

FLAT EARTH THEATRE

PYGMALION

Page 1 of 3



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 2014

CONTACT:

Lindsay Eagle, Marketing and Publicity Chair

lindsay@flatearththeatre.com

(954) 260-3316

**Flat Earth Theatre Ends its 2014 Season “Literature in Dystopia” with a Raucous Reimagining:
George Bernard Shaw’s *PYGMALION***

WHAT: Flat Earth Theatre presents *PYGMALION*, George Bernard Shaw’s time-honored tale of social class and cultural inequality newly adapted and directed by Devon Jones.

WHEN: Two weeks only: Friday, August 22nd @ 8pm; Saturday, August 23rd @ 8pm; Sunday, August 24th @ 2pm; Thursday, August 28th @ 8pm; Friday, August 29th @ 8pm; and Saturday, August 30th @ 8pm

WHERE: The Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA, 02472

TICKETS: \$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; \$10 student rush

FOR PRESS TICKETS: Contact Lindsay Eagle, Marketing and Publicity Chair
lindsay@flatearththeatre.com or (954) 260-3316

WATERTOWN, MA (July 28, 2014) - Exactly one century since its 1914 London premiere, Flat Earth Theatre presents *PYGMALION*, George Bernard Shaw’s classic comedy of manners, newly adapted and directed by local fiction writer and Flat Earth Company Member Devon Jones. This irreverent reimagining of Shaw’s time-tested story will run August 22nd – 30th, 2014, and will be the third and final production in Flat Earth’s 2014 Season, “Literature in Dystopia.”

Overseen by a totalitarian police state, the people of London navigate the stations of the century-old Underground. Here, flower seller Eliza Doolittle meets the privileged Henry Higgins, a linguistic mastermind who makes a bet that, through lessons in speech and phonetics, he can pass her off as a duchess in six months. Contrasting cold Edwardian elitism with the vibrant and multicultural London of today, Flat Earth’s new adaptation throws *Pygmalion*’s themes of inequality into stark relief — and Liza and Higgins’ struggle between two far apart worlds will bring new meaning to “mind the gap.”

“When the parable of Eliza Doolittle is usually put on the stage or screen, we risk staring at the drawing rooms and forgetting what’s happening outside on the streets — and beneath them,” says director Devon Jones. “This *Pygmalion* is Shaw’s masterpiece stripped to its most vital and timeless bones.”

(more)

FLAT EARTH THEATRE

PYGMALION

Page 2 of 3

Pygmalion's design team includes fringe theatre favorites Allison Olivia Choat (Set Design), Cara Chiaramonte (Costume Design), Chris Bocchiario (Lighting Design), and Kyle Lampe (Sound Design). The Producer is Coriana Hunt Swartz, and the Stage Manager is Caitlin Mason. The cast features Jaclyn Johnson as Eliza Doolittle and Chris Chiampa as Henry Higgins, with Tom Beyer, J. Deschene, Allison Olivia Choat, Allison Matteodo, Stephen Turner, Katie Bond, Stewart Holmes, Lucas Commons-Miller, and Saleia Arkeish.

PYGMALION will run for two weeks at the Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street in Watertown, MA. Tickets can be purchased at <https://flatearth.ticketleap.com/pygmalion> for \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door, or \$10 student rush.

ABOUT THE PLAYWRIGHT

George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950) was an Irish playwright, essayist, journalist, and fiction writer. Born in Dublin, he moved to London at age twenty and began to write, eventually becoming an established art critic. A member of the socialist Fabian Society, in 1898 he married fellow activist Charlotte Payne-Townshend, and within the next several years his plays began to earn him the reputation of a leading dramatist of his time, winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1925. Although he wrote over sixty plays, *Pygmalion* has remained his most prominent, recognized frequently today as the source material for the musical *My Fair Lady*. In addition to his literary output, Shaw also founded the London School of Economics and the *New Statesman* magazine. As a household name, he was no stranger to controversy for his far left politics, his atheism, or his ambiguous advocacy of eugenics. He is also known for his invention of the Shavian alphabet, developed to address the complexities of English spelling.

