REMY BUMPPPO PRESENTS

You Never Can Tell
Shaw’s One-Upping of The Importance of Being Earnest

When George Bernard Shaw saw Oscar Wilde’s *The Importance of Being Earnest*, he found it “rib-tickling” but felt it silly and lacking in humanity, so he set out to do it one better. The result was *You Never Can Tell*, as funny as *Earnest*, but sneaking in some barbed Shavian social observations as well.

Look for plenty of good-old fashioned family fun for the holidays, along with a dash or two of insight, when Remy Bumppo Theatre Company presents *You Never Can Tell* at the Greenhouse Theater Center at 2257 N. Lincoln in Chicago, November 21 to January 6.

At least one eventual observer believed Shaw succeeded in his *Earnest* quest. Famed New York Times critic Stanley Kauffman considered *You Never Can Tell* one of the four finest examples of high comedy written in English, Shaw’s work being matched only by Shakespeare and Sheridan. British critics have called YNCT Shaw’s “sunniest and funniest.”

Another believer is Remy Bumppo Artistic Associate Shawn Douglass, who directed Remy Bumppo’s hit presentation of *Earnest* two years ago and is back at the helm for *You Never Can Tell*. Douglass performed in YNCT with Montana Shakespeare in 1996, and says “It was one of the great experiences of my acting life. The response from groups all across the state was terrific.”

“Shaw took stock comedic characters, then gave them real, human reasons for their behavior,” says Douglass. “The result is a great play from multiple perspectives – as farce, as literature, as societal critique.” The societal critiques stretch over issues daring for their day and still apt today - individual rights, women’s rights, the roles of business, law and social structures.

At heart, though, *You Never Can Tell* is a whole bunch of fun, as a woman’s self-help writer (Chicago veteran Elaine Rivkin, in a role played in a Broadway revival by Uta Hagen)) and her three more-or-less grown children, who have never been told their father’s identity, return from self-exile in Madeira to an English seaside resort, setting off an hilarious chain of loves lost and found, identities uncovered, truths discovered, and general mayhem.

It all starts when a dentist (Remy Bumppo Artistic Associate Greg Matthew Anderson, Earnest
in *Earnest*) dives into the mouth of the eldest daughter (Eliza Stoughton) and just naturally falls in love, creating a quandary for the “modern woman.” That sets off her rambunctious sibling twins (C. Jaye Miller and Alex Weisman) and a chain of events that draws in resort staff, including wise old waiter “William” (Chicago favorite Dale Benson, following in the footsteps Leo G. Carroll and Cyril Cusack, among others), as well as the dentist’s grumpy landlord, who may be more than he seems (Doug Hendel).

William’s son (Rob Glidden) and the writer’s solicitor and one-time suitor (Peter A. Davis) are dueling lawyers. Rounding out the ensemble are a parlour maid (Kaitlin Gilgenbach) and the assistant waiter (Darrin French).

Can all those characters somehow meld together, can all the problems that arise be resolved? Well, *You Never Can Tell*.

Amy M. Bertacini is Stage Manager for *You Never Can Tell*. The seaside set is designed by Tim Mann. Costumes are by Emily Waecker, lights by Lee Fiskness, sound by Nick Gajary and props by Julie Eberhardt.

*You Never Can tell is partially underwritten by the Elizabeth F. Cheney Foundation. Remy Bumppo 2012/2013 Season Sponsors are Terri Abruzzo Callahan and Dave Callahan, and Brenda and James Grusecki.*

**Special Events:**
All at the Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

**Monday, Nov. 26, 7:00pm:** *You Never Can Tell* Opening/Press Night.

**Saturday, Sep. 29, 1:30pm:** *Between the Lines* pre-show conversation with University of Chicago Professor of English Literature and Language and Gender Studies Elaine Hadley, followed by a 2:30 curtain and a post-show discussion.

**Listing Information**

*You Never Can Tell*

By George Bernard Shaw

Directed by Shawn Douglass

Nov. 21, 2013  - Jan. 6, 2013

Greenhouse Theater Center - Upstairs Mainstage

2257 N. Lincoln Ave.

Chicago, IL 60614

**Performance Times:**
Opening/Press Night: Monday, Sep., 17 at 7:00pm

Previews and regular run: Wednesdays through Saturdays 7:30pm, Sundays at 2:30pm (no performance Thanksgiving day)

Matinee performances (other than Sunday): Thursdays Nov. 29 & Dec. 13 at 2:30pm; Saturdays, Dec. 8, (Between the Lines), and Dec. 29 at 2:30pm

Cast
Artistic Associate Greg Matthew Anderson, Dale Benson, Darrin French, Kaitlin Gilgenbach, Rob Glidden, Doug Hendel, C. Jaye Miller, Elaine Rivkin, Peter A. Davis, Eliza Stoughton and Alex Weisman.

Production Team:
You Never Can Tell is directed Remy Bumppo Artistic Associate Shawn Douglass, with scenic design by Tim Mann, costumes by Emily Waecker, sound by Nick Gajary, lighting by Lee Fiskness and properties by Julie Eberhardt. Amy M. Bertacini is Stage Manager.

Tickets:
Greenhouse Box Office 773-404-7336 (open at noon Wed.-Sun.)
Or online at www.remybumppo.org
Previews and through November 30 (except Opening): $32.50-$37.50
Regular run: Wed-Thu-Fri $42.50-$47.50, Sat-Sun $47.50-$52.50
Opening Night: $42.50
Between the Lines: $57.50
Student tickets: $15 all performances except Opening Night and Between the Lines
Group discounts: available for parties of 10 or more. Call 773-244-8119 x 302

Parking:
The former Children's Memorial Hospital garage, 1/2 block north of the theater on Lincoln Avenue, is making 100 parking spaces available free to the public for up to five hours, on a first-come, first-served basis. This offer is subject to change at any time.

For further information about You Never Can Tell, Remy Bumppo, and related matters, visit www.remybumppo.org or call 773-244-8119.

Cast
Greg Matthew Anderson
as Valentine

Dale Benson
as William

Darrin French
as Jo

Kaitlin Gilgenbach
as Parlourmaid

Rob Glidden
as Bohun

Doug Hendel
as Crampton

C. Jaye Miller
as Dorothy

Elaine Rivkin
as Mrs. Clandon

Peter A. Davis
as McComas

Eliza Stoughton
as Gloria

Alex Weisman
as Philip

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