

CHICAGO DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
NEWS RELEASE

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“THE DOCTOR’S DILEMMA”

**ShawChicago revives their first production which tackles
the remarkably current issues in health care profits and ethics**

**Chicago DCA Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center
April 17 – May 10, 2010**

ShawChicago, in association with Chicago DCA Theater, returns to the Studio Theater with a concert reading of George Bernard Shaw’s ***The Doctor’s Dilemma***, a revival of the company’s first production in 1994. The production opens Saturday, April 17, and runs through May 10, 2010, at the Studio Theater in the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street. Members of the press are invited to the performance on Monday, April 19, at 7 pm

The Doctor’s Dilemma is George Bernard Shaw’s tale of Doctor Colenso Ridgeon. The newly knighted doctor has discovered a cure for tuberculosis but has only one slot left for the clinical trial. Should he choose a kindly medical colleague who ministers to the poor or a callous, amoral, but potentially great artist? And will his love for the artist’s wife interfere.

First staged in 1906, the play contemplates entirely contemporary issues. Turn of the 20th century era doctors were contemplating whether parts of society had better health care than others and whether profits influenced medical decisions. Concepts of a national health service, created four decades later in Britain, and incentives for doctors were hot topics. Inspired by these themes, ShawChicago first presented ***The Doctor’s Dilemma*** in 1994 when the Clinton administration was deliberating on the American healthcare system. So, it is fitting that they restage the play during the current debates and legislation.

Performances are Saturdays and Sundays at 2 pm and Mondays at 7 pm. Post-show discussions with the cast will follow the April 24 and May 2 performances.

Tickets for ***The Doctor’s Dilemma*** are \$22 for general admission, \$20 for seniors, and \$10 for students. Discounts are available for Chicago Cultural Center Mosaic Members, theater industry affiliates, military personnel, ADA companions, and large groups. All tickets are available by calling 312.742.TIXS (8497), visiting www.dcatheater.org, or stopping by the box office, open Tuesday through Saturday, noon to 6 pm; Sundays, noon to 4 pm; and one hour prior to each performance.

Cast and Production Team

The Doctor’s Dilemma is directed by ShawChicago artistic director Robert Scogin. The cast includes Matt Penn, Skip Lundby, Will Clinger, Jack Hickey, Joseph Bowen, Barbara Zahora, Christian Gray, Kathy Logelin, Mary Michell, and Kaelan Strouse.

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Now celebrating its 16th season, ShawChicago Theater Company presents the plays of George Bernard Shaw and his contemporaries, particularly playwrights that he greatly admired. The company was established in 1994 when Lois Weisberg, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Cultural Affairs, initiated a series of concert readings as a foundation for ongoing theatrical programming at the Chicago Cultural Center. In January 2003, ShawChicago became the resident theater company at the Ruth Page Center for the Arts on Chicago’s near north side and today, performs both there and at the Chicago Cultural Center. The company’s Outreach Program brings Shaw to a wide audience in the Chicago area, including high schools, colleges, universities, retirement homes, libraries, clubs, and private events.

Attending a performance by ShawChicago is akin to attending an exquisitely performed symphonic or chamber music concert. The ensemble of actor/musicians has perfected the demanding art of the concert reading with a range of voices and facial expression that become the instruments bringing the plays to life. The play is “scored,” finding the dynamics, the pitch, and the pace to create a brilliant experience.

The Storefront Theater and the Studio Theater, its companion theater located in the Chicago Cultural Center at 78 E. Washington Street, comprise Chicago DCA Theater, an anchor of the downtown theater district. Chicago DCA Theater offers downtown audiences an off-Loop theater experience with an exciting look at the vibrant emerging theater companies that call Chicago home. Proposals for creative and innovative productions for the January to June 2011 season are now being accepted May 15, 2010.

Discounted parking is available at Wabash Randolph Self Park at 20 E. Randolph. Patrons can receive the \$10 rate by validating their ticket at the Studio Theater box office.

For more information about ShawChicago’s ***The Doctor’s Dilemma*** and Chicago DCA Theater, call 312.742.TIXS (8497) or visit www.dcatheater.org. The enhanced website features more about DCA Theater performances and programs, including a blog, photo galleries, and visitor information. More information on ShawChicago is available at www.shawchicago.org.

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