Fourth International Shaw Society Conference

“Shaw Without Borders / Shaw sans frontières” is the title of the Fourth International Shaw Society Conference, scheduled for 25 to 29 July 2011 at the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario, Canada. The conference is sponsored by the International Shaw Society in collaboration with the University of Guelph and The Shaw Festival. Papers (for 20-minute talks maximum) can be on a wide range of topics and written from any topical perspective, but those who choose to speak on the conference topic should address Shaw’s broad international interests as expressed in his novels, plays, prefaces, speeches, and travels; productions of Shaw’s plays in different countries and languages; “boundary-free” internet Shaw; and “copyright-free” Shaw (in Canada since 2000, and in most other countries from 2020). Abstracts of 300 to 500 words should be submitted at the conference website at http://conference.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/shaw/ISSC2011/, but please copy, with c.v. and letter of introduction, to Professor Leonard Conolly, preferably by email to leonolly@trentu.ca or by mail to him at Department of English, Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, Canada K9J 7B8. DEADLINE IS 15 APRIL 2011. It would be helpful if papers were presented at the conference accompanied by a one-page outline of “talking points” and key quotations for distribution to the audience.

The conference will open at the University of Guelph with a reception on Monday night at the University Library, with a Keynote Address on Tuesday morning. Featured speakers will include Stanley Weintraub (Evan Pugh Professor Emeritus, Penn State University), speaking on “Shaw and the Dictators,” Christopher Newton (Artistic Director Emeritus, Shaw Festival) on “Shaw the Canadian,” and Michael Billington, theatre critic for the Guardian. The conference will include a major exhibit of materials from the important Shaw collections of the University of Guelph and a visit to the Shaw Festival at Niagara-on-the-Lake to see On The Rocks and Heartbreak House, with pre-play talks by Artistic Director Jackie Maxwell and Artistic Director Emeritus Christopher Newton.

The ISS provides travel grants to young scholars 40 and under for up to $500 of unreimbursed expenses. For details and a form to fill out and send in, please go to www.shawsociety.org and click on “ISS Travel Grants.” Email leonolly@trentu.ca with questions and to send in the form along with your paper proposal. DEADLINE IS 15 APRIL 2011. Questions about papers should be directed to Leonard Conolly, ISS President, at leonolly@trentu.ca. For questions about conference details and logistics, contact Kathryn Harvey at kaharvey@uoguelph.ca. See also the link to the conference at www.shawsociety.org. You can also write to the ISS Webmaster, Dick Dietrich, at dietrich@usf.edu.

The conference hotel is the Delta Hotel, just opposite the U of G campus. Call (519) 780-3700 for reservations, and specify that you want the Shaw Conference rate. You will be able to register for the conference online with a credit card at http://conference.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/shaw/ISSC2011/index. See the conference link at www.shawsociety.org for other possibilities. Less expensive on-campus housing will also be available. Guelph is easily accessible by car from the Toronto (1 hr) and Buffalo (2 hrs) airports.

ISS Grants, Scholarships, & Prizes

As one of the principal goals of the ISS is to encourage younger generations to experience the delights and enlightenment of reading and seeing Shaw’s works and participating in the discussion of them, the ISS offers a generous program of support in the form of scholarships, grants, and prizes, most of which are allied with particular events, such as symposia and conferences. To that end, five young scholars were awarded Best Paper Awards at the USF Sarasota Shaw Conference in 2004, eleven received ISS Hampton-Hussey Travel Grants to the Shaw Conference at Brown University in June 2006, four were awarded ISS Travel Grants (which supplemented Benedick Scholarships offered by the Shaw Festival) at the Shaw Festival’s Shaw Symposium in July 2005, four at the Symposium in August 2006, four at the Symposium in July 2007, five at the Symposium in July 2008, three at the Symposium in July 2009, thirteen at the Shaw Conference in Washington, D.C. in October 2009, two at the Summer Symposium in July 2010, and five at the Chicago Symposium in October 2010. To apply or find out more, follow the link at www.shawsociety.org. To contribute to the fund for grants and scholarships, include this in your membership renewal and application (see the enclosed form). If you give a minimum of $500, the grant the ISS gives with that can carry your name, if you wish.


