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PRESS RELEASE

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G. B. SHAW'S DON JUAN IN HELL AT THE REP

The Ferndale Repertory Theatre presents, for one afternoon only, a reading of George Bernard Shaw's, *Don Juan in Hell*, on Sunday, June 8, at 2:00 P.M. This legendary dream sequence is taken from Shaw's acclaimed *Man and Superman*, and follows a philosophical debate between the Devil and the notorious Don Juan about the benefits of Hell over its "dull" alternative. This evening at the theatre will also showcase Tracy Dittes' Photography in the Art from the Hart gallery, with a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception following a question and answer period with the actors.

Once the Broadway theatre exulted in the sound of words. Ideas danced. A play by George Bernard Shaw was a glittering occasion. Even a section of a play by Shaw in which four actors appeared, ostensibly reading, behind music stands in evening clothes, was a smash. With this production we strive to capture that same glamour and sophistication of the theatre of bygone days.

Converging in Hell Shavian style, the characters talk of its pleasures. Unlike Heaven, which the statue-commander describes as "the most angelically dull place in all creation", "...hell is not an inferno." "The strain of living in Heaven is intolerable," the Devil says. "There is a notion that I was turned out of it; but as a matter of fact nothing could have induced me to stay there. I simply left it and organized this place." Such issues as love, beauty, war, marriage, sexuality, religion, economics, evolution, social conditions' are dealt with. The Devil says it's mere talk -- talk -- but talk that's relevant to life, to the world as it is. We may be brought up with a television sensibility, but the arguments in this text are brilliant and provocative.

Director James Lawer has assembled four well-known and talented actors for the reading: Arnold Waddell as Don Juan, Michele Shoshani as Dona Aña, Jere Bob Bowden as the Devil, and Jim Berry as The Statue.

Both senior busses will be at their normal locations on the 8th for pick up and return. Ticket prices are \$10 general and \$8 student/senior. Join us for a special and elegant afternoon at the theatre. For tickets and information, please call our box office at (707) 786-5483 X 201.