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Arms and the Man Program

University of Southern Maine Department of Theatre

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Department of Theatre presents

Arms and the Man

by George Bernard Shaw

directed by Thomas A. Power

November 4 to 13, 2005

Main Stage, Russell Hall
USM Gorham Campus
**Director's Notes by Thomas A. Power**

*Arms and the Man* has been both panned and praised since Shaw first brought the work to the stage. Our decision to produce the play hinged on the timeless universality of the grim business of war, the comfortable comedy in the depiction of social climbing 1885-style and the simple craftsmanship of this well-made play. Shaw called it one of his “pleasant plays” and although it may lack some of the sharp edged qualities of later work, it reveals his romantic side with wit and wisdom.

**A Note on "Arms and the Man" by Calien Lewis**

Shaw's "Arms and the Man," was in most ways, his first "hit," but he was never quite comfortable with its dramatic success. Within a few years he had changed its subtitle from "A Romantic Comedy" to "An Anti-Romantic Comedy." So it is no surprise that its wordplay has kept audiences and critics alike guessing what exactly he meant by it all, and perhaps that is the fun of it still. Borrowing his title from the neoclassical Dryden's translation of the "Aeneid," the classic story of the Trojan War, Shaw set his play in the blood-soaked Balkans and filled it with references to famous works of the nineteenth century. He borrowed plot devices from Eugene Scribe (theorist of the "Well Made Play") and alluded to the anti-Scribean Romantic, Victor Hugo. He chose war as a background with soldier heroes and then proceeded to send up conventional notions of heroism, chivalry and idealized love, all touchstones of Victorian society. The play is a comedy based on serious themes.

The Petkoffs are a typical bourgeois household. They aspired to acquire all that is modern and convenient. Their servants aspire to own a shop. Their conventional world has been interrupted by the Serbian attack on Bulgaria's frontier. The father has become Major Petkoff and the daughter's fiancé, Sergius, has become the hero of the battle of Slivnitsa, the deciding battle in this minor Balkan war. Into their midst has literally run Captain Bluntschi, a most detestable breed of mercenary soldier, with no stake in the outcome of this patriotic skirmish, which did indeed lead to the unification of Bulgaria. However, in Shaw's world view nothing is as it appears. The hero of Slivnitsa is revealed to be a whiner and a womanizer, unwilling and perhaps unable to lead in peace. The inept mercenary, who enters the play with a useless weapon and most unsoldierly kit, proves to be the consummate military tactician to whom the victorious Bulgarians turn to demobilize their troops and equipment. The romantic heroine, Raina, has doubted her fiancé and sheltered the enemy. The loyal servant Nicola participates in deceiving his master while his would-be wife Louka seduces, or is seduced by, the chivalrous hero who, all the while, maintains pretenses of ideal and romantic love for Raina.

Using all the conventions of the "well-made play" Shaw invites us to rethink the meaning of love, patriotism and loyalty just as he has rethought stereotypical plot devices such as the lost coat, secret notes and stock characters. In the end the reversal is complete. What seemed romantic is revealed to be self-doubting and coarse while the relentlessly logical and pragmatic is seen to contain a melting cream center. Raina descends from her idealized pedestal to join the thoroughly bourgeois son of a hotel magnate and Louka captures the idol of the masses with her mountain girl's passion. Who is to be the most admired?

**Arms and the Man**

*George Bernard Shaw*

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**Setting**

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<th>Act 1:</th>
<th>Late November 1885, a small Bulgarian town in the Balkans near Sofia. The bedroom of Raina Petkoff.</th>
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<td>Act 2:</td>
<td>March 6, 1886. The garden of the Petkoff house.</td>
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<td>Act 3:</td>
<td>Later that same day. The library of the Petkoff house.</td>
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There will be 2 fifteen minute intermissions.

Please, no photos are allowed during the performance. Also please turn off beepers and phones as a courtesy to the actors and other audience members.

Produced by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.
Historical Background

In November of 1887, Bernard Shaw joined friends from the Fabian Society in a march on Trafalgar Square. The demonstration was planned to protest English policies in Ireland, but when the London police banned the parade, a more general free speech protest was called. When marchers were met by 1,500 police and hundreds of mounted Life Guards, the event turned into "Bloody Sunday," and became a landmark for the right of free speech and protest in England.

This event and the debates it precipitated became the basis for the conflict in "Arms and the Man." When Shaw decided to write a comedy for his current love interest, Florence Farr, he turned this English domestic conflict into a full-fledged war. Colleague Annie Besant, who organized resistance to the London constabulary, became the inspiration for Riana. R.B. Cunninghame Graham who chained himself to a rail on Bloody Sunday was transformed into Sergius. (Later the bellicose Cunninghame Graham became a member of Parliament, famously uttering the words "I never withdraw"). Shaw's friend in the Fabian Society, Sidney Webb, suggested the use of the Serbian-Bulgarian conflict of 1885 as a more specific setting for the play.

