Ashley Glass & Mirror Company.

On stage for the presentation of the poster were Sue Cox and Polly Talley, ways and means co-chairmen of the Valdosta Symphony Guild. The Steedleys and McKey were present for the unveiling and were recognized by those present for their generous contribution to the future of the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra,

said Martha Blackburn, publicity co-chairman of the guild.

The guild will have 1,000 copies of the poster for sale. Also available will be note paper with the same azalea motif. This is a major fund-raiser for the Valdosta Symphony Guild whose primary purpose is to support the Valdosta Symphony Orchestra.

Posters and note paper will be on sale at the following locations: Art South, University Park, 906 Slater St.; Covington's; Betty Webb Ltd.; and That Finishing Touch.

All Valdosta Symphony Guild members will be selling the posters and note paper. For corporate or special orders, contact Polly Talley, tel. 244-4049 or Mary June Higgins, tel. 245-1906.

**Dr. John Steedley, left,
and Polly Talley talk with
artist Earle McKey about
the print that the
Symphony Guild is selling.
— Times photo by Paul
Leavy**

Way Back When/A Weekly Feature About Local History

Dosta Playhouse, home of Valdosta Theatre Guild

By ALBERT PENDLETON
Historical Museum Curator

VALDOSTA — The Dosta Playhouse is thriving under the ownership of the Valdosta Theatre Guild at 122 N. Ashley St.

Previously called the Dosta Theatre, it was opened in the early part of May 1941, marking the third movie theatre in Valdosta at that time of the Martin chain, with the Ritz and the Palace.

The formal opening was May 5, 1941, a Monday, with the manager, J.A. Cooley, who had been in theater work in Valdosta already for 23 years.

Preparing for business were also cashiers, candy bar operators, movie operators, doormen and usherettes.

The front part of the building cost \$30,000 and was the prettiest and most attractive in this area of South Georgia. Valdosta Theatre Guild acquired the building and has recently restored it to its original glory and is still working on the inside.

The original Dosta Theatre seated 700 people with an expensive carpet for them to walk on. There was washed air, circulating completely through the building which cooled the theatre and with a gas heating system for wintertime.

Neon lighting was in the ceilings which were absolutely fireproof. With a beautifully curtained stage, a modern screen was provided, and R.C.A. equipment was used.

The new theatre showed first and second run pictures. The first picture show scheduled was "Power Drive" starring Jean Parker and Richard Arlen.



A 1940's snapshot of the Dosta Theatre flanked by the Joe Lazarus Store and The H & S Store, both clothing establishments. — Lowndes Historical Museum photo

The theatre was constructed by J.N. Bray Co., with their contractor R.N. McEachren in charge of the work.

Admissions to the movies at the Dosta were 10 and 20 cents, except on Saturday when admission was 10 and 15 cents. Cooley, the manager, began in theater work in Valdosta at the old Rex Theatre. He said, in his 23 years, he worked from janitor to manager and also managed the Palace Theatre on South Patterson Street.

It was reported that the seats in the Dosta had been brought from the almost new Liberty Theatre on Florida Avenue where the theatre closed.

If one missed a new movie at the Ritz, there was still a chance to see it later at the Dosta. In November 1955, there were the Ritz, Dosta and Palace Theatres in the downtown

Valdosta area with two drive-in theatres, the Forrest on Forrest Street and the Martin on the site now occupied by Park Avenue Bank. In February 1965, the Forrest is not listed, but in its place was the Skyway Drive-In Theatre on Bemiss Road, pretty far out.

At the Ritz that month, February 1965, playing was "Sex and the Single Girl," probably the first in that type of movie, which has gone down ever since.

At the Dosta the same month as a part of a double feature was "The Three Stooges in Orbit." Weren't they always?

Now the Dosta is a Playhouse where there are plays acted out by the local theatre group, Valdosta Theatre Guild. The members present dramas, comedies and musicals. It's the place to go for good live entertainment. See you there.

