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by José Ángel García Landa

(University of Zaragoza, Spain)

# **George Bernard Shaw** (1856-1950)

(Major British dramatist, b. Dublin, Protestant stock; l. London 1876-; Failed novelist, then journalist, art critic, book and theatre reviewer, anti-Romantic, advocate of social realism; member of the Fabian society, activist pro radical social and political reforms, pro-feminist, Socialist, advocate of spelling reform; vegetarian, teetotaller. Supporter of IRA, of limiting private property and of government by "strong men". Friend of Michael Collins, M. E. McNaughty, Lord Alfred Douglas, T. E. Lawrence, and Edward Elgar. Photographer, novelist, polemicist, and massive letter-writer. Headstrong opposer of medicine, vaccination, and advocate of vegetarianism and eugenics. Wilful defender of Stalinist communism and totalitarian régimes, advocated social euthanasia of "useless" people. Married in a sexless marriage to feminist Charlotte Payne-Townshend 1898; platonic love affairs with several married women. World famous realist dramatist; Oscar for original story (*Pygmalion*) and Nobel Prize for Literature 1925 —donated money to subsidize translations of Strindberg; Declined Order of Merit and a knighthood. Director of theBBC Advisory Committee on Spoken English from 1934)

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\_\_\_\_\_. *Heartbreak House.* Dir. Cedric Messina. Cast: John Gielgud, Sián Phillips, Barbara Murray, Daniel Massey, Lesley-Anne Down, David Waller, Donald Pickering, Richard Pearson. Prod. Alan Shallcross. Broadcast BBC, 19 May 1977. DVD. (The Bernard Shaw Collection, ). BBCDVD-2Entertain, 2006.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Millionairess.* Dir. William Slater. Cast: Maggie Smith, Tom Baker, Charles Gray, Peter Barkworth, James Villiers, Priscilla Morgan, Donald Pickering. Prod. Cedric Messina. Broadcast BBC, 15 Sept. 1972. DVD. (The Bernard Shaw Collection, ). BBCDVD-2Entertain, 2006.\*

\_\_\_\_\_. *The Apple Cart.* Dir. Cedric Messina. Cast: Helen Mirren, Prunella Scales, Nigel Davenport, Peter Barkworth, Bill Fraser, Beryl Reid, Thorley Walters. Prod. Alan Shallcross. Broadcast BBC, 19 Jan. 1975. DVD. (The Bernard Shaw Collection, ). BBCDVD-2Entertain, 2006.\*

*Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion.* Dir. Anthony Asquith and Leslie Howard. Screenplay and dialogue by Bernard Shaw, scenario by W. P. Lipscomb and Cecil Lewis. Cast: Leslie Howard, Wendy Hiller, Wilfrid Lawson, Marie Lohr, Scott Sunderland, Jean Cadell, David Tree, Everley Gregg, Leueen MacGrath, Esme Percy, Violet Vanbrugh. Photog. Harry Stradling. Art dir. John Bryan. Ed. David Lean. Music Arthur Honegger. Prod. Gabriel Pascal. UK: Pascal Film Productions / Pinewood Studios, 1938.\*

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