The Great Battle of Slivnitza, did indeed take place, much as Shaw described it. Milan Obrenović, King of Serbia, launched an attach on Bulgaria in November of 1885, hoping to take advantage of a smaller Bulgarian army then in the process of wresting control of its internal affairs from Russia. To everyone's surprise, the Bulgarians rallied and held the line in the Balkan town of Slivnitza.

When Austrian military intervention was threatened, Bulgaria's Russian faction, forced a return to the status quo, but not before King Alexander was proclaimed the Hero of Slivnitza and Bulgaria was a united nation for the first time in modern history.
Intermission Dancers

During the second intermission dancers will demonstrate dances the Petkoff's would have known from their trips to Vienna and Budapest as well as the folk dances of their region.

Special thanks go to consultant Marie Wendt for teaching the dances and choreographing the intermission feature. Marie would like to acknowledge the following invaluable sources for Viennese and Bulgarian dances: Dr. Patri Pugliese of the Commonwealth Vintage Dancers (Massachusetts) and Richard Powers of Stanford University for background information on period Viennese dance and waltz; Martha Forsyth of Newton, MA for Bulgarian music published in *Listen, Daughter, and Remember Well*, St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, 1996; and Yves Moreau of Montreal for the Bulgarian dance and music on his CD and video "Bulgarian Folk Dances, Vol. 2," Folkloric Balkana.

Dancers performing on various nights:

Orlina Boteva, leader

Emily Turley, leader

Kathleen Carroll
Megan Cressey
Becky Daniels
Mary Beth Davidson
Tammy Demers
Antonio Dominguez
James Herling
Zach Labbey
Jenalee Marsters
Kim Stone
Kate Wyman

Artistic Staff

Dramaturg
Assistant Scenic Design
Assistant Costume Design
Assistant Lighting Design
Intermission Choreography
Calien Lewis
Jesse Pilgrim
Travis Grant
Michaela Wirth
Marie Wendt

Production Staff

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Managers
Technical Director
Carpenters
Costume Shop Director
Assistant Costume Shop Director
Stitchers
Master Electrician
Electricians
Properties Supervisor
Properties Construction
Lighting Lab
Jules Michaud
Corey Anderson

Production Crew

Deck Crew
Wardrobe
Light Board Operator
Sound Board Operator
Caroline Burns, Jessica Dummich
Aimee Chaput, Jolie Frye, Ashley Jeffries
Maia Turlo
Travis Curran

Administrative Staff

Arts Promotions Director
Arts Events Director
Administrative Assistant
Box Office
House Manager
Graphic Design
Mary Snell
Emmanuelle Chaulet
Lil Campbell
Joelle Clingerman, Heather Green, Dan Goldstein,
Ashleigh St.Pierre, Maia Turlo
Heather Kahill, Heather Green
Leigh Raposo
Artistic Staff Biographies

Thomas Power - Director
Professor Thomas A. Power is a member of the Department of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine where he teaches Acting, Directing and Play Writing. As past artistic director of the nationally recognized Children's Theatre of Maine, he authored many plays performed by that professional company and collaborated with Kurt Vonnegut Jr. in a re-write of Vonnegut's Happy Birthday, Wanda June. Winner of the 1990 Moss Hart Award for his musical, Grannia, Power writes and acts for The Rocky Coast Radio Theater and is a member of the Dramatist Guild.

Charles S. Kading - Scenic Designer
Charles has taught design and stagecraft at USM for 25 years. His professional credits include Titanic, Hans Christian Andersen, Ragtime, and Scarlet Pimpernel for Maine State Music Theatre; Big River, My Fair Lady, She Loves Me, Cabaret, and Annie for Philadelphia's Walnut Street Theater; Noises Off! and Blithe Spirit at the Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He worked extensively at The Alley Theater in Houston where his credits include the US premiere of Alan Ayckbourne's Henceforward. Charles has also designed scenery for the Seattle Repertory Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Cabaret Repertory Theatre and Portland Stage. He is currently chair of the Theatre Department.

Jodi Ozimek -- Costume Designer
Jodi is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at the University of Southern Maine. Select USM credits include The Magic Flute, Six Characters in Search of an Author, The Laramie Project, Shakuntala, and Company. Other credits include Gypsy (Texas Star Theatre), The Ugly Duckling (Add Verb Productions), Little Shop of Horrors, Side Man, and Candida (Purdue University), How the Other Half Loves (Summer Circle Theatre), Moon Over Buffalo (Michigan State University). She was assistant costume designer at American Players Theatre in Spring Green, Wisconsin on Cymbeline, The Taming of the Shrew, The Cherry Orchard, and Hamlet. She received her B.A. in theatre from Michigan State University and her M.F.A. in costume design from Purdue University.

Brian Hapcic -- Lighting Designer
Brian Hapcic joined the faculty at USM last year, relocating from a position at the University of Southern Mississippi. He holds a BA in English from Ohio University, and an MFA in Design and Technology from the University of Montana. His specialties are lighting and sound.

Corey Anderson, Sound Design
A senior theatre major, Corey is proud to be working on this show, and is overjoyed to be working with such a talented and dedicated team. Past production credits include the lead in SPA's Macbeth, Gutman in Camino Real with USM Theatre, and Don Sanche/Count Gomes, in El Cid au Flamenco with Two Lights Theatre Ensemble. Corey would like to thank Ben, Kate, and Mia for their friendship and support, Eileen for her willingness to put up with late nights, and Michaela for her patience.