Theatre Guild Valdosta

presents



The Lion in Winter

by James Goldman

Directed by Mary Helen Watson

By Special Arrangement with Samuel French, Inc

February 4-7 and 11-13

All Performances at 8:00 PM,

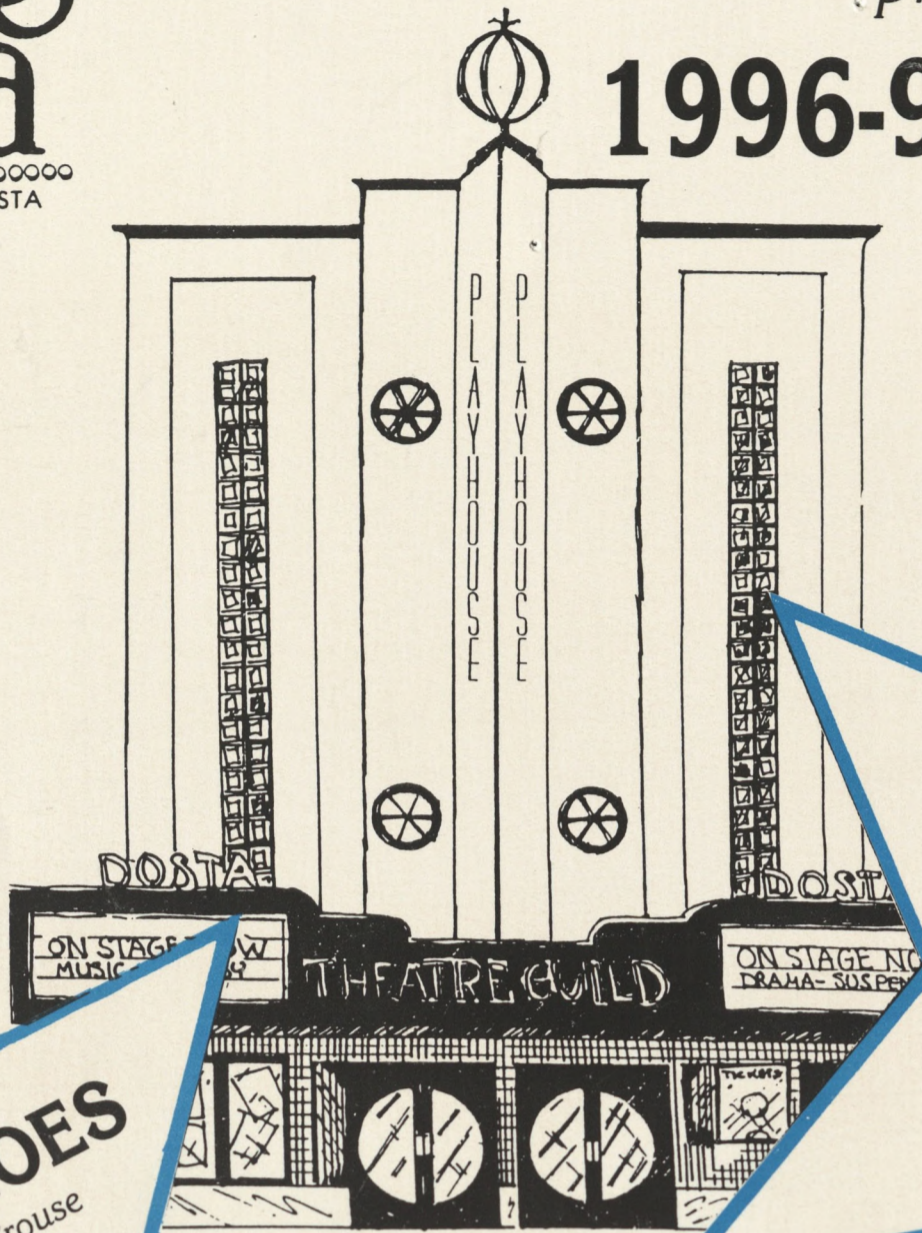
Except Matinee at 2:30 PM Sunday, February 7

DINNER THEATRE Thursday, Feb 4 and

Thursday, Feb 11 at 6:30 PM

Catered by Peachy Kean

Dosta Playhouse, 120 N Ashley St, Valdosta GA
Information and Reservations: 24-STAGE (247-8243)



ANYTHING GOES

Book by Lindsey & Crouse
 Music by Cole Porter

SEPTEMBER
 13, 14, 15*, 16, 17,
 18, 19, 20, 21

THE HEIRESS

By Ruth & Augustus Goetz

OCTOBER
 31
NOVEMBER
 1, 2, 3*, 7, 8, 9

THE OLDEST LIVING GRADUATE

Comedy by Preston Jones

FEBRUARY
 13, 14, 15, 16* 20, 21, 22

BAREFOOT IN THE PARK

Comedy by Neil Simon

MAY
 15, 16, 17, 18*, 22, 23, 24

and
 an evening of
 one act
 plays

and
2 BIG CHILDREN'S SHOWS!
The Littlest Angel
 and
Winnie-the-Pooh

Evening Performances 8:00 PM • Sunday Matinee* 2:30 PM
CALL 24-STAGE FOR SEASON TICKET INFORMATION

Theatre Guild Valdosta • 122 N. Ashley Street • P. O. Box 2831 • Valdosta, GA 31603





presents

Barfoot in the Park

By Neil Simon

A Comedy in THREE ACTS for General Audiences

MAY 15, 16, 17 and 22, 23, 24, 1997 8:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 18, 2:30 p.m.

'DOSTA PLAYHOUSE

122 N. Patterson Street, Valdosta, Georgia

★ OPENING NIGHT, MAY 15 - ALL SEATS \$ 5.00 ★

All other performances - - - - - Adults \$ 8.00

Seniors, Students and Military \$ 7.00

For reservations and special group rates

Call 24-STAGE (247-8243)



tural

show, April 29-May 1, at 7 pm each night at Howard Auditorium on the ABAC campus. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 12 and under. Admission is free for ABAC faculty, staff, and students with identification cards.

The Valdosta Theatre Guild presents *Barefoot in the Park* by Neil Simon. A comedy in three acts for general audiences. May 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 1997 8 p.m., Sunday, May 18, 2:30 p.m. 'Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Patterson Street. Opening night, May 15 - All seats \$5. All other performances-Adults \$8 Seniors, Students & Military \$7 For reservations and special group rates call 24-STAGE (247-8243).

The Valdosta Display of the NAMES Project AIDS Memorial Quilt Opens 2, May at the Valdosta State University PE Complex. From 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. on May 2 and 3, form 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. on May 4. Opening Ceremonies will be at 10 a.m. on May 2 and Closing ceremonies will be at 4 p.m. on May 4. A wine and cheese reception will be held Thurs. May 1, from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Cultural Arts Center 1204 N. Patterson St. The community is invited for wine and cheese and discussion

Leisure

The Valdosta Daily Times
Thursday, May 15, 1997



Valdosta Theatre Guild opens 'Barefoot in the Park' today

FRANKIN SCOTT

Valdosta Theatre Guild presents Neil Simon's "Barefoot in the Park" today through May 22-24. Director John Britt does not seem nervous — he or the actors. This is his directorial debut.

