

Next for Promethean Theatre Ensemble

A Town Called Progress

By Trina Kakacek

Directed by PTE ensemble member Anna Bahow

May 16 – June 20, 2020

at The Den Theatre, 1331 N. Milwaukee Ave.



**Stay tuned for the announcement of
Promethean's Season 15!**



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MRS. WARREN'S PROFESSION

ADAPTED BY MELANIE SPEWOCK

DIRECTED BY MICHAEL D. GRAHAM

FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 29



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PROMETHEAN THEATRE
ENSEMBLE

OTHERWORLD THEATRE, 3914 N. CLARK STREET, CHICAGO



Mrs. Warren's Profession

By **George Bernard Shaw**

Adapted by Melanie Spewock
Directed by Michael D. Graham

Cast

Tracey Greenwood Vivie Warren
Ross Frawley Praed
Elaine Carlson* Mrs. Kitty Warren
Jared Dennis* Sir George Crofts
Chris Woolsey Frank Gardner
Ted Hoerl Rev. Samuel Gardner

Corrie Riedl Vivie Warren Understudy
Avery Bowne Praed Understudy
Rosalind Hurwitz Mrs. Kitty Warren Understudy
Joseph Beal Sir George Crofts Understudy
Cody Robison Frank Gardner Understudy
Jeff Broitman Rev. Samuel Gardner Understudy

Production Staff

Michael D. Graham Director
Melanie Spewock Adapter and Dramaturg
Si Squires-Kasten Stage Manager
Alexa Berkowitz* Production Manager
Carrie Campana** Costume Designer
Conor Clark Set Designer and Tech Director
Catherine Gillespie** Dialect Coach
Ellie Humphrys Lighting Designer
Maya Jain Props Designer
Colin Kovarik Sound Designer

* Promethean Theatre Ensemble Member

** Promethean Theatre Artistic Associate

Photography and poster design by Tom McGrath**

Running time: 2 hours and 10 minutes, including a 10-minute intermission
Please silence all cell phones.

With sincere thanks to our donors...

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The MacArthur Funds for Arts and Culture
and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation.

MacArthur
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This program is partially supported by a
grant from the Illinois Arts Council Agency.

Promethean Theatre Ensemble is also supported by the generous
sponsorship of private donations. Through the efforts of these donors, we
are able to bring you the performances in our fourteenth season.

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is a 501(c)3 corporation.
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website at www.prometheantheatre.org.**

PTE Production History

Season 14 (2019-20) *An Evening of Shakespeare: A Town Called Progress; Mrs. Warren's Profession; Blue Stockings*

Season 13 (2018-19) *An Evening of Shakespeare: Good Scenes from "Bad" Plays; Mad Beat Hip & Gone; Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde; Arcadia*

Season 12 (2017-18) *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!); An Evening of Shakespeare: A Night of Tudor Propaganda; The Madwoman of Chaillot; Marisol*

Season 11 (2016-17) *An Evening of Shakespeare: Scenes from the Roman Plays; The Liar; Eurydice; Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*

Season 10 (2015-16) *The Lion in Winter; An Evening of Myths and Fables a.k.a. Myths Untold; Brontë*

Season 9 (2014-15) *Tiger at the Gates; An Evening of Shakespeare: Lonely Hearts & Twisted Love; The Winter's Tale*

Season 8 (2013-14) *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead; An Evening of Shakespeare: Something Wicked This Way Comes; The Lark*

Season 7 (2012-13) *A Study in Scarlet; Caucasian Chalk Circle; An Evening of Shakespeare: Black Magic*

Season 6 (2011-12) *Henry V; An Evening of Shakespeare: On Love & Seeming; Seascape with Sharks and Dancer*

Season 5 (2010-11) *Bury the Dead; Kennedy's Children; An Evening of Shakespeare: You-Call-It Shakespeare*

Season 4 (2009-10) *Spring Awakening; The Fantasticks; The Last Unicorn; Department of Cultural Affairs: A Month of Development*

Season 3 (2008-09) *Measure for Measure; An Evening of Shakespeare: Mad World, Mad Kings; The Illusion*

Season 2 (2007-08) *Six Characters in Search of an Author; An Evening of Shakespeare: Dark Side of the Bard; The Light of Love*

Season 1 (2006-07) *Our Country's Good; An Evening of Shakespeare: Shakespeare in the Garden; Beyond Therapy*

Setting

Time: Late Summer, 1905

Place: England

Act I: Late afternoon in a cottage garden near Haslemere, Surrey

Act II: Inside the cottage around nightfall

Act III: Late next morning in a rectory garden nearby

Act IV: Honoria Fraser's chambers, Chancery Lane, London

Production Note

"There is no writer whom I despise so entirely as Shakespeare when I measure my mind against his" – George Bernard Shaw

When you take a deep breath and prepare to adapt a Shaw play, it helps to remember that he refused to be intimidated by greatness himself. *Mrs. Warren's Profession* doesn't need one extra thing, but I thought a shorter running time would enhance the play's impact on a modern audience. Some careful pruning of obscure period references and redundant exposition resulted in this script. Every word – though fewer of them – is Shaw's.

