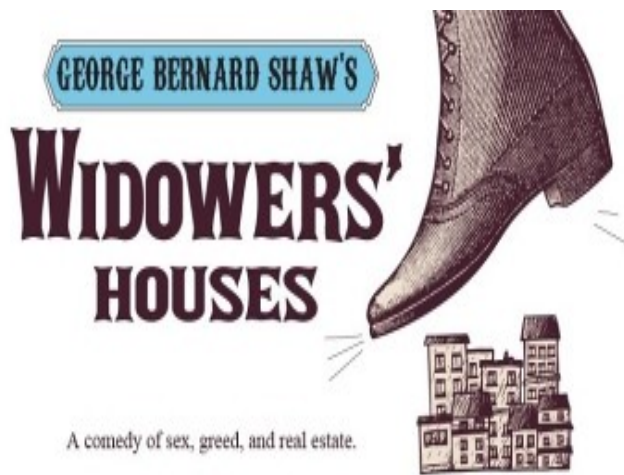


GENTRAIN SOCIETY SPECIAL EVENT



"WIDOWERS' HOUSES"

By George Bernard Shaw

Sunday, February 11, 2018

Aurora Theater

Berkeley, California

Next Gentrain Society Regional Theater Trip

Our next Gentrain Society Theater trip will be on Sunday, February 11, when we travel to the Aurora Theater (where last year we saw the marvelous production of Stoppard's *The Real Thing*) in Berkeley. The play this time will be George Bernard Shaw's *Widowers' Houses*. The play was written in 1898, and it was the first Shaw play actually produced on stage—by the Independent Theatre Society, a subscription club formed to escape the censorship of the Lord Chamberlain's Office. At the time, Shaw's plays were considered by the censor as too raw and scurrilous for polite audiences and public theaters.

The play is about a young, idealistic, aristocratic (but poor) doctor, who falls in love with the daughter of a self-made (very rich) businessman. They become engaged, but when Henry (the young doctor) finds that his prospective father-in-law makes his living by renting slum housing to the poor, he insists that he and Blanche (the daughter) accept no money from her father, but live as best they can on his meager income. After a bitter argument, Blanche ends the engagement. But then Henry finds out that his modest salary comes from interest on mortgaged tenements and is therefore as dirty as his father-in-law's. The plot thickens.

Shaw published the play in a collection called *Plays Unpleasant*, because they were written, he wrote, not to entertain but to raise social consciousness—in this case about the exploitation of the poor by the unproductive rich. But Shaw couldn't write a play without being entertaining, and the Shavian wit is sprinkled abundantly through the play.

As usual, Grant Voth, former Gentrain Coordinator, will offer a class **in LF101 on Friday, February 9, from 1 to 3 p.m.**, designed to enhance understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of this lively play.

The bus will leave the MPC Parking Lot B on Fishnet Road at 9:30 a.m. for arrival in Berkeley around 11:30 a.m. The play begins at 2:00 p.m. You will be dropped off near the theater where there are numerous restaurants for lunch prior to the play. The bus will pick you up in front of the theater for our return trip to Monterey. We should arrive back at MPC between 6:30 and 7:00 p.m.

The cost is \$82.00 per person which includes play ticket, bus transportation, snacks on the bus, and the pre-theater lecture given by Grant Voth. **Please make your check payable to the "MPC Gentrain Society"** and mail to Wayne Cruzan, 75 Via Chualar, Monterey, CA 93940. **Also, please put your telephone number on your check.** Questions? Call Wayne at 375-2371.