"It's like a dream come true for me," Britt

said. He has never directed a full-length play since he joined the guild in 1990, acting in numerous plays as assistant director for several other one-act plays last season.

"Barefoot in the Park" has been a good thing.

"It's fun and suitable for families," he

said. The play takes place in New York City one early '60s. Newlyweds Corrie and Paul live in an apartment Corrie has found for

him. A lawyer who just won his first case meets Victor Velasco, one of the other newlyweds. Velasco is a free spirit, and Corrie's conservative mother, the comedienne

Jo Ann Griner, worsened when Paul does not get through Central Park in 30-degree weather. Corrie accuses him of being a fuddy-duddy.

Simon's greatest strength is his ability to make one in every Simon play the individual. You might be reminded of an uncle or

your mother. You feel like you know at least one character," Britt said.

Most of the cast will be familiar to regular theatergoers.

Though "Barefoot" is Patricia White's (Corrie Bratter) first large stage production, she starred in an one-act play last season.

Her on-stage husband, Paul Bratter, is portrayed by Jeff Fulp.

Fulp played "Oscar" in last year's performance of the "Odd Couple," Simon's most famous play.

Victor Velasco is portrayed by Fred Stikkel, best known for his performance as Mike Trumain in "The Oldest Living Graduate" and "Captain" in "Anything Goes."

Jo Ann Griner (Mother) has a credit list a mile long, Britt said. Ms. Griner has been with the guild since its inception in 1989.

Rick Patrick (Telephone Man) is also a long time veteran of the Valdosta stage.

The director is assisted by his crew, comprised of Linda Boyett, assistant director and producer; Pauline Player, stage manager; Darlene Cabiness, lights; and Phyllis Childres, prop manager.

Concessions will be manned by Tess Hill and Ken Kinard.

The set was constructed by Bill McFarland, Carol Luker, Jerry Ellis, Michael Burrage, Liz Miller and the cast and crew.

Tickets for "Barefoot in the Park" are available for \$8 by calling 24-STAGE. Groups of 20 or more receive a discount.

All evening shows begin at 8. Sunday matinees begin at 2:30 p.m.



As Corrie and Paul Bratter look on, Victor Velasco meets Ethel Banks, the mother played by Joanne Griner, for the first time on a blind date. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

DOSTA

PLAYHOUSE

DOSTA

"AN EVENING OF ONE ACTS"

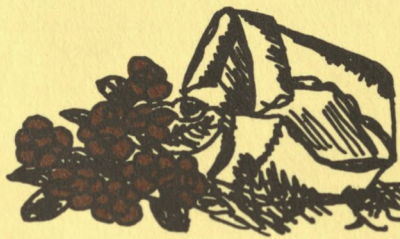
THEATRE GUILD

TWO FAMILY SHOWS

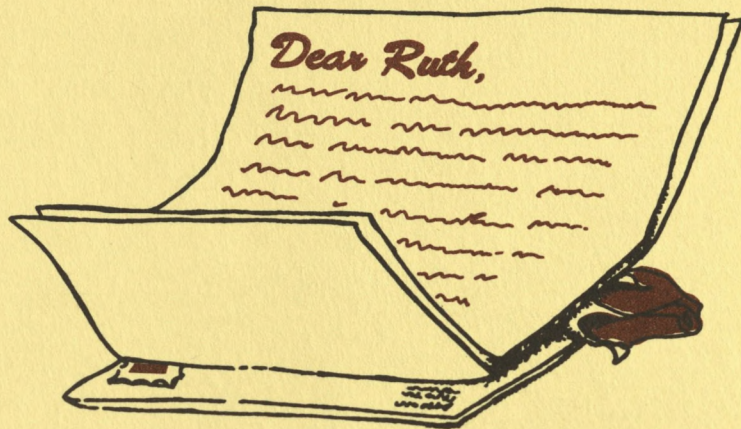
'DOSTA PLAYHOUSE

Kiss me, Kate

with music by Cole Porter



August 29, 30, 31* &
September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 - 1997



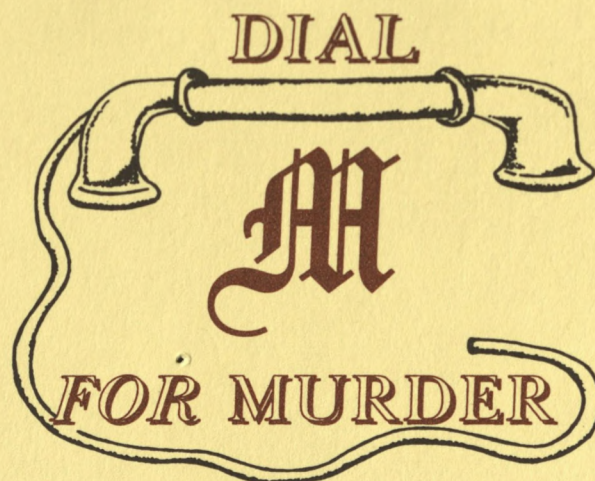
Comedy by Norman Krasha

October 30, 31 &
November 1, 2*, 6, 7, 8, - 1997



Comedy by Ira Levin

January 22, 23, 24, 25*, 29, 30, 31 - 1998



Suspense by Frederick Knott

May 7, 8, 9, 10*,
14, 15, 16 - 1998

122 N. ASHLEY STREET • P.O. BOX 2831

EVENING PERFORMANCES 8:00 P.M.

