

George Bernard Shaw

George Bernard Shaw was born in Dublin in 1856. While still a youth, he left Ireland and went to England. When Shaw was twenty he moved to London, where he resided until his death seventy-four years later. Although remembered as something of a wit, Shaw was rather dour in nature. (Quite frankly, he was a bit of a droopy drawers.) Shaw cut his eye-teeth on some unpublished novels, then joined the staff of the *Saturday Review* as a stage critic.

In 1902 Shaw negotiated *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (take a guess as to what it was) through a thicket of censors for its London debut. The stage production made quite an impression on the city's showgoers. After writing several plays for London's West End theater—and in answer to a public outcry for a work based on the Don Juan theme—Shaw authored *Man And Superman*. In 1904 he brought forth *John Bull's Other Island*, which depicted Anglo-Irish relations. (Their association wasn't too close at the time, but when has it ever been cordial?) In 1913 he authored *Pygmalion*, the basis for Lerner and Loewe's hit musical, *My Fair Lady*. In 1923 Shaw wrote *Saint Joan*, a play which emphasizes that the difference between truth and falsehood often depends on the observer's viewpoint, and leaves final judgment as to the extent of Joan's guilt or innocence up to the audience.

On occasion, Shaw's writings take a backward glance over unfulfilled material. *Major Barbara*, for instance, tells of a father getting better acquainted with his adult children. The plot was used less successfully in previous dramas – including one by Shaw himself. Overall, though, his plays are a triumph of the imaginative stage, and for that he should be awarded the highest of marks.

– essay by Bill Lounsbury

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Manchester – WILD KINGDOM

Many residents of Manchester follow the annual mating, hatching, feeding and fledging of an eagle couple and their brood that used to reside just north of Daniels Loop and now reside in a nest on Caraway Road.

About a week ago it became a “soap opera” when a young female eagle, hoping to find a suitable mate, *killed the mother* of the two young eagles to the horror of many Manchester neighbors who were watching the nest and the battle that continued to the beach.

As of the deadline for this issue, your editor can tell you that Dad is defending his young and telling the young female that he does not want her within 100 feet of the nest. Dad is also feeding the young – who hunkered down during the Manchester 4th of July. This morning both “teenage” eagles were branching: spreading their wings in the south wind.

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