The Governing Council International Shaw Society

Executive Committee
L.W. Conolly, President
Jay R. Tunney, Vice President
R.F. Dietrich, Treasurer and Webmaster
John McNerney, Recording Secretary
Membership Secretary: Lori Dietrich (Outgoing)
Anne Stewart (Incoming)
Advisory Committee
Charles Berst
John Berrolini
Charles A. Carpenter
Bernard Dokore
Anthony Gibbs
Nicholas Greene
Denis Johnston
Martin Meisel
Margot Peters
Sally Peters
Michael Pharand
Ann Sallidkneway
Al Turco
Stanley Weintraub
Don Wulfneth
Honorary Advisory
Sidney Albert
Jacques Barzun
Eric Bentley
Michael Holroyd
Stanley Kauffmann
Rhoda Nathans
Barbara Smoker

Time to renew membership. Please return the enclosed form to:
ISS
P.O. Box 728
Odessa, FL 33566-0728

This newsletter was produced by Michel Pharand.
Please send any queries to: michelpharand@yahoo.com

www.shawsociety.org

Another Busy Year Ahead

You will read in this Newsletter of the several events and activities that kept many ISS members busy in 2010. There’s lots more to come in 2011. The highlight is the ISS conference to be held at the University of Guelph in July (details below). This is the first ISS conference to be held outside the United States, and its international theme is designed to attract speakers from many other parts of the world. I have already had several expressions of intent to participate, and would welcome more. Even though the deadline for proposals isn’t until mid-March I would REALLY appreciate early proposals, even if they are tentative at this point (leonolly@trentu.ca). The conference will include a visit to the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake to see Heartbreak House and a rare opportunity—On the Rocks, and to meet directors and actors. Things are already buzzing at the Shaw Festival in preparation for the Festival’s 50th anniversary. Because of the July conference, there won’t be the usual Shaw Symposium in Niagara-on-the-Lake in 2011, but the Symposium will be up and running again in 2012.

Many thanks to all ISS members who made 2010 such a productive year, and equal thanks to those who are working on 2011 events. Many thanks also to outgoing Membership Secretary Lori Dietrich who has done such a terrific job for the last several years, and welcome to new Membership Secretary Ann Stewart. John McNerney has graciously agreed to serve another term as ISS Secretary, and the indefatigable Richard Dietrich sits on as Webmaster and Treasurer. No-one can match Professor Dietrich for indefatigability, but Michel Pharand comes mighty close as editor of this Newsletter and of SHAW: The Annual of Bernard Shaw Studies. Merci, Michel, et merci tout le monde de l’ISS.

L.W. Conolly, President

Gene Tunney and GBS

Shaw was the co-star, along with my father, the boxer Gene Tunney, at launches of my new book, The Prizefighter and the Playwright: Gene Tunney and Bernard Shaw (2010), in New York, Chicago and Toronto, as well as at dozens of book signings and talks at libraries and to civic groups in Ireland, Canada, and the United States. Audiences were amazed at Shaw’s interest in boxing, fascinated that the boxer liked books, and seemed especially touched by the humanity of both Shaw and Charlotte toward the Tunneys. Said one elderly woman at a retirement home: “I was an English teacher all my life, and I thought I’d learned all there was to know about GBS. If only I’d known sooner, I could have made him more human.”

Jay R. Tunney, Vice President
THE SHAW FESTIVAL: The 2010 Shaw Festival featured The Doctor’s Dilemma, directed by Morris Panych, and John Bull’s Other Island, directed by Christopher Newton. The 2011 season, the Shaw Festival’s fiftieth, will include Heartbreak House (25 May to 7 October), directed by Christopher Newton, Candida (28 May to 30 October), directed by Gina Wilkinson, and On the Rocks (7 July to 8 October), an adaptation by Canadian playwright Michael Healey directed by Joseph Ziegler. The playbill will also include My Fair Lady, directed by Molly Smith. For more information, go to www.shawfest.com.