* SUNDAY MATINEE 2:30 P.M.

CALL 24 - STAGE
FOR TICKET INFORMATION,
RESERVATIONS OR GROUP RATES

THEATRE GUILD VALDOSTA
1997 - 1998
SEASON

Theatre Guild Valdosta

Presents



Kiss me, Kate

*A musical comedy written by
Bella & Samuel Spewack*

*With music & lyrics by
Cole Porter*

*Produced by special arrangement with
Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc. • 560 Lexington Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10022*

**August 29, 30 &
September 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
at 8:00 p.m.**

Sunday, August 31, 2:30 p.m.

'Dosta Playhouse

122 N. Ashley Street, Valdosta Georgia

ALL SEATS FOR MUSICAL \$10.00

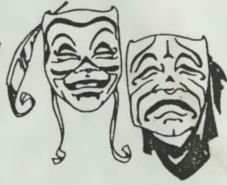
**FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL
24 - STAGE (247-8243)**



245-2410

Theatre Guild Valdosta

Presents



Kiss me, Kate

A musical comedy written by
Bella & Samuel Spewack

With music & lyrics by
Cole Porter

Produced by special arrangement with
Tams-Witmark Music Library, Inc. • 560 Lexington Avenue • New York, N.Y. 10022

August 29, 30 &
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Sunday, August 31, 2:30 p.m.

Valdosta Playhouse

122 N. Ashley Street, Valdosta Georgia

ALL SEATS FOR MUSICAL \$10.00

FOR RESERVATIONS PLEASE CALL
24 - STAGE (247-8243)



Theatre Guild Valdosta to present **'Kiss Me Kate'**

By **ELIZABETH RANKIN SCOTT**
Times Staff Writer

Theatre Guild Valdosta will present "Kiss Me Kate" Friday through Sept. 6 at Dosta Theater, 122 N. Ashley St. The musical will run nine full performances. All shows begin at 8 p.m. except the Sunday matinee, which begins at 2:30 p.m.

A play-within-a-play, "Kiss Me Kate" begins with the Baltimore opening of Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew." The cast of the revival is on stage and receiving final instructions. Each cast member's on-stage life is complicated by what is happening offstage.

Theatre Guild veterans Rick Patrick and Darlene Caviness play the leading roles of Fred/Petruccio and Lilli/Katherine.

Other cast members include Malena Hanson, David Singleton, Sheila Moland, Ken Kinard, Murray Weed, Nathan Suggs, Curtis Knowles, Mike Glasscock, Segal Owens, Jim Britt and Sean McManus.

Ensemble members are Kristy Barton, Angela Clark, Jerry Ellis, Michael Ethridge, Tammie Glasscock, Renee Luke, Elizabeth Miller, Shawna Miller and the Amazing Tim.

At least half of the cast this

year is new to the 'Dosta stage.

"We've got some fresh faces this time," said Michael Burrage, assistant director and publicity chairman for the show.

Burrage said the new talent will add some spice to an already spicy show.

"The costumes alone are worth seeing," said Burrage. "And the set is pretty elaborate. There are a lot of things in 'Kiss Me Kate' I've never seen on the Dosta stage before."

The Bella and Samuel Spewack musical features music and lyrics by Cole Porter. The score includes "Too Darn Hot," "Always True to You (In My Fashion)," "So in Love," "Why Can't You Behave" and "Another op'nin', Another Show."

"Most of the songs should be familiar to the audience," said Burrage.

Mary Ann Green is director of the show, Mary Helen Watson is producer, Ricardo Ipina is musical director, and Hope Ince is assistant musical director. Choreographer is Diane Lewis.

Costumes for "Kiss Me Kate" were creat-

ed by Pauline Player and Linda Boyett.

Other production staff includes Sean McManus, stage manager; David Ince, light designer and technician; Brenda Carter, light technician; and Laurie Dutton, Mary Helen Watson, Darlene Caviness, Carmen Ellis, Bettie Durden, Jim Britt, seamstresses and tailors.

Also included are Heather Hull, Robin Freeman, properties; Elizabeth Miller, Michael Burrage, program; and Pauline Player, box office.

The set was constructed by the cast and crew with help from Carl and Monica Glasscock, Fred Stikkel, Kathy Young, Spanky Whitfield, Kristy Barton, Malena Hanson, Don Foss, Andy Burrage, Bill McFarlin and Curtis Knowles.

Scene painters were Lucy Spencer, Susan Wood and Carol Luker. Marquis photographer was Brenda Carter, and Donna Joyner was marquis designer.

General admission is \$10. For more information, call 24-STAGE.



Times photos by Mike Tanner





PSA

Theatre Guild Valdosta

Regrets to announce that due to unforeseen circumstances, the performance schedule for Thursday September 3rd must be canceled!

However we encourage our patrons & supporters to make reservations for Friday or

Saturday night

For The musical:

My Fair Lady

Book & story by ***Alan Jay Lerner***

Music by ***Fredrick Loewe***

Based on the play ***Pygmalion*** by ***G. B. Shaw***

Remaining Performance times:

September 4, & 5 at 8:00pm

TGV regrets any inconvenience this may have caused to our supporters & patrons.

AT THE DOSTA PLAYHOUSE

122 N. ASHLEY ST. DOWNTOWN VALDOSTA

For More Information or Reservations Please Call:

24STAGE [or 247-8243]

AT DOSTA PLAYHOUSE

'Evening of One-Acts' opens today

By PATRICIA H. CROLL
Times Staff Writer

The third annual "Evening of One-Acts" will fill the Dosta Playhouse with comedy and drama, starting tonight.