– Melanie Spewock

About the Playwright

George Bernard Shaw was born in 1856 in Dublin. He moved to London in 1876 and in 1884 he joined the Fabian Society. This organization's belief in democratic socialism, to be achieved through reform rather than revolution, informed much of his early writing. His first three full-length plays, including *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (1893), dealt largely with social issues and were identified by the playwright as "Plays Unpleasant." A prolific writer, Shaw wrote novels, essays, theatrical criticism and more than forty plays, including major works such as *Man and Superman* (1902), *Pygmalion* (1912) and *Saint Joan* (1923). He is recognized as the leading dramatist of his generation, and in 1925 was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He died in 1950 from complications following a fall while pruning a shrub in his garden.



Download a play **Appreciation Guide** at
www.prometheantheatre.org/project/mrs-warrens-profession/

Cast Biographies

Elaine Carlson (Mrs. Kitty Warren; she/her) is a Promethean ensemble member. She has appeared in PTE productions of *Mad Beat Hip & Gone*, *Madwoman of Chaillot*, *The Lion in Winter* and *Tiger at the Gates*. Other credits include Eclipse Theatre's *Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them* and *A Perfect Ganesh*, and City Lit's *J.B.* and *At Home at the Zoo*. Elaine spent years at the Royal George Theater and on national tour performing the one-woman improvisational comedy *Put the Nuns in Charge*. Learn more at www.elaine-carlson.com. She is represented by Lily's Talent.

Jared Dennis (Sir George Crofts; he/him) holds an M.F.A. from the Theatre School at DePaul and a certificate from The National Theatre Studio, London. Past performances include: *Henry V*, *The Winter's Tale*, *Tiger at the Gates*, and *Bronte* (Promethean Ensemble) *Antigone*, *Twelfth Night*, and *Hamlet* (First Folio) *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Richard II*, and *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* (Chicago Shakespeare Theatre), and *The Voyage Inheritance* (Remy Bumppo). Jared is proud to be a member of Promethean.

Ross Frawley (Praed; he/him) is thrilled to be back with Promethean Theatre where he was last seen as Queensbury in the 2016 production of *Gross Indecency*. Some of his recent Chicago credits include: Artemesia's *Suffrage Plays*, Three Crows' *Terra Nova*, and Stone Soup Shakespeare's *Taming of the Shrew*. He also performs theatre for young audiences throughout the Chicagoland area with GreatWorks Theatre. He hopes you enjoy the show.

Tracey Greenwood (Vivie Warren; she/her) is excited to make her Promethean debut! She is a graduate of Northwestern University and is an alum of Actors Theatre of Louisville's apprenticeship program. Recent Chicago credits include *Why Torture is Wrong and the People Who Love Them* (Eclipse Theatre Co.); *Twilight Bowl* (u/s Goodman Theatre); *Oxy*, *Ohio* (The Side Project Theatre Co.); *Non-Player Character* (Red Theater); *The Tall Girls* (Shattered Globe Theatre). Television credits include *Chicago Fire* (NBC) and *Soundtrack* (Netflix). She is represented by Grossman & Jack Talent.

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Promethean Theatre Ensemble

Promethean's ensemble collaborates to create theatre that fuses simplicity of design with intelligent, passionate storytelling.

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Janeane Bowlware Ensemble
Jamie Bragg..... Ensemble
Elaine Carlson..... Ensemble
Brian J. Hurst..... Ensemble
Brendan Hutt Ensemble
Xavier Lagunas Ensemble
Kevin Sheehan..... Ensemble
John Walski..... Forever in our hearts

Artistic Associates

Kaci Antkiewicz, Carrie Campana, Catherine Gillespie, Nick Lake,
John Arthur Lewis, Tom McGrath, Tom Murphy, Brian Parry,
Ed Rutherford, Rachel Watson, and Alice Wu

Conor Clark (Set Designer; he/him) is excited to be working with Promethean Theater Company for the first time. He has been a technical director and actor in Chicago since 2011, and has been seen on and off stage at Raven Theater, and can currently be seen in the Factory Theater's *Last Night in Karaoke Town*. Conor is a graduate of Columbia College 2013. He would like to thank his wife Kat for her love and support!

