



A PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE THEATRE TOUR
“*The Shaw and Stratford Festivals*”

Escorted by

Christopher Rawson, Drama Critic

July 7 – 11, 2009



Departing Tuesday morning by private motorcoach, we make a brief stop en route for a stretch/snack, then for an independent lunch. Upon arrival in historic Niagara-on-the-Lake, we will check in at our accommodations, take time to refresh and then dine together at the hotel before heading to our first evening performance. “*Sunday in the Park with George*,” is a compelling story about love, art and inspiration, set against the impressionist masterpiece *A Sunday Afternoon on the Island of La Grande Jatte*. Then a hundred years later another artist, the painter’s great-grandson, learns from the ghosts of the past. Wednesday afternoon our matinee is “*The Devil’s Disciple*,” a comedy, an adventure and a love story. It’s the height of the American Revolution and Dick Dudgeon, the black sheep son, is mistaken for a crusading minister and imprisoned by English forces. The question becomes, who is really the saint and who is the sinner? Wednesday evening finds us at a performance of Shaw’s “*In Good King Charles’ Golden Days*.” A philosopher, a religious leader, an artist, an actress and a King meet at Sir Isaac Newton’s house. The set-up for a joke? No, it’s Shaw’s Restoration comedy, where everyone from George Fox, the founder of the Quakers, to Sir Godfrey Kneller the painter and, of course, King Charles II appear and debate everything – from geometry to art to love potions. On Thursday morning we depart from Niagara-on-the-Lake heading for Stratford, and our hotel for the next two nights. Today’s *Optional Matinee* is “*A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*.” In ancient Rome, the slave Pseudolus yearns for freedom, while his young master pines for the girl next door. In exchange for his freedom, Pseudolus promises to find a way to unite the young lovers. But even in musical comedy, the course of true love never does run smooth. For Thursday evening, tickets have been secured for “*Julius Caesar*.” The most popular general in Rome is assassinated, leaving two men – the honorable Brutus and the ambitious Cassius – to divide the spoils. But they’ve reckoned without Mark Antony, Caesar’s devoted follower and determined successor, and soon the republic all have sought to preserve is brought to the brink of anarchy. On Friday morning, we gather for our annual **Midday Picnic on the Green** just prior to today’s matinee. Afterwards, we meet up with “*Cyrano de Bergerac*.” Despite his swashbuckling heroism and rapier wit, Cyrano thinks himself unworthy – because of his enormous nose – to be loved by the beautiful Roxane. Instead, he uses his gift for language to woo her for his comrade-in-arms, Christian. But when tragedy strikes, will Cyrano take his secret to the grave? Later, this evening’s finale is Oscar Wilde’s great comedy, “*The Importance of Being Earnest*.” Dashing men-about-town John Worthing and Algernon Moncrieff pursue fair ladies Gwendolen Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. Matters are complicated by the imaginary characters invented by both men to cover their on-the-sly activities – not to mention the disapproval of Gwendolen’s mother, the formidable Lady Bracknell. (played by none other than actor Brian Bedford!). In addition to the wonderful productions that are included in this tour, you’ll still have leisure time to experience the lovely byways of the charming town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, as well as the city of Stratford in its beautiful setting.

Your Pittsburgh Post-Gazette “*Shaw and Stratford Festivals Tour*” 2009, includes:

- Round-trip Motorcoach Transportation from Oakland, Pittsburgh, and North Hills.
- Two Nights Accommodations at the Prince of Wales Hotel, Niagara-on-the-Lake.
- Two Nights Accommodations at the Arden Park Hotel, Stratford.
- A Welcome Dinner gathering.
- Pre-matinee Picnic Lunch in Stratford.
- An after-theatre get-together over libation with Dr. Rawson to discuss the plays.
- Three theatre tickets (preferred seating) at the Shaw Festival.
- Three theatre tickets (preferred seating) at the Stratford Festival.
- Current taxes and gratuities on included items.*
- Portage of one bag per person throughout tour.
- *Optional Offerings:* More theatre and interesting tours!

THE COST OF THIS TOUR IS \$1,198.00 PER PERSON, BASED ON TWO PERSONS SHARING A DOUBLE OR TWIN ROOM. THE SINGLE SUPPLEMENT IS \$379.00. Items included in the tour price are only those items as listed above under “Your Pittsburgh Post-Gazette ‘*Shaw and Stratford Festivals Tour*’ includes.” *Government and related taxes are subject to increase to passenger. A final gratuity to your motorcoach driver is not included in the tour price. Items and services of a personal nature (such as laundry/dry cleaning services, telephone charges, spa services, insurances, etc.) are not included in the tour price. The order of events may be changed or substituted by the tour operators, as is necessary. **CANCELLATION POLICY:** Passengers whose cancellations are received in writing through April 9, 2009, will receive a full refund. Passengers whose cancellations are received in writing from April 10, through April 30, 2009, are charged a cancellation fee of \$500 per person. Passengers whose cancellations are received in writing from May 1, through June 4, 2009, are charged a cancellation fee of \$1,000 per person. Passengers whose cancellations are received in writing from June 5, 2009, through departure date and beyond receive *no refund*. No shows receive no refunds: 100% cancellation penalty will be levied. All cancellations must be in writing to Gulliver's Travels, Inc., 460 South Graham Street, Pittsburgh PA 15232-1210. **Suppliers will levy cancellation charges, regardless of reason for cancellation. Travel/Cancellation Insurance is offered for purchase by the tour producers as a convenience, however, it is**

strongly recommended that you seek out and carefully evaluate other policies independently to be sure that the coverage you choose suits your purpose. Selection/purchase of any Travel/Cancellation Insurance is each traveler's own responsibility.

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The cost of this tour is based on a minimum of 36 participants, and upon exchange rates in effect at time of printing. Liability, in case of cancellation by tour operator, is limited to the complete refund of tour cost paid by traveler. Travel/Cancellation Insurance in case of passenger cancellation is for independent advance purchase, and premiums are not refundable.

To request a confirmation, please complete the RESERVATION REQUEST FORM below and MAIL ORIGINAL with your deposit check, made payable to:

**GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, INC.
460 South Graham Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15232-1210
412-441-3131 Outside PA 800-848-4084**

RESERVATION REQUEST FORM

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Yes! I/We would love to travel to “The Shaw and Stratford Festivals,” July 7 - 11, 2009, with CHRIS RAWSON.

Enclosed with this completed form is my/our deposit check of \$500.00/person X ____ persons(s) = \$____.00 TTL.

NAME (as on I.D.) _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
ROOMMATE NAME (as on I.D.) _____
ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE (Day) _____ (Evening) _____
ACCOMMODATIONS REQUESTS: TWO BEDS _____ ONE BED _____ NON-SMOKING _____ SMOKING _____
NO ROOMMATE, BUT I WILL REQUIRE SINGLE ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE HOTEL SUPPLEMENT OF \$379.00
PLEASE SEND INFORMATION ON TRAVEL/CANCELLATION INSURANCE: YES _____ NO _____

By making a reservation for this “Shaw and Stratford Festivals” 2009 theatre tour, I/we affirm with my/our signature below that I/we have read, understand and agree to the “Terms and Conditions” of this tour program:

X

X