The array of plays lined up to make a complete evening of community theater are enabling first-time directors and those who just love to direct a chance to guide talented local actors. The one-acts deal with a smaller format, a smaller cast of three or fewer for each play and less props to handle than for mainstage productions.

Michael Burrage, director of "Gums," and Jack Pruden, director of "Sham," are both first-time directors. Two other one-acts which make the evening complete are "Graceland," directed by Hope Ince and "Scent of Honeysuckle," directed by Grady "Spanky" Whitfield.

"Graceland," written by Ellen Byron, is characterized as part comedy and part drama. "It takes place three days prior to the opening of Elvis Presley's home for the first time," Ms. Ince said. "Typically, people begin to arrive early and that includes Elvis' number one fans, Bev and Rootie."

Bev, played by Linda Boyett, is a middle-aged woman and Rootie, played by Christina Twitty, is a 21-year-old woman who appears to be 13.

Ms. Ince said the play takes a nostalgic look at well-known facts about Elvis and maybe some not so well known facts about his life. "The story is about how he touched lives and has a sweet touch to it," Ms. Ince said. "The two characters develop a relationship, and it goes on from there."

"Gums," written by Jules Tasca, takes a comedic look at a senior league football game by highlighting an unlikely announcing duo. Hannah Storm, played by Phyllis Childree, is the announcer, and Mr. Milhouser, played by Michael Brogdon, is a 90-year-old former player, who has been retired for five years and is only there to do color commentary.

"They're reporting on a game going on with two teams in the senior league," Burrage said. "They are in the announcers' booth and have dialogue that is funny. Also, there is a nurse for Mr. Milhouser, played by Donna Joyner."

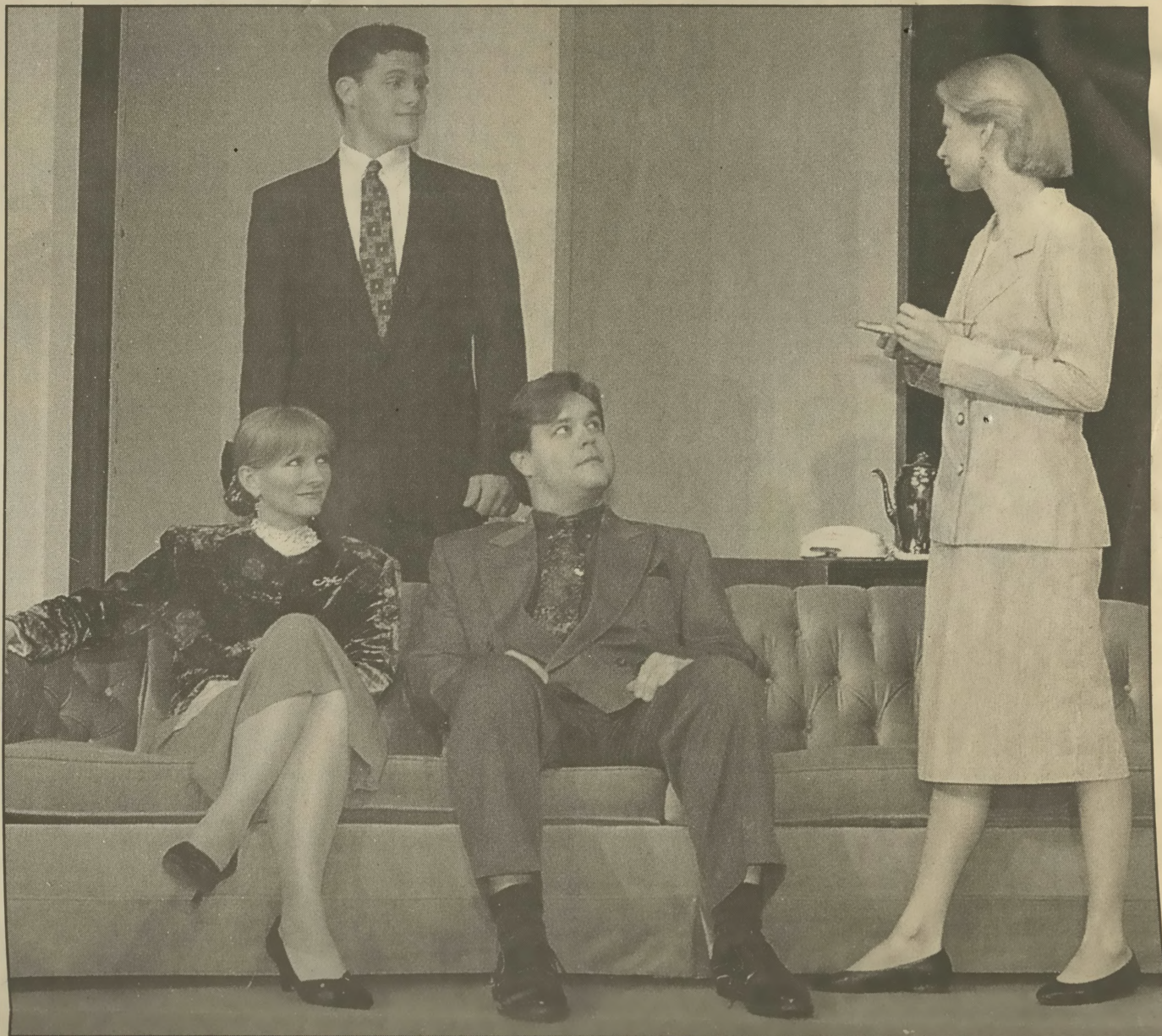
Burrage admits that being a first-time director is a whole other ball game but has loved doing it. "I like to let the actor find their own character," Burrage said. "I think I get a better performance out of them that way."