Matthew T. Meeds -- Technical Director
Matthew Meeds joined the Department in September of 2000. Matthew came to us from the local theatre community where he has worked at the Mad Horse Theatre, The Public Theatre, and The Theatre at Monmouth, as well as "away" theaters such as George Street Playhouse in NJ, Syracuse Stage, and Pennsylvania Centre Stage. Most recently he designed the set for last year's production of The Effects of Gamma Rays on Man-In-the-Moon Marigolds.

Kris Hall -- Costume Shop Director
Kris is happy to be part of a fourth season as Costume Shop Director. She has designed costumes most recently for Dance USM!, Lewiston Auburn Public Theatre and Maine State Music Theatre. She is currently pursuing an MFA in Studio Art at Maine College of Art, where she is also student teaching this semester in the sculpture department.

Jill Shapleigh- Costume Shop Supervisor
Jill is a recent USM Theatre graduate. She is happy to be back at USM working on our fall productions and maintaining manageable chaos in the costume shop.
Cast Biographies

Sarah Baglione ~ Catherine
Sarah is a junior theatre major. She has worked on several USM productions in the past and has been performing since the age of nine. Sarah is a member of USM’s Chamber Singers and taught theatre at Camp Lochean, Vermont this past summer. Thank you to my family, the cast and crew!

Kate Caouette ~ Raina
Kate is a third year transfer student from the University of Maine at Farmington. A newly declared theatre major, Kate has been an active participant in University productions by acting in Theatre UMF’s Medea and stage managing Boys and Girls and Marvin’s Room. She is also a member of Alpha Psi Omega, the national theatre honor society.

Brendan Cassidy ~ Sergius
Brendan has been featured in productions including 1984, True West, Merrily We Roll Along, and Tom Jones. This is his first production at USM.

Nick Cyr ~ Nicola
Nick is a sophomore theatre major who hails from Bangor, Maine. Nick was last seen playing “Cinesias” in USM’s production of Lysistrata. He would like to thank his family and friends for their continued support.

Jack Fossett ~ Captain Bluntschli
Jack is a junior at USM majoring in Media Studies. He has previously performed as “Puck” in A Midsummer Night’s Dream and “Tony Kirby” in You Can’t Take It With You.

Rachel Stults ~ Louka
Rachel is a senior theatre major from Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Past performances at USM include A Midsummer Night’s Dream and Ghosting. She has designed costumes for Dance USM! and directed three times for SPA’s Ten Minute Play Festival. She was also proud to work on The Laramie Project which went on to compete at KCACTF last year.

Jeffrey Toombs ~ Major Petkoff
Jeffrey is a freshman theatre major from Bourne, Massachusetts. He will also be appearing on the USM Mainstage this spring as “Mr. Lyons” in Blood Brothers. Most recently Jeffrey directed a production of Neil Simon’s The Good Doctor at Bourne High School.

Production Staff Biographies

Heather Crocker ~ Stage Manager
Heather is a senior theatre major from Dayton, Maine. This is her second time stage managing for the USM mainstage. Her onstage credits include Camino Real, Shakuntala, and Six Characters in Search of an Author. She has also worked on many shows behind the scenes, including assistant stage managing november/december which went on to compete at ACTF last winter.

Johnny Speckman ~ Assistant Stage Manager
Johnny is a sophomore theatre major who currently resides in Cape Elizabeth, Maine. Past credits include The Magic Flute, Titus, Les Miserables, The King and I, and A Christmas Carol at Portland Stage Company in the role of “Tiny Tim” when he was seven. This is his first time as an ASM.

Colin Whitely ~ Assistant Stage Manager
Colin is a freshman at USM. This is the first show that he’s involved in and he is happy to be the assistant stage manager. Colin has previously played parts such as “Tony” in West Side Story, “The King” in The King and I, “Sky Masterson” in Guys and Dolls, and many more. This is Colin’s first show working backstage and he is looking forward to a different experience.
Special thanks to:
Marie Wendt of International Traditions for dance consultation.
Orlina Boteva for assistance with Bulgarian dance and traditions.
Sarah Sikes, Cartographic Associate, Osher Map Library & Smith Center for assistance in locating and reproducing period maps.

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Christina Astrachan, Bruce Fithian, and Beaumont Glass
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Joyous Sounds for a Festive Season
The USM Chamber Singers conducted by Robert Russell;
Immanuel Baptist Church, Portland
Sponsored by Time Warner Cable of Maine

December 2
Home for the Holidays
USM School of Music's gala scholarship benefit;
Brooks Student Center, Gorham
Sponsored byPortland Volvo and Portland Saab

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Jazz Guitar and Tuba!
Gary Wittner and Howard Johnson
Sponsored by KeyBank

March 10
West Coast Jazz
Christopher Oberholzer, Trent Austin, Bill Street,
Ryan Parker, Gary Wittner, Broniek Suchanek, and
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