

*Spring Grove Fringe - 2016*

# ***High Notes***

***an evening of two comedies***



***Press Cuttings***  
by *George Bernard Shaw*



***Il Fornicazione***  
by *Michael Green*

***Friday 25th November at 8.00pm***  
***Saturday 26th November at 7.30pm***

**Reg. Charity No. 1150982**

# Press Cuttings

by George Bernard Shaw

adapted and directed by  
Sandy Gavshon and Nigel Duffin

It is April Fool's Day 1912 and Britain is in the grip of an increasingly violent Women's Suffrage movement. The government has taken the drastic measure of putting London under martial law and compulsory conscription. We are in General Mitchener's study in the War Office where the problem of how to deal with the Suffragettes is his top priority, well, apart from the delightful possibility of invading Germany. The opportunistic Prime Minister, Balsquith, is more concerned with hanging on to political office and the party funds. They come up against the Anti-Suffrage League represented by two forceful and determined women with their own separate agendas and methods.

The play cleverly describes a role reversal with the men becoming more fearful and indecisive whilst the women gain the upper hand in both argument and action.

*Press Cuttings* was initially censored in Britain because of its satire of real politicians and army leaders and was produced first in Manchester in 1909 with name changes. Shaw was supportive of the Suffragettes and the play was used to raise funds for the movement. Like much of Shaw's work the themes and attitudes are timelessly amusing and remain relevant today: where politics and the military are concerned it was ever thus!



## Characters in order of appearance

A Newspaper Boy

A Suffragette

General Mitchener

An Orderly

Prime Minister Balsquith

Mrs Farrell, a highly respectable charwoman

Mrs Banger, Secretary of the Anti-Suffrage League

Lady Corinthia Fanshawe, President of the League

Cameron Weston-Shaw

Amanda Shaw

David Hamilton

Chris Brookes

Scott Milligan

Sandie Glenny

Lynn Charlton

Karina Ramnarain

# Il Fornicazione

by Michael Green

directed by Roger Chown

*Il Fornicazione* forms a part of the legendary Michael Green's quartet of short plays for the Edinburgh Festival Fringe in 1977. Green had already written the definitive tome for the world of amateur theatre with his *Art of Coarse Acting* - a treatise which hilariously consigned all serious forms of stage performance tuition to the rubbish bin.

Long-term Springe Grove Fringe supporters may recall our *Farndale Avenue* productions and will hopefully see some parallels in today's offering. Michael Green was firmly of the view that his *Coarse Acting* epics are best performed and enjoyed whilst a little drunk. Judgement is yours!



This amateur production of “Il Fornicazione (The Adulterer)” is presented by special arrangement with SAMUEL FRENCH, LTD.

## Characters in order of appearance

Vicar

Conductor

Triangle Player

Countess Formaggio

Count Formaggio

Alfonso

Maid

Attendants, Huntsmen, Chorus

Tony Tresigne

John Hackett

Amanda Shaw

Jenny Robson

Jeremy Barnes

Laurie South

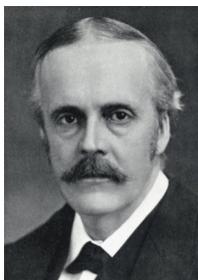
Val Boyle

Keith Glenny, Sandie Glenny,  
Stephanie Stephenson, Tony Tresigne

Props	Helen Dawson, Sandy Gavshon
Set décor	Allan Lloyd
Lighting	Adrian Treloar
Sound	Mark Springthorpe
Costumes	Jo Need, Sandy Gavshon
Make-up	Emma Nail
Box Office	Tessa Kind
Front of House Manager	Allan Lloyd
Bar	Mike Charlton
Catering	Amanda Shaw, Barbara Higham



### **‘Nothing matters very much’**



Arthur James Balfour died unmarried at 80. He was seen as having a detached attitude to life and was known for his saying ‘Nothing matters very much and few things matter at all’. It seems that he declined the advances of the colourful Margot Tennant, who later married Asquith. In middle age he began a 40 year relationship with Mary Charteris, which sounds very like the Balsquith/Lady Corinthia relationship in Press Cuttings!

### **Next production**

Mirror, mirror, on the wall,  
 What’s the next show in this hall?  
 Not long to go, no need to whinge,  
 You can rely on the Spring Grove Fringe!  
 Till February you must wait,  
 Tenth or eleventh, that’s the date.  
 On Friday, or on Saturday –  
 Two evenings and a matinée!  
 And what’s this drama in your sight?  
 It’s the panto – it’s Snow White!!



### **Snow White and the Seven Dwarves – February 10th/11th**

Transport yourself into the magical world that is the Spring Grove Fringe Annual Pantomime.

Make sure you are on the email list to get further information.