"Sham," written by Frank G. Tompkins, is a comedy about a picky art thief. "The thief invades a Long Island home and is surprised by the couple who own the house when they come back early," Pruden said. "The art thief has already determined that the art work is not worth stealing. He is a sophisticated thief and engages in a long conversation with the couple on what he should steal, so the couple's social life will not suffer."

The plot continues to twist when a cub reporter interrupts what is going on. She supplies the plot-turning lines, which will lead to a scam and provide a surprise ending to the play.

Characters include Clara and Charles (the couple), played by Angela Pollock and Michael Brogdon; the thief, played by Kyle Felts, and the reporter, played by M K Kondrot.

"A Scent of Honeysuckle," written by Jean Lenox Toddie, is a drama with a surprise ending. "The story is about Jesse, played by Donna Joyner, who was born on a farm with 20 acres," Whitfield said. "She is 77 years old and has a heart problem. Her family wants her to move in with them. Kate, played by Joanne Griner, is Jesse's old-



In the one act play called 'Sham,' Michael Brogdon as Charles and Angela Pollock as Clara listen on the couch with the thief played by Kyle Felts as reporter Michelle Kondrot gets the story of a robbery in the one-act play directed by Jack Pruden. — Times photos by Paul Leavy



Confined to a wheelchair, Michael Brogdon as Mr. Milhouser listens with his nurse played by Donna Joyner as Hannah Storm performs in her role as the Newscaster in the one-act called 'Gums' directed by Michael Burrage.

est daughter. When she drives the 50 miles in one direction to get her mother, Jesse decided to stay in the home where she was born and raised. While the daughter is packing Jesse's belongings, Jesse begins to see her mother, Susan, played by Kristi Lewis, who passed away at 49.



Linda Boyette, left, as 'Bev Davies' and Kristina Twitty as Rootie Mallert give their praise to Elvis in the one-act called 'Graceland' directed by Hope Ince.

They begin to hold a conversation about her childhood." The rest of the story is a surprise and may touch a nerve with many who have elderly parents.

The one-act plays have been in rehearsal for a month now and will open tonight. Other shows will be Saturday and March 6-7. All performances start at 8 p.m. at the Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St. in Downtown Valdosta. Admission is \$5 per person and no reservations are necessary. Meanwhile, auditions for the next show, "Dial-M For Murder," will be at 7 p.m. Sunday and Monday at the theater. For more information, call 24 STAGE.

Dear Ruth'

Theatre Guild Valdosta production of this romantic comedy of errors a complete triumph

ALDOSTA — Take Laurel Hardy's trademark line, "Another fine mess you've gotten us

' Add the se "And ner, and ner, ..." you have ssence of r Ruth," atest e produc- from The-Guild Val-

his ro- tic come- of errors, ten by man Kras- 1944, not only has a terrific build — you'll truly know meaning of snafu before you t out — but is also as com- a triumph, from casting to as I've ever seen from TGV. ave insisted that my parents e the trip downtown to the a Playhouse to see the play e of its final three showings, rdsday-Saturday at 8 p.m. e sincere praise I cannot give. ne performance I watched all the more extraordinary use of a power outage caused near tornado down the t; more on this, and the s noteworthy response, in a ent.

"Dear Ruth" presents the mis- adventures of Bill Seawright e Felts), an ardent B-26 gun- on a three-day leave from the as he conducts a high-speed tship of Ruth (Patty White). l he knows only through her antic, poetry-filled letters. Felts, a Valdosta State Univer- freshman in his first "hu- " role (he portrayed Rabbit Piglet in TGV's "Winnie the h") does a masterly job of



JOHN K. YOUNG

THEATRE

portraying the eager but nervous Bill.

"Bill had to be gung-ho about meeting Ruth," Felts said, "but at the same time, he was meeting people for the first time and wasn't sure how to act."

The first Firie Mess is the fact that Ruth herself didn't write the letters; her impulsive 16-year-old sister, Miriam (Kristy Barton) did, as a patriotic attempt to help the young, lonely serviceman deal with the war.

Barton's Miriam is a rare piece of work, filled with passion for such causes as donating blood (she signs up her parents and credits their two pints as "her" contribution) and women's rights (wiring the Secretary of War on the subject and charging it to Dad).

"She's a sassy teen-ager but that's the way she was brought up," Barton said. "Her parents were very traditional, but they wanted her to have a mind of her own."

Ruth is engaged to a banker named Albert (Jeff Fulp).

The warm-hearted Ruth, realizing the truth would devastate Bill, decides to play along and make him happy for a couple days, then break the relationship off gently through the mail.

Yeah, right.

And the other Fine Messes arrive as regularly as Bill's gifts to Ruth (three rooms full of roses at 9 a.m., 200 boxes of Cracker Jacks at 10, a teddy bear at 11), each nesting naturally inside the others like one of those multi-piece wooden Russian dolls.

For instance? Well, there's the unexpected appearances of Bill's sister, Martha (Shawna Miller), then Bill's buddy Chuck (Joshua Miller, who works at Moody Air



Theatre Guild Valdosta continues its production of 'Dear Ruth' at 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday at Valdosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St. — Times photo by Paul Leavy

Force Base and plays Shawna's husband in real life), who were formerly engaged and desperately don't want to see each other.

