

Headlong, Nuffield Southampton Theatres and West Yorkshire Playhouse present

PYGMALION

By Bernard Shaw

Directed by Sam Pritchard

Designed by Alex Lowde

Sound Design by Ben and Max Ringham

with lighting by Jack Knowles

Projection designs by Will Duke

Saturday 4 to Saturday 25 February 2017

PRESS NIGHT: WEDS 8 FEBRUARY AT 7.45PM

AT WEST YORKSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Tour dates overleaf



'The science of speech. That's my profession. I can place any man within six miles. I can place him within two miles in London. Sometimes within two streets.'

How far do accents define us? Is status still dictated by our mother tongue?

Sam Pritchard directs a radical new staging of Bernard Shaw's acute comedy *Pygmalion*, a hilarious and poignant tale of two opposites, Henry Higgins and Eliza Doolittle, trying to find a common language.

Pygmalion is a co-production between Headlong, Nuffield Theatres Southampton and West Yorkshire Playhouse. It will open to press in Leeds before travelling to Warwick, Liverpool, Leicester, Cheltenham, Bath, Oxford and finishing at the Nuffield Southampton Theatres.

The full cast is **Alex Beckett** (Henry Higgins), **Ian Burfield** (Alfred Doolittle), **Gavi Singh Chera** (Freddy Eynsford Hill), **Flaminia Cinque** (Mrs Pearce/Mrs Eynsford-Hill), **Natalie Gavin** (Eliza Doolittle), **Racheal Ofori** (Clara Eynsford-Hill), **Liza Sadovy** (Mrs Higgins), **Raphael Sowole** (Colonel Pickering).

Shaw's celebrated play was first staged over 100 years ago and is recognised as one of the most enduring and perceptive of comedies. In this audacious new staging, Sam Pritchard playfully carves a contemporary world on stage using sound and video technology which examines class identity and questions how far accents and speech can define us in Britain today.

Sam Pritchard is the Associate Director (International) at the Royal Court and was winner of the JMK Award for Directors in 2012. His credits include *Anna* (Aix Opera Festival/ENOA Workshop), *There Has Possibly Been An Incident* (Royal Exchange and Edinburgh St Stephens/Soho Theatre/Berlin Theatertreffen), *Buy Nothing Day* (Company of Angels), *Fireface* (Young Vic) and *Galka Motalka* (Royal Exchange). He will be directing Guillermo Calderon's play *B* for the Royal Court in September 2017.

Pygmalion continues Headlong's progressive work with emerging directors, giving a director in the early stages of their career the opportunity to present work on main stages across the country. This programme has previously supported work from Simon Godwin, Natalie Abrahami, Robert Icke, Blanche McIntyre, Ben Kidd and Ellen McDougal.

Headlong has partnered with Nuffield Southampton Theatres and West Yorkshire Playhouse on supporting emerging directors on several occasions, productions have included *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (2011),

Romeo and Juliet in 2012 and *The Seagull* in 2013, and *Spring Awakening* in 2014 and *The Glass Menagerie* in 2015.

For press information and reviewing tickets please contact Clíona Roberts on 020 77704 6224 / 07754 756504 or e-mail cliona@crpr.co.uk For images please go to cliona.smugmug.com password is: download

NOTES TO EDITORS - ACTORS BIOGRAPHIES

Natalie Gavin plays Eliza. Natalie is a well-known actress from stage and screen. Her theatre credits include *Mermaid* (Shared Experience/Tour), *Bracken Moor* (Tricycle), *The Crucible* (Old Vic) and *Shirley* (Hope Mill Theatre). Her many television roles include *Jericho* (ITV), *The Syndicate* (BBC), *Prisoners Wives* (BBC), *The Chase* (BBC) and *Shameless* (Channel 4). Film credits include *Hector*, *Jasmine* and *The Arbor*.

Alex Beckett plays Henry Higgins. Alex's stage credits include *Edward II* (National Theatre), *Praxis Makes Perfect* (National Theatre of Wales), *The Changeling* (Young Vic), *Life for Beginners* (Theatre 503), *Here* (Rose Theatre Kingston) and *Much Ado About Nothing* (Wyndhams Theatre). Television credits include *Love Nina* (BBC), *Cuffs* (BBC), *WIA* (BBC), *I Live With Models* (Comedy Central) and *Twenty Twelve* (BBC). Radio credits includes *Tracks* on BBC Radio 4.