THE SHAW/CHICAGO THEATER COMPANY: The Shaw plays performed by ShawChicago in 2010 were The Philanderer (6 February to 1 March 2010), The Doctor’s Dilemma (17 April to 10 May 2010) and Candida (16 October to 8 November 2010). A special dramatization of Shaw’s novel, Cashel Byron’s Profession, was provided by ShawChicago for the ISS Chicago Shaw Symposium (see below). ShawChicago will present Arms and the Man from 16 April to 15 May 2011. For more information, see www.shawchicago.org. The ISS has been invited to co-sponsor, with the ShawChicago Theater Company, a 2nd Chicago Shaw Symposium in October of 2012. The final decision is still pending and you will be notified. Deadline would be 1 JULY 2012 for abstracts via email attachment to Professor Michael O’Hara (Ball State U) at mohara@bsu.edu. See the link at www.shawsociety.org when it becomes available.

PROJECT SHAW: All presentations of Project Shaw are at the Players Club, New York, and are produced and directed by David Staller. In 2010 the plays presented included Arms and the Man, The Philanderer, The Doctor’s Dilemma, John Bull’s Other Island, Major Barbara, Village Wooing and Interlude at the Playhouse, Man and Superman, Captain Brassbound’s Conversion, How He Lied to Her Husband, and Heartbreak House. Scheduled for 2011 are Androcles and the Lion, Overruled, Great Catherine, Shaw & Shakespeare (Shaw’s plays involving the Bard), You Never Can Tell, Getting Married, Fanny’s First Play, The Millionairess, Super Shaw! (“a lagniappe of miscast Shaw!”), Passion, Poison & Petrification, and The Shewing-Up of Blanco Posnet. Plans for 2011 also include two full mounted productions of Man and Superman and Widowers’ Houses at an off-Broadway venue. For more information, contact info@goldinglong.com or go to www.projectshaw.com.

THE WASHINGTON STAGE GUILD will present The Apple Cart (directed by Bill Larriss) from 28 April to 22 May 2011 at its new home at the Undercroft Theatre at the Mount Vernon Place United Methodist Church. This will be the Stage Guild’s twentieth Shaw play in twenty-five years for more productions. For more information, go to www.stageguild.org.

THE ABBEY THEATRE, Dublin, Ireland, will be staging the Abbey Theatre premiere of Pygmalion from 27 April to 11 June 2011, directed by Annabelle Comyn and starring well-known Irish actor Risteárd Cooper as Henry Higgins. The play will feature full period costumes designed by Pete O’Brien. For more information, go to www.abbeytheatre.ie.

ISS Travel Grant/Bryden Scholarship winners at the 2010 Shaw Symposium: Sandra Rissell (Central Michigan U) and Biljana Vlaskovic (U of Kragujevac, Serbia), with L.W. Consolly (left) and R.F. Dietrich.

ISS Travel Grant/Bryden Scholarship winners at the 2010 Shaw Symposium: Sandra Rissell (Central Michigan U) and Biljana Vlaskovic (U of Kragujevac, Serbia), with L.W. Consolly (left) and R.F. Dietrich.

MICHAEL FRIEND PRODUCTIONS, in association with The National Trust, staged two Shaw plays in 2010. You Never Can Tell in June and Widowers’ Houses in July. You Never Can Tell was also seen at Pentameters Theatre, Hampstead, and Widowers’ Houses at Broadstairs and Hampstead. Scheduled for 2011 are Pygmalion (24-26 June, with further dates still under discussion) and “In Good King Charles's Golden Days” (22-24 July), both at Shaw’s Corner. For more information, contact Sue Morgan at Sue.Morgan@nationaltrust.org.uk or go to www.mfproductions.org.