



The Skirl



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Shaw's CANDIDA To Be Presented By Cleveland Playhouse

As the final number in the Concert Lecture Series of 1960-61, George Bernard Shaw's "Candida," long regarded as the finest sentimental comedy of our time, will be presented by an acting ensemble from the Nationally-known Cleveland Play House on April 29, at 8:15 P. M. in the F. M. C. auditorium.

Abounding in rich and delightful comedy, "Candida" tells the story of a lovely and intelligent woman who must choose between her husband and an eloquent young suitor. The wisdom with which she makes this choice marks her as one of the most loveable heroines in dramatic literature.

Candida is the wife of Rev. Morell, a respectable, suburban English clergyman who adores his wife and takes her love for granted. He is good-looking, robust, pleasant, and all the women in his parish dote on him. Into their lives storms Eugene Marchbanks, a tortured, young, dreamy-eyed poet who is hopelessly in love with Candida. The sensitive suitor asks Candida to give up her husband, whom he regards as a moralist and a wind-

bag. Nor is Candida entirely immune to her young admirer - for although she is a devoted wife, she also is something of a well-bred coquette.

As the two men make their bids for Candida's love, Morell declares: "I have nothing to offer but my strength for your defense, my honesty for your surety, my industry for your livelihood, and my authority and position for your dignity."

Marchbanks counters with an offer of "My weakness. My desolation. My heart's need."

In a climatic scene, the husband declares that Candida must give herself to the weaker of the two men, and she proceeds to choose the one who needs her most. She chooses him also, of course, because she loves him.

"Candida" was first produced in the United States in 1903 and has been revived repeatedly since that time. The greatest of Shaw's domestic dramas, it is charming, witty, gracious, and enduring.

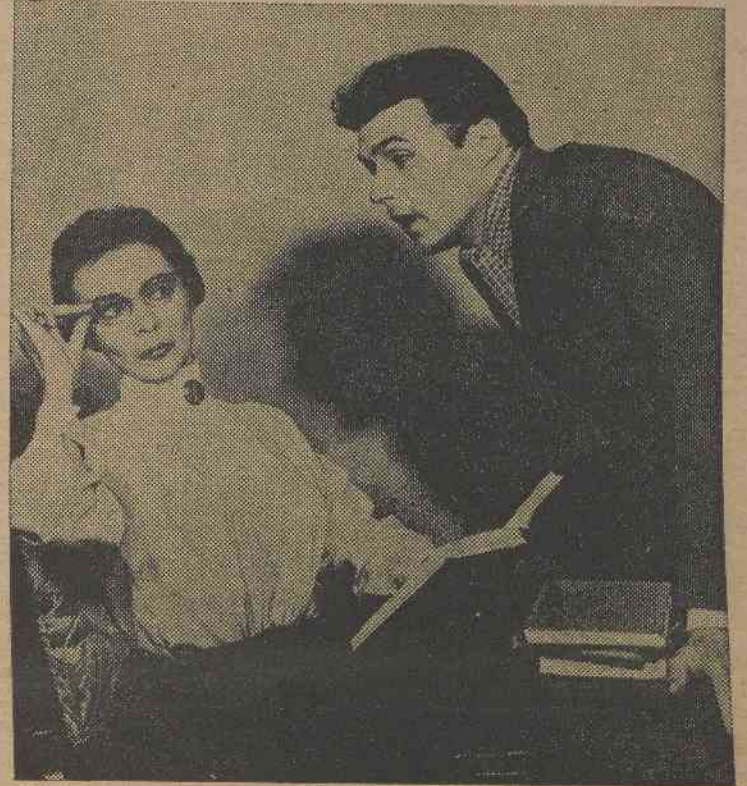
The performance here of "Candida" is part of a 38-state tour which was made possible by a Ford Foundation grant in 1957. The purpose of the grant was to

provide fine live theatres in smaller U. S. communities. In preparation for the tour, actors selected by a panel of well-known theatre people spent two years at the nationally-known Cleveland Play House as part of its professional company.

Playing the role of "Candida" is Adale O'Brien, called "multi-gifted" by a drama critic who is sparing in his use of superlatives. A native of Billings, Montana, she played three seasons of stock there with the Pioneer Playhouse. She also appeared on several popular TV shows on the west coast prior to her arrival at the Cleveland Play House.

Richard Halverson, who plays Marchbanks, has telescoped a remarkable range of roles into his acting career. A native of Minneapolis, Halverson acted with the Star Theatre and sang with the Minneapolis Symphony prior to his arrival at the Play House.

Miss Proserpine Garnett is played by Irene Baird, who has a professional acting career that bespeaks an amazing versatility. A native of Arlington, Virginia, she attended the Carnegie Institute of Technology and spent four



Irene Baird and Richard Halverson rehearse for "Candida" to be presented here April 29.

years with the National Ballet Company in Washington. Geographically, her acting spans the nation — from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival to off-Broadway roles in New York.

F M C To Host Four Freshmen

The auditorium is packed to capacity. The audience is eagerly awaiting the beginning of the performance, and a spirit of anticipation and excitement is run-

ning through the room. Suddenly the house lights are dimmed, and following that brief interval which always sends a hush through the crowd, the curtain

rises. Another performance by the Four Freshmen has begun.

Little did the original members of this extremely versatile group of vocalists realize that



To Appear At Flora Macdonald College April 20

they would achieve such widespread acclaim, when they organized themselves at the Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music in Indianapolis, Indiana. It was there that they conceived their distinctive style which sets them apart from other groups. At the time the quartet included the brothers Ross and Don Barbour, their cousin Bob Flanigan, and Hal Kretzsch.

The group was initially called "The Toppers," but it was changed to The Four Freshmen before their professional debut in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on September 28, 1948. Their salary at that time was \$15 a week, per man — not very much for these talented young men. But it was a start, a beginning, to which only hard work could be applied.

And work hard, they did. For the next two years, the Four Freshmen were always moving on the night club circuit in the Mid West — to Detroit, Milwaukee, Lansing, Columbus, Pittsburgh and all stops in between. Everywhere they went, the Four Freshmen attracted more and more loyal fans. But they were still looking for that big break, and it was not far off.

Performing at the Esquire Lounge in Dayton in 1950, they were unaware that they would be giving the most important performance of their career. For their 'big Break' was sitting in the audience in the person of Stan Kenton, then touring the country with his "Innovations in

Modern Music." He was so impressed with their fresh, imaginative arrangements and outstanding musicianship that it was upon his excellent recommendation and salesmanship that their future was assured. After completing their Esquire Lounge engagement, the Four Freshmen were on their way to a Capitol Records contract in Hollywood and national fame.

After cutting their first records for Capitol, the group performed at Jerry Wald's Studio Club. The result of their West Coast night club debut was an appearance on the Steve Allen television show and a place in the MGM picture, "Rich, Young, and Pretty." Now they were assured of that golden little voice called fame.

By 1955, the Four Freshmen were formally established as one of the top acts in show business and since that time, have remained one of the top. They play at the nation's leading night clubs and concert halls; and they have played at such places as the Crescendo, the Palladium, and the Hollywood Bowl. They have also played at almost every major college in the United States, and at dozens of state fairs and conventions. It is not surprising to see them named "Best Vocal Group" though it thrills them every time it happens.

The versatility of the Four Freshmen is evident at every one (Continued on Page 6)