



The Shaw Society / T F Evans award

Could you write like Bernard Shaw?

Offered for the second year running in 2012, this award in memory of the late T F Evans will be made for a new Preface for a Shaw play, reflecting not only his literary style but his wit and wisdom

An award of £500 will be made for the winning entry.

The judges for the award will include Sir Michael Holroyd (Shaw's biographer), Barbara Smoker (formerly secretary of the Shaw Society and ex-president National Secular Society), Sylvia Syms (film, TV and theatre actor) and Alan Knight (chair of the Shaw Society)

Closing date for entries: 31 July 2012

The Shaw Society / T F Evans award is open to all ages, professions and nationalities; there is no charge for entries. Further information and guidance, and details of how to enter, are given below.

The award

For the second year of the Shaw Society / T F Evans award, you are invited to supply a new Preface to a Shaw play, as if written by its author in 2012.

We are to imagine that, contrary to all expectations (including his own!), Bernard Shaw has returned to life in the 21st century; he has been a keen observer of national and world events over the past 60 years, and his trenchant views on a wide range of issues, and his desire to communicate these forcefully, do not seem to have diminished. Unsurprisingly, he relishes the idea of writing a number of new Prefaces.

Shaw's own Prefaces for his published plays were a deliberate attempt to extend the drama from the stage (where it had the status of a scarce commodity performed for short runs before select audiences) to the page – encouraging readers to approach plays as significant literature rather than ephemeral performance scripts. (Shaw's detailed and often witty stage directions are also, of course, intended more for the reader than the performer.) The Prefaces, in some cases more than twice the length of the actual play text, allowed Shaw to expound his views on war and politics (*Heartbreak House*) or on children's rights and education (*Misalliance*), to analyse Darwinism and "creative evolution" (*Back to Methuselah*) or to make a virulent attack on the medical profession (*The Doctor's Dilemma*).

You are invited therefore to write a new Preface for any Shaw play, whether or not it had one originally. Examples might include *Major Barbara* (the arms race and international terrorism), *John Bull's Other Island* (the Irish question) or *Caesar and Cleopatra* (leadership and political expediency). Other topics which might have exercised a 21st century Shaw include the credit crunch and bankers' bonuses, the Arab Spring, the scandal of MPs' expenses, the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the privatisation of public services. (This list is not of course exhaustive.) If you are unfamiliar with Shaw's Prefaces, perhaps read what he wrote as an introduction to *Major Barbara* or *The Doctor's Dilemma* as an example of both content and literary style. The judges will be looking particularly for entries which reflect both the literary style and the "wit and wisdom" of Shaw.

Entries for the award should be a new Preface for a named play by Shaw, of between 1500 and 3000 words in length. Since the judges will not be told the names of entrants, please include your name only on a separate title page or covering email. The closing date is 31 July 2012 and the winner will be notified by 31 October 2012.

Terms and conditions of the Shaw Society / T F Evans award, 2012

1. The Shaw Society / T F Evans award is open to all ages, professions and nationalities.
 2. The full specification for entries is as published on the Society's website: www.shawsociety.org.uk.
 3. Entrants may submit one entry only, of between 1500 and 3000 words in length.
 4. Entries must be submitted via email to: tfevansaward@shawsociety.org.uk. Please include your email address in the file if submitting as an attachment, or in the email itself. (Alternatively, entries will be accepted as hard copies, but three non-returnable copies must be supplied. Address for posting: Shaw Society / T F Evans award, c/o 22 Selborne Road, London, N22 7TL.)
 5. The closing date for entries is 31 July 2012. Entries will not be accepted after that date.
 6. The Shaw Society cannot accept responsibility for entries which are not received or which are received after the closing date due to technical failure or for any other reason.
 7. The winner of the award will be notified by 31 October 2012 and the result published on the Society's website.
 8. The decision of the award judges will be final and no correspondence will be entered into.
 9. The judges reserve the right not to make an award if no entry is considered to be of sufficient quality.
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