Liza Sadovy plays Mrs Higgins. Liza's stage credits include *Wicked* (Apollo Theatre), *Oliver* (Sheffield Theatre), *And Then The Dark* (New Wolsey), *A Separate Reality* (Royal Court), *Alice in Wonderland* (Theatre Royal Northampton), *La Bete* (Comedy Theatre & Music Box Theatre NY), *Annie Get Your Gun* (Young Vic), *The Good Soul of Szechuan* (Young Vic) and *Sunday In the Park with George* (Wyndham's Theatre). Television credits include *Babylon*, *The Honourable Woman*, *Extras*, *The Sarah Jane Adventures* and *Midsomer Murders*.

Ian Burfield plays Alfred Doolittle. Ian's stage credits include *Floyd Collins* (Wilton Music Hall), *Great Expectations* (West Yorkshire Playhouse), *All My Sons* (Theatre Clwyd) *Dealer's Choice* (Royal & Derngate/Oxford Playhouse), *One Man Two Guvnors* (National Theatre), *A Comedy of Errors* (National Theatre), *The Kitchen* (NT) and *Major Barbara* (NT). Television credits include *Holby City* (BBC), *Humans* (Channel 4), *Tennison* (ITV) and *Call the Midwife* (BBC). Film credits include *The Selfish Giant*, *V is For Vendetta*, *The Confession* and *The Krays*.

Flaminia Cinque plays Mrs Pearce/Mrs Eynsford-Hill. Her stage credits include *Martyr* (Unicorn/ATC), *The Winslow Boy* (Octagon), *Measure for Measure* (Almeida), *Portrait of a Lady* (Peter Hall Company), *Push Up* (Royal Court) and *More Grimm Tales* (Young Vic). Television credits include *The Moonstone* (BBC), *New Tricks* (BBC) and *Ashes to Ashes* (BBC).

Raphael Sowole plays Colonel Pickering. His stage credits include the title role in *Hamlet* for Black Theatre Live. *Measure for Measure* (Young Vic), *The Calm* (RSC), *They Drink it in the Congo* (Almeida), *The Merchant of Venice* (Almeida) and *Tis Pity She's A Whore* (Cheek by Jowl). Television credits include *Black Mirror Special*, *Edge of Heaven* and *Youngers*. Film credits include *Bastille Day* and *Starred Up*.

Gavi Singh Chera plays Freddy Eynsford Hill. His stage credits include *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* (National Theatre) and *We are Here* (NT).

Racheal Ofori plays Clara Eynsford-Hill. Her stage credits include *Romeo and Juliet* (Kenneth Brannagh Company), *This is Private Property* (Camden People's Theatre), *The Merchant of Venice* (Shakespeare's Globe) and *Portrait* (Camden People's Theatre and Tour).

LISTING AND TOUR INFORMATION

Saturday 4 to Saturday 25 February 2017

West Yorkshire Playhouse

Tickets: 0113 213 7700

www.wyp.org.uk

Tuesday 28 February to Friday 3 March 2017

Warwick Arts Centre

Tickets: 024 7652 4524

www.warwickartscentre.co.uk

Tuesday 7 to Saturday 11 March 2017

Liverpool Everyman & Playhouse

Tickets: 0151 709 4776

www.everymanplayhouse.com

Tuesday 21 to Saturday 25 March 2017

Leicester Curve Studio

Tickets: 0116 242 3595

www.curveonline.co.uk

Tuesday 28 March to Saturday 1 April 2017

Cheltenham, Everyman Theatre

Tickets: 01242 572573

www.everymantheatre.org.uk

Tuesday 4 to Saturday 8 April 2017

Bath Theatre Royal

Tickets: 01225 448844

www.theatreroyal.org.uk

Tuesday 18 to Saturday 22 April 2017

Oxford Playhouse

Tickets: 0186 530 5305

www.oxfordplayhouse.com

Tuesday 25 April to Saturday 13 May 2017

NST Campus, Nuffield Southampton Theatres

Tickets: 023 8067 1771

www.nstheatres.co.uk