Of course, they have to.

And finally, Lowndes High freshman Josh Barton appears as Harold, a strapping sailor, to provide the night's final exclamation point.

The main action, however, is the triangle of Ruth, Bill, and Albert, brought together by fate. And, in the end, Ruth appeals successfully to fate to make her decision.

"I think there's a lot of symbolism in the play," White said. "Albert symbolizes the security, the 'safe' choice — after all, he is a banker. Then I have this guy (Bill) who comes along and teaches me how to live; he showers me with flowers, reads me poetry, and romances me. He teaches me

about life and love."

Fulp's Albert, as stern, stuffy, straitlaced, stolid, stodgy and starched as the prince on the tobacco can, is a classic loser and, in his best scenes, a show stopper.

This cast was so strong that I can't pick a star; it was a constellation up there.

"There," incidentally, is the scene where the play is set: the home of a traffic judge named Harry (Murray Weed), his dotting wife Edith (Pauline Player), daughters Ruth and Miriam, and their maid, Dora (Pam Nelson). The judge and his wife are the play's emotional anchors, the eyes of the hurricane, whirling in the middle of a chaos made largely by the daughters they raised.

"I played Harry as the kind of father I would want to be," Weed said. "Even though he's in the

1940's, he doesn't treat his daughters as girls but as human beings. He treats them with such respect."

TGV's set of this 1940's household is the best set I've seen in a community production since Lowndes High's production of "M*A*S*H" in the spring, from the desk drawers filled with authentic clutter to the ivy-covered trellis visible through the window. Credit director David Ince, Mary Helen Watson, and a dozen elves.

Now, I promised to tell you about the near tornado. Well, in the second act, as Ruth was shocking Bill at last with the painful truth, I noticed that the stage thunder rumbling in the background was a little too choppy to be believable.

Sorry, my bad. It was real thunder! Then the lights went

out.

After a few minutes, Weed — who is county attorney by day — came onto the darkened stage and announced, "This is supposed to be the 1940's. Let's pretend this is radio!"

Then he launched into his lines and the show went on in the flickering light of ushers' flashlights and candles grabbed by properties manager Renee Luke and carried onstage by — who else? — the maid.

General admission is \$8. Group rates are available for groups of 20 or more. For reservations or more information, those interested may call 24STAGE (or 247-8243).

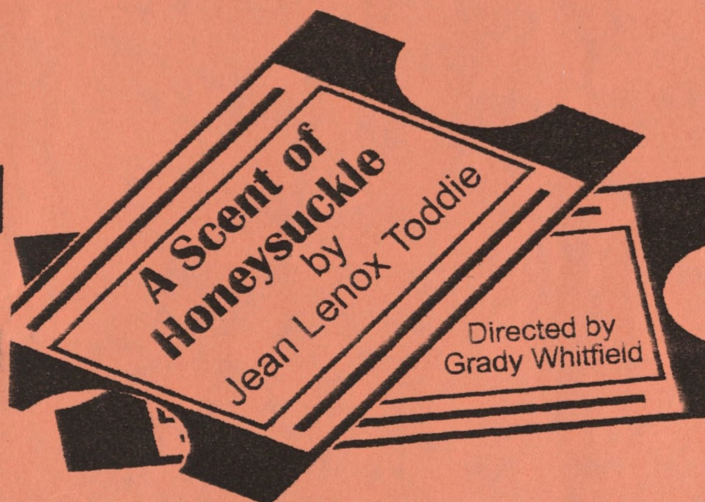
John K. Young, who has a writing degree from John Hopkins University, is a correspondent for The Valdosta Daily Times.



Theatre Guild of Valdosta presents



An Evening of One-Acts



February 27,&28 and March 6,&7, 1998

Showtime 8:00 p.m.

In the Dosta Playhouse, 122 N. Ashley St.

Downtown Valdosta

Admission:\$5.00 per person No Reservations Accepted

For more information please call 24STAGE



Area quilters honor the Japanese

By PATRICIA H. CROLL
Times Staff Writer

Members of the Withlacoochee Quilters Guild are making tomadachis (Japanese word for friend) with quilters of the Nagano Quilt Association in Japan.

The Americans are participating in a project designed to honor and surprise Japanese quiltmakers for the Nagano Winter Olympic Games and the Paralympic Games.

Valdosta quiltmaker Pat Hitchcock said she was proud to participate in the Georgia Quilt Project request to honor the Japanese.

"The Nagano Quilt Association (is) copying what we did in the original 1996 Olympic quilt project in Atlanta," Ms. Hitchcock said. "We made and donated three quilts to the '96 Olympiad and one to the Paralympics. Initially, we were documenting quilts by listing the maker, year, pattern and other factors about quilts. Then as an outgrowth of that, we did the Olympic project. All the quilts donated were given to a representative of each country."

The Nagano Winter Olympic Games and Paralympic games quilts are 31 inches across and are made from Japanese fabric and in the shape of a kimono. One quilt will be given to each Olympic country and each Para-



lympic country.

The request made by the Georgia Quilt Project, in their October newsletter, was to recognize and show appreciation for keeping alive the idea of celebrating the Olympics with quilts and using quilts as gestures of welcome and

goodwill to strangers in other countries and other cultures.