ABOUT THE DIRECTOR

Director Devon Jones has been with Flat Earth since 2012, training for scattered years beforehand as a theatrical jack of all trades. In 2009 he obtained his B.A. from Bard College in Philosophy & Linguistics, which may explain why *Pygmalion* is so dear to him. This will be his first Flat Earth directing credit; prior directing experience includes *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead*. Outside of theatre, Devon is a fiction writer, poet, philosopher, activist, linguist, and multimedia artist. His debut novel *Tiresias*, published in 2013, was a Lambda Literary Award finalist for Transgender Fiction. He lives in Boston with husband (and fellow Flat Earthling) Stewart Holmes, plus three cats.

ABOUT FLAT EARTH THEATRE

Flat Earth Theatre has been collaboratively crafting thought-provoking theatre in greater Boston since 2006. Featured productions include the world premier of *Pirate Lives! The Musical!*, the award-winning staging of *The Pillowman* with the IRNE-nominated shadow puppetry of Woellert&Clark, and last summer's dimension-traveling production of *Rocket Man*. *Pygmalion* concludes Flat Earth's 2014 season "Literature in Dystopia," which also included Ann Marie Healy's *What Once We Felt* and Ariel Dorfman's *Reader*.

Press inquiries should be directed to Lindsay Eagle, Marketing and Publicity Chair, at lindsay@flatearththeatre.com or (954) 260-3316.

(more)

FLAT EARTH THEATRE
Calendar Listing Information
Page 3 of 3

PYGMALION

by George Bernard Shaw
newly adapted and directed by Devon Jones

Overseen by a totalitarian police state, the people of London navigate the stations of the century-old Underground. Here, flower seller Eliza Doolittle meets the privileged Henry Higgins, a linguistic mastermind who makes a bet that, through lessons in speech and phonetics, he can pass her off as a duchess in six months. Contrasting cold Edwardian elitism with the vibrant and multicultural London of today, Flat Earth's new adaptation throws *Pygmalion*'s themes of inequality into stark relief — and Liza and Higgins' struggle between two far apart worlds will bring new meaning to “mind the gap.”

Presented by: Flat Earth Theatre
Director: Devon Jones
Producer: Coriana Hunt Swartz
Stage Manager: Caitlin Mason

Design Team:

Allison Olivia Choat, Set Designer (with Debra Reich, Assistant Set Designer); Cara Chiaramonte, Costume Designer (with Susannah Bruck, Assistant Costume Designer); Chris Bocchiario, Lighting Designer; Kyle Lampe, Sound Designer

Cast:

Jaclyn Johnson as Eliza Doolittle; Chris Chiampa as Henry Higgins; Tom Beyer as Colonel Pickering; J. Deschene as Mrs. Eynsford Hill; Allison Olivia Choat as Freddy Eynsford Hill; Allison Matteodo as Clara Eynsford Hill / Mrs. Pearce; Stephen Turner as Alfred P. Doolittle; Katie Bond as Mrs. Higgins; and featuring Stewart Holmes, Lucas Commons-Miller, and Saleia Arkeish

Performing at:

The Arsenal Center for the Arts, 321 Arsenal Street, Watertown, MA 02472

Performance Schedule:

Friday, August 22nd @ 8pm
Saturday, August 23rd @ 8pm
Sunday, August 24th @ 2pm
Thursday, August 28th @ 8pm
Friday, August 29th @ 8pm
Saturday, August 30th @ 8pm

Tickets:

\$20 in advance; \$25 at the door; \$10 student rush
To purchase tickets: <https://flatearth.ticketleap.com/pygmalion>

Press Contact:

Lindsay Eagle, Marketing and Publicity Chair
lindsay@flatearththeatre.com or (954) 260-3316

(end)