



**GEORGE BERNARD SHAW**

George Bernard Shaw (**1856–1950**) was a renowned Irish playwright, critic, and polemicist, best known for his sharp wit, brilliant dialogue, and strong social commentary. Born on **July 26, 1856**, in Dublin, Ireland, Shaw was largely self-educated through extensive reading at the National Gallery of Ireland and local libraries. He moved to London in 1876, where he began his writing career as a critic and novelist before turning to drama.

Shaw gained fame for his plays, which often challenged social norms and addressed issues like class inequality, education, and women's rights. His plays stood out for their clever dialogue, satire, and criticism of societal norms. Shaw used the stage not just for entertainment but as a platform for change. Among Shaw's many plays are *Arms and the Man* (1894), *Candida* (1897), *Caesar and Cleopatra* (1901), *Man and Superman* (1905), *Major Barbara* (1905), *Pygmalion* (1913), and *Saint Joan* (1923). Shaw also published many essays, including "The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism" (1928).

Shaw's writing was bold and unafraid to challenge authority, social conventions, and hypocrisy. His characters were often intelligent, unconventional, and morally complex.

A committed socialist, Shaw was one of the founding members of the **Fabian Society**, which aimed to promote social justice through gradual reforms. His works reflect his belief in reason, critical thinking, and social progress.

Shaw is one of only two people to have won both an Academy Award and a Nobel Prize for Literature. In 1925, Shaw was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature for his contributions to literature. He accepted the honour but declined the monetary award. Shaw won his Oscar in 1939 for his role in adapting his own play *Pygmalion* for the screen. *Pygmalion* would go on to be remade as the wildly successful musical and film *My Fair Lady*.

Shaw remained active in writing and public life well into his 90s. He lived a simple and disciplined life, often speaking out on political and social issues. He died on November 2, 1950, at the age of 94, at his home in Ayot St Lawrence, England.

Today, George Bernard Shaw is remembered as one of the most important dramatists in the English language, second only to William Shakespeare in influence and legacy. His work continues to be studied, performed, and admired for its wit, depth, and unflinching look at the human condition.