"We had to have the 24-inch wall quilts in the mail by the 11th of January," Ms. Hitchcock said. "They will be hand delivered and presented to one of the makers of a Japanese kimono quilt by the

chairman of the Georgia Quilt Project board of directors, Anita Weinraub."

Ms. Hitchcock said this effort is a surprise to the Japanese. "They don't even know they are coming," she said. "It is a reward to honor them."

Another reason the local quilters wanted to participate in sending quilts to Japan is because of their close ties to a Japanese woman who worked with them.

"We have an association with a Japanese quilter, Kiyoko Nakano," Ms. Hitchcock said. "This is what triggered our interest. Kiyoko's husband was a college instructor, and she joined us for the summer. She gave each of us a 10-inch square of silk from her grandmother's kimono, and we exchanged quilt blocks with her."

Carole Smith, Withlacoochee quilter, said Mrs. Nakano was a delight to quilt with.

"She was just like us except she could not figure out why there weren't many people walking," Ms. Smith said. "In her country everyone walked more. She was my first contact with someone from Japan, and she showed us how to do paper folding art."

"This was a rough time of year to do these quilts, but right now as a guild we are only working on our donation quilt," Ms. Hitchcock said.

Betty Fouraker and Bobbie White also sent off their quilts for the Japanese quiltmakers.



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GAIL DESCHAMPS: ARTISTIC DIRECTOR - R.H. DESCHAMPS: PRODUCING MANAGING DIRECTOR

presents

PYGMALION

By George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Jeff Adler

Set Design: R. H. DESCHAMPS * Set Realization: JEFF HORSLEY

Lighting: CHRIS CRAWFORD * Costumes: CATHY KLINGENSMITH

Sound Design: BRIAN GRIFFIN * Stage Manager: BRIAN WICKER

TD: PATRICK CAMPBELL * ASM/ATD: BRIAN AHMAN

Cast in alphabetical order:

Miles, William, Servant	Marc Antonio
Doolittle	Michael Birch
Freddy,	Patrick Campbell
Mrs. Higgins	Lesleh Donaldson
Colonel Pickering	Peter Hauenstein
Professor Higgins	Stephen Thomas Kaiser
Mrs. Eynsford Hill	Marc Harris Kandel
Clara, Mrs. Pearce.....	Maia Knispel
Eliza.....	Karen Vesper

There will be one brief intermission



SYPNOSIS OF THE PLAY

Phonetics Professor Henry Higgins makes a bet with his friend, Colonel Pickering, that he can turn a Cockney flower girl, Eliza Doolittle, into a lady within three months. To do so, he must transform her thick-accented voice, by coaching her to speak proper English, teaching her manners, and 'drilling her so she will be educated.

All seems to be working out well ... but at a tea party, in her first public testing, she blurts out, "Not bloody likely."

However, she makes a spectacular debut and successfully passes as a duchess at an ambassador's reception proving Higgins to be right. In the process of teaching Eliza, Higgins falls in love with her, although she appears diverted – for a while – by an upper class gentleman named Freddy Eynsford-Hill.

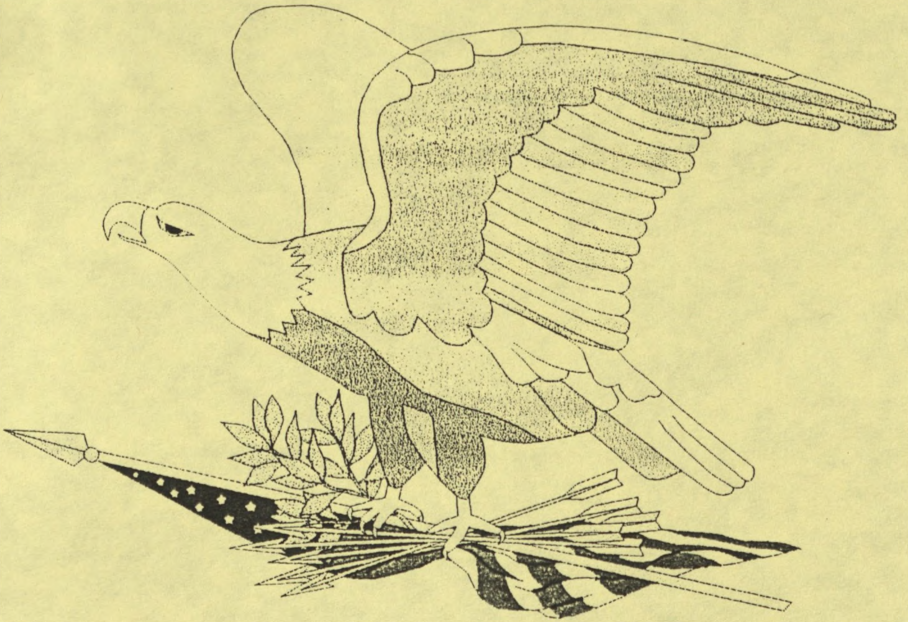
The play is the precursor of the tremendously successful musical *My Fair Lady* that not only played on Broadway for a number of years, won many Tony Awards, toured the world, but also became an award winning musical movie under the same title.

The movie – *Pygmalion* – won the Academy Award for Best Screenplay and Screenplay Adaptation in 1938.

Shaw's superb dramatization of a Cockney flower girl's metamorphosis into a lady not only is a delightful fantasy but also has much to say about social class, money, spiritual freedom and women's independence. Its combination of ideas and social comment, together with its rich comic characterization, make it one of the most enduring and entertaining of English comedies.

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Your student will see this performance Monday, March 9
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(no student will be denied admission.)

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