



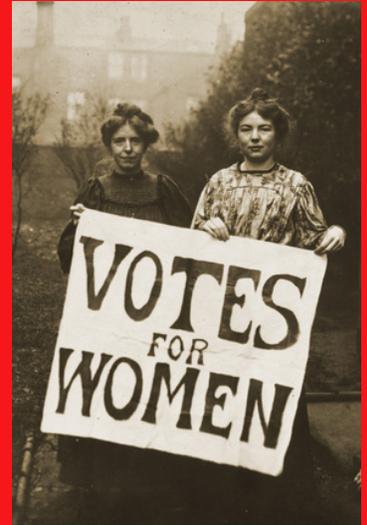
SHAW60 FESTIVAL

*click the underlined text for links!

The Story

Approaching her 30th birthday in early 20th Century England, the clever and poor Georgiana Vicary is waiting for the handsome but shy Adam Lankester to propose to her. Her friends expect her to get married, her adoptive parents expect it and more importantly, she expects it of herself
- but will her conscience allow it?

*From a time when marriage was a socio-economic
- rather than just a romantic - decision,
Just to Get Married asks how we can have a marriage of equals
when the genders are unequal.*



WOMEN'S SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL UNION

The Playwright

Cicely Mary Hamilton (1872-1952) was an English actor, writer, journalist, feminist, and part of the struggle for women's suffrage in the United Kingdom.

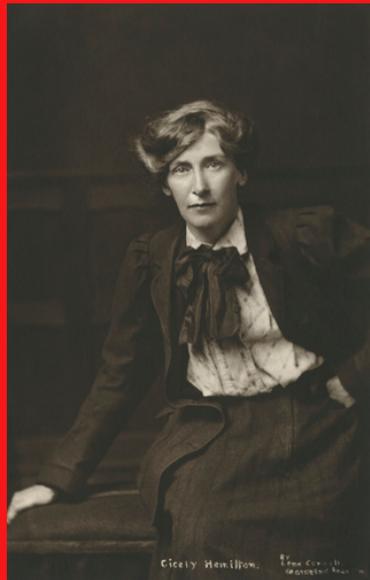
She is now best known for the feminist play How the Vote was Won, which sees a male anti-suffragist change his mind when the women in his life go on strike.

An activist and contemporary of George Bernard Shaw, Cicely Hamilton penned the lyrics for the suffragette anthem and dozens of popular plays.

She was an active member of the feminist Six Point Group, campaigning for the rights of children, widows and unmarried mothers; equal guardianship of children, and equal pay in teaching and civil service.

*"It takes a confirmed spinster to be
as sentimental as you are.*

*What's to happen to me if I don't marry
- what's to be the end of me?"*



CICELY HAMILTON

The World of the Play

The Edwardian era of British history spanned the reign of King Edward VII, 1901 to 1910, and is sometimes expanded to the start of the First World War.

Edward VII, was the leader of a fashionable elite that set a style influenced by the art and fashions of continental Europe.

Increased literacy in the middle class gave women wider access to information and ideas. The inventions of the typewriter, telephone, and new filing systems offered middle-class women increased employment opportunities. Along with the expansion of the school system, and the emergence of the profession of nursing.



KING EDWARD VII

Women's Suffrage

A suffragette was a member of an activist women's organisation in the early 20th century who, under the banner "Votes for Women", fought for the right to vote in public elections. The term refers to members of the British Women's Social and Political Union, a women-only movement founded in 1903, which engaged in direct action and civil disobedience.



(above) The WSPU in Kingsway 1911



(above) a WSPU meeting 1908.



VOTES FOR WOMEN



Women's Social and Political Union Flag
 "Purple...stands for the royal blood that flows in the veins of every suffragette...white stands for purity in private and public life...green is the colour of hope and the emblem of spring".
 - Emmeline Pethick Lawrence

"The March of the Women" is a song composed by Ethel Smyth in 1910, to words by Cicely Hamilton. It became the official anthem of the WSPU.



It's still happening to modern women...

"Cut to 29, and I'm like, 'Oh my God, I feel so stressed and anxious. And I realize it's because there is suddenly this bloody influx of subliminal messaging around. If you have not built a home, if you do not have a husband, if you do not have a baby, and you are turning 30, and you're not in some incredibly secure, stable place in your career, or you're still figuring things out... There's just this incredible amount of anxiety."

Emma Watson "On Turning 29"

Our Production



Costumes Designed by Ming Wong

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