Catherine Gillespie (Dialect Coach; she/her) has a Music Theatre degree from Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She has worked on accents and dialects in recent productions with City Lit Theater, Haven Theatre, Red Theatre Chicago, Vitalist Theatre, Promethean Theatre Ensemble and Citadel Theatre. She is also a proud Artistic Associate at Promethean. Much love to Russell, Quinn and wee Jamie.

Ellie Humphrys (Lighting Designer; she/her) graduated in 2012 with a BFA in Lighting Design from The Theatre School at DePaul University and has been working the Chicago theatre scene ever since. As a company member with The Agency Theatre Collective, she's designed many of their shows including *Tres Bandidos*, *Hellcab*, *Chagrin Falls*, and *Truth in Context*. Some additional design credits include *Luna* (Filament Theatre), *Detour Guide* (Silk Road Rising/Stage Left Theatre), *Last Night in Karaoke Town* (The Factory Theatre), *Wife Material* (Underscore Theatre Company), *Belfast Girls* (Artemesia Theatre), and *Ladies First* (Laboratory Dancers). More information and an online portfolio can be found at www.ellielightstheatre.com

Maya Jain (Props Designer; she/her) is a scenic painter and theater maker. She has painted scenery for Strawdog Theater Company, The Agency Theater Collective, City Lit Theater Company, A Red Orchid Theater, Pegasus Young Playwrights Festival, and the Factory Theater. Maya is also a technician for The Neofuturists, does occasional freelance illustration, and explores many other visual art forms. You can check out more of her work at maya-jain.format.com.

Colin Kovarik (Sound Designer; he/him) is pleased to return to Promethean after designing *Mad Beat Hip & Gone* last year. He wears many hats. Having been an actor/musician before finding sound design, he relishes using all his skills at once in this discipline. Recent Sound Design: *The Potting Shed* (Acacia Theatre Co.); Associate Design: *Bug* (Steppenwolf), *Happy Days* (Renaissance Theaterworks). Many thanks to his parents, his community, and to you - for being with us.

Ted Hoerl (Rev. Samuel Gardner; he/him) is delighted to return to Promethean where he appeared in *Mad Beat Hip & Gone* and directed *Arcadia*. He has appeared in over 100 productions including: Eclipse: *Bus Stop*, *Knights of the Round Table*, *Woman in Mind*, *Haunting Julia*, *Plaza Suite*, *Lips Together*, *Teeth Apart* (Director). Goodman: *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, *Christmas Carol* (twice). Remy Bumppo: *Arcadia*, *Arms and the Man*, *Importance of Being Earnest*. Shattered Globe: *Little Foxes*, *Buried Child*. Signal: *The Weir*, 1776 (Best Musical Jeff). Next: *Are You Now or Have You Ever Been...* (Best Ensemble Jeff), *Doll's House*, *Millionairess*, *Voices from Jerusalem*. About Face: (Founding member) *Dreamboy* (thrice), *Fascination*. Writers: *Incident at Vichy*.

Chris Woolsey (Frank Gardner; he/him) is thrilled to be working again with Promethean Theatre Ensemble after his turn last year as Septimus Hodge in *Arcadia*. Past credits include the short film *Curtains* and sailing the high seas performing for The Second City on cruise ships. You can always catch him doing improv at iO with his team State Schrams or creating sketch comedy videos on his YouTube channel, which he cleverly named Chris Woolsey. He would like to thank his family and his partner Abigail for all their support.

You're welcome to keep this program as a souvenir, or you can leave it with an usher for the next guest.

Download a **digital copy of this program** at
www.prometheantheatre.org/project/mrs-warrens-profession/

Understudy Biographies

Joseph Beal (Sir George Crofts Understudy; he/him) most recently appeared as Shylock in *The Merchant of Venice* for Invictus Theatre Co. Other Chicago credits include: Invictus: *Love's Labour's Lost* (Boyet), *Othello* (Brabantio); Pride Films and Plays: *Barney the Elf* (Buttons); Piccolo Theatre: *The Memory of Water* (Frank), *The Misanthrope* (Alexander), and *Smash* (Lumpkin). Joe also appeared as Kazu in the short film *Güllen Geveppen* (Ghosts Still Cry), and created the role of Joe for the long-running *Schoolhouse Rock Live!*

Avery Bowne (Praed Understudy; he/him) is excited to be joining Promethean for the first time! Other Chicago area credits include *Bent* with MUSE Theatre Collective and George Gibbs in the Kane Repertory Theatre production of *Our Town*. He recently received his MFA in Acting from Northern Illinois University and is an excited new resident of Chicago. Avery is represented by Shirley Hamilton.

