

# Presenting Dear Liar

## Dear Liar: A Blockbuster Love Story

A few years ago, the blockbuster film Love Story swept North America on its release. The ill-fated romance of a rich young man and a short-lived young woman, the movie's contention that Love is Never Having to Say You're Sorry, became a byword.

Island Community Theatre's Performance group is hoping to have its own blockbuster success with their production of DEAR LIAR, the unconventional love story of the brilliant and controversial playwright George Bernard Shaw and the bewitching and controversial actress, Mrs. Patrick Campbell.

This amusing play makes it very clear that not only would these two lovers never have said they were sorry, it would not have crossed their minds that they might.

Also, unlike the protagonists in Love Story, GBS and Mrs. Pat's romance was long lived. It began with the dawn of the 20th century and ended with

Mrs. Pat's death at the start of World War II. For over forty years, they adored, raged, fretted, and fumed at each other in a voluminous correspondence ranging between two continents.

The romance of these two stars, which started in 1898 could more accurately be described as a cosmic collision. Shaw, at 42 years of age, was the darling of the intellectuals and a household word. Although not entirely a prophet without honor he was regarded in most circles with a mixture of suspicion and bewilderment. He was a strikingly controversial figure, known to all, hated by many and adored by a select few.

In his several careers, he had been a political pamphleteer, a novelist, art critic, a music critic who made music not only intelligible to the masses, but positively enjoyable; a dramatic critic whose reviews kept theatregoers and managers alike, hopping with alarm, and a playwright whose

plays everybody loved to hate and which everyone saw and talked about.

He was serious about funny things and funny about serious things. In total; baffling, infuriating, paradoxical, clownish, and totally unpredictable.

The object of his passion, Mrs. Patrick Campbell, was the inspiration for his now legendary story of Eliza Doolittle, the common flowergirl transformed into an elegant society beauty, in Pygmalion (which was later transformed into the musical, My Fair Lady). At the time of their meeting, Mrs. Pat was 32 years old, dazzlingly beautiful, and a divinely gifted actress.

Her blazing eyes and brooding sexuality were said to have inspired poets and writers, and to have driven painters into a frenzy. In an age filled with great actresses, she was exceptional. Her rich, warm voice held her audience enthralled and hypnotized, and was described as "purple and crimson, flecked

with silver". She was also devastatingly witty and many of her sayings were not only widely quoted but have found their way into print as classics of their kind.

All in all, Mrs. Pat was an arch-enchantress who fascinated her public and enslaved some of the greatest geniuses of her day. She could outshine even the incorrigible Shaw.

Shaw first saw Mrs. Pat on stage. "She's unique," he remarked rather obliquely, "not that she's a great actress but SHE CAN THREAD A NEEDLE WITH HER TOES!" Despite this curious beginning, their romance, related in Dear Liar through their letters, survived war, pestilence, a marriage each, and even the newfangled "talkies". Dear Liar, the story of this marvellous wooing, features Sharlene MacLean Reno and William MacFadden, and will be performed in Charlottetown at the Duffy Amphitheatre at UPEI March 24, 25, and 27. This production has been sponsored by the Student Council. Tickets can be obtained at the UPEI Bookstore for \$3.00 each.

## CIMN

As the final semester of this academic year draws to a close, we can't help but look back at the year we've had at the station. When we "began" the station in September, it looked like we might not make it to Christmas but here we are now with over 25 members, an audience and interviews with the present and potential future Presidents. Not to mention, our own humble Gonzo Column writing selves. On that point, you may or may not have noticed that the viewpoint of this column varies from week to week. This is primarily a result of having two writers present the column on alternate weeks and, yes, one of us does choose to suck up to a certain society of which he is a member but do I object? NOOOOOO, If he wants to be a bootlicker he's very welcome.

## MIDNIGHT RAMBLINGS

While we're on the subject of columns, you might have noticed that "VIEW FROM THE TOP" is presenting an interesting series of jokes without punchlines. Not to worry though, because informed insiders tell me that Barry "the Enema Bottle" and the rest of his staff will print these punchlines in the final issue of the SUN and it is said that they will make the jokes understandable and, dare we say it, funny?

Word isn't back yet on how the basketball team fared in Halifax but, regardless, they and the hockey team deserve some sort of recognition for their outstanding efforts this year. Before I get carried away, I'll close off this column for this week so stay tuned to this space for next week when the Bootlicker takes over.

Late Breaking news bulletin (AP)

ALL THE ENGINEERS WILL

NOW BE REQUIRED TO CARRY SMALL, BLUE PLASTIC BUCKETS WITH THEM WHEREVER THEY GO AS A RESULT OF AN INCIDENT AT A PARTY

AT A SOCIETY MEMBER'S HOUSE. APPARENTLY, THE ENGINEERS CANNOT AFFORD THE EXPENSE OF CLEANING ALL THOSE CARPETS.

Time	Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
10:00	25	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R	-
11:00	25	R	R	R	R	R	-
12:00	P/R	-	P/R	-	R	P/R	25
1:00	P/R	P/R	E	R	R	P/R	25
2:00	P/R	P/R	P/R	V	P/R	R	25
3:00	-	P/R	T.B.	V	T.B.	R	-
4:00	-	P/R	-	-	P/R	-	-
5:00	-	P/R	P/R	-	R	-	-
6:00	-	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R	-	-
7:00	-	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R	-	-
8:00	-	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R	G	-
9:00	-	P/R	P/R	P/R	P/R	-	-

CIMN Scheduling. Dash represents available time slots