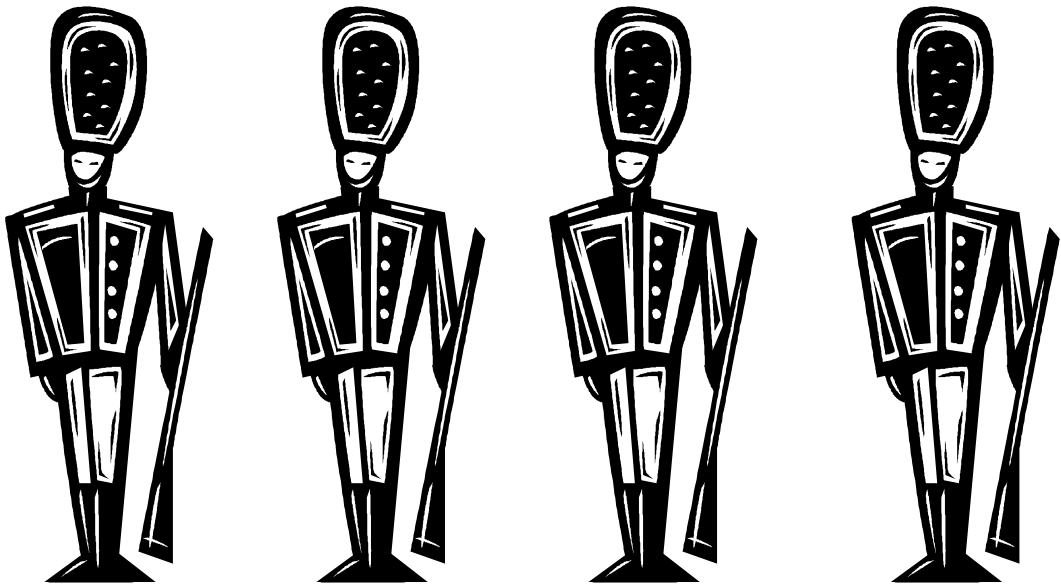




# MOOT HOUSE PLAYERS

PRESENT



# ARMS & THE MAN

by

# George Bernard Shaw

July 10th, 11th, 12th 2008

# **ARMS & THE MAN**

**by George Bernard Shaw**  
**produced by Rosemary Caswell**

Cast in order of appearance :

Raina Petkoff	Karen Clark
Catherine Petkoff	Henrietta Branwell
Louka	Kerry Rowland
Captain Bluntschli	Geoff Leeds
Captain	Michael Caswell
Soldier	Jacqui Leeds
Nicolas	Robbie Chittick
Major Paul Petkoff	Michael Branwell
Major Sergius Saranoff	Nathan Ryan

The action of the play takes place in the home of Major Petkoff in a small town near the Dragoman Pass in the years 1885/6.

Act I      Night, in Raina's bedroom  
Act II     Morning, in the courtyard some months later  
Act III    Later that afternoon in the library

There will be intervals of 15 minutes between each Act  
Ticket holders are entitled to the use of the Moot House Bar

Set designed by Bett Hewlett and Paul Regeli  
Stage Manager - Michael Caswell  
Prompter - Claire Quley  
Lighting - Phil Waite  
Sound - Michael Branwell  
Costumes by Cranwell and Laws

Stage staff - Lucy Caswell, Anne Farr, Poppy Jackson, Phil Lloyd,  
Jan Pearson, Gary Shaw, Neil Warner-Baker, Nick Woodfine

After the break up of the Ottoman Empire the Great Powers decided the frontiers of the “new” countries. Inevitably these did not correspond to the ethnic, family or clan borders of the various states which plunged into warfare with their previously friendly neighbours. Following the battle of Slivnitza, won by the triumphant Bulgarians, the Serbian Army runs frantically through the Dragoman Pass. A Captain takes refuge in the home of a young Bulgarian lady. She, unbeknown to him, is engaged to marry the hero of Slivnitza.

Love and war in the Balkans - a story as old as time and as fresh as spring flowers. Two pretty girls, two dashing soldiers : which way will they pair up?

**George Bernard Shaw (1856 - 1950)** was undoubtedly one of the major influences on British Theatre in the late nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth. He wrote a total of 63 plays (most of them full length), together with five novels, two short stories and innumerable articles of dramatic and musical criticism and analysis. Born in Dublin, Shaw claimed to have “educated himself at the British Museum”. The first of his plays to be produced was “Widower's Houses”, a scathing attack on slum landlords, in 1892. This was the first of the three plays Shaw christened the “Plays Unpleasant”, which were followed by the four “Plays Pleasant”, of which “Arms and The Man” was the first in 1894. Oscar Strauss wrote a musical, “The Chocolate Soldier”, based on this play, which was first performed in 1908, but Shaw detested it and, for the rest of his life, forbade musical versions of his work, including a proposed Franz Lehár operetta based on “Pygmalion”. It is ironic that the Lerner and Lowe musical “My Fair Lady”, also based on “Pygmalion”, could be produced only after Shaw's death and remains the greatest source of income for Shaw's estate! He is the only person to have been awarded both the Nobel Prize for Literature (in 1925) for his contributions to literature and an Oscar (in 1938) for his work on the film of “Pygmalion”. Shaw would have refused his Nobel Prize outright, because he had no desire for public honors, but accepted it at his wife's behest: she considered it a tribute to Ireland. Shaw lived for the last 44 years of his life in Ayot St Lawrence, a small village in Hertfordshire, in a house now called Shaw's Corner : his ashes are buried there at the foot of a statue of the heroine of another of his great plays - “Saint Joan”.

## NEXT SEASON

The programme for the 2008-9 Season will be published as soon as we have the full details of the productions. The dates are :-

November 6th, 7th and 8th, 2008  
February 5th, 6th and 7th, 2009  
March 19th, 20th and 21st, 2009  
May 14th, 15th and 16th, 2009  
July 9th, 10th and 11th, 2009  
November 5th, 6th and 7th, 2009  
All performances start at 8.00 p.m.

If you are not on our mailing list, please leave your name and address at the Box Office - if you have an e-mail address we can use, please let us have it, as we can, more easily, reach everyone by e-mail in advance of each production.

The ticket prices will remain the same and can be ordered from the Box Office on 01279 639170

Moot House Players acknowledges with thanks  
the help of their parent organisation,  
the Mark Hall and Netteswell Community Association.

Moot House Players can be contacted at

**[moothouse.players@ntlworld.com](mailto:moothouse.players@ntlworld.com)**

Details of past and future productions can be found on the Company's  
website

**[www.moothouseplayers.com](http://www.moothouseplayers.com)**

please visit and bookmark the site!