Jeff Broitman (Rev. Samuel Gardner Understudy; he/him) is honored to be a part of this production. Recent shows include *1776* at the Skokie Theater; *Brit Twist* (On the Spot Theater); and the one-man show *Charlie Johnson Reads All of Proust* (The Den Theatre). Jeff has worked as an actor/director/instructor for over 28 years at dozens of theaters in New York, Minneapolis, and Chicago. Thanks to Michael and everyone at Promethean.

Rosalind Hurwitz (Mrs. Kitty Warren Understudy; she/her) is pleased to be working with the Prometheans! Favorite credits: *One Flea Spare* (Connective), *Caroline, Or Change* (Firebrand), *Cabaret* (No Stakes), *The Light in the Piazza* (SLATE), *Our Town* (The Hypocrites). She's also worked with Remy Bumppo, Porchlight, Oak Park Festival Theatre, Lifeline, and Next Theatre, where she originated the role of Mrs. One in the musical *Adding Machine*. Offstage, Rosalind is a research speech-language pathologist in the Aphasia Center at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab.

Corrie Riedl (Vivie Warren Understudy; she/her) is delighted to be working with Promethean for the first time! She holds degrees in Acting, Music, and Business from Carthage College. Since moving to Chicago, Corrie has had the opportunity to work with several wonderful companies including Collaboraction, Invictus Theatre, and Quicksilver Shakespeare Company, where she is a proud Artistic Associate. Many thanks to all involved with this production for their gorgeous work and to her friends, family, and Christian for endless support.

Cody Robison (Frank Gardner Understudy; he/him) received his MFA from the Hilberry program at Wayne State University where he also had the opportunity to study abroad at the Moscow Art Theatre. His most recent Chicago Credits include Underscore's *Paper Swords*, Promethean's *Mad Beat Hip & Gone*, and Lifeline's *Whose Body?* He is excited to be back on board with Promethean. Here's to what we do.
www.codyrrodney.wixsite.com/actor

Special Thanks

Chicago Shakespeare Company, College of DuPage, Dominican University, Nate Waters, and Pride Films and Plays

Production Staff Biographies

Michael D. Graham (Director; he/him) Favorite directing credits include: *Casa Valentina*, *Holding the Man* and *Ten Dollar House* with Pride Films and Plays; *The Mystery of Irma Vep*, *Smash*, *The Memory of Water*, *Parallel Lives* and *The Misanthrope* with Piccolo Theatre; *The Years* with Appetite Theatre; *Spreading the News* with Halcyon Theatre; and *Expatriates* with the side project. Love to Cayl!

Melanie Spewock (Adapter; she/her) worked in arts education for 37 years to support her dramaturgy habit. Her favorite thing is bringing classic plays to modern audiences, and she is thrilled to be working with Promethean Theater for the first time. She is grateful for the public domain, which allows her to collaborate with fabulous playwrights. Melanie lives in Minneapolis with her husband, three cats, and a large box of blue pencils.

Si Squires-Kasten (Stage Manager; he/him) is excited to make his debut with Promethean Theatre Ensemble. He is currently a member of the Agency Theatre Collective, which produced his play *Who's Afraid of Homer Simpson?*, and where he will be directing his play, *Three Scenes from St. Louis at the End of the World* in spring 2021. He has also worked as a Stage Manager and Production Manager with Hell in a Handbag Productions (*The Artificial Jungle*, *Golden Girls: Bea Afraid*, *Golden Girls: The Lost Episodes - The Valentine Edition*, *The Drag Seed*) and a stage Manager/Assistant Director with Brown Paper Box Co. (*If/Then*).

Alexa Berkowitz (Production Manager; she/her) has worked with a number of theatre companies in Chicago including City Lit Theater, Promethean Theatre Ensemble, Linchpin Theatre, Strawdog Theatre Company, The Factory Theater, and Black Button Eyes Productions. She graduated from the University at Buffalo, SUNY with a B.A. in Dance and a B.A. in Theatre (specializing in technical theatre). Alexa is the executive director with Promethean Theatre Ensemble. She is excited to be working with her Promethean family on this production.

Carrie Campana (Costume Designer; she/her) is so happy to be back with Promethean as the costume designer for *Mrs. Warren's Profession*. Her work has recently been seen in *Dorothy Does Oz* with PS...Burlesque, *Arcadia*, and *BLISS (or Emily Post is Dead!)* with Promethean Theatre Ensemble, and *The Princess Without Pots* with Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble. When she isn't sewing like mad she can be found spending time with her two boys and husband, whom she would like to thank for all of their love and unending support.