

**RTÉ WRITTEN
ARCHIVES
RADIO TALK SCRIPTS**

P260/902

3819

8/8/52

white

m C

WHITE:

One hundred years ago on July 26th, 1856 a boy was born at 3, Upper Synge Street, Dublin. His father was a failed gentleman, an unsuccessful corn merchant, a wit and a drunkard. His mother was a talented singer and a lady. When she discovered her husband's weakness, she withdrew almost entirely into music; finally, under the influence of a music teacher, Valdeleur Lee, she left her husband and went to London. And there, in 1876, when he was 20 years of age, George Bernard Shaw joined her. "I had to go to London", he wrote later, "just as my father had to go to the Corn Exchange. London was the literary centre for the English language, and for such artistic culture as the realm of the English language (in which I proposed to be king) could afford". By the time he died, nearly 70 years later, George Bernard Shaw had become king, indeed; one of the finest prose writers in English, and among its playwrights second in international reputation only to Shakespeare.

This year we celebrate the centenary of his birth - only a few years after his death - how does his reputation stand in his native country? Is he still one of the truly great - as artist and revolutionary, as philosopher and comedian, as socialist and prophet and entertainer? Or have we already passed him by? Here are some Irishmen and women to say what they think. First Denis Johnston, himself a distinguished playwright.

JOHNSTON: Track 1 in full(public trustee....dramatist). 2.45

WHITE:

Shaw himself probably thought that his most important work was ~~.....Dorothy Macardle.~~

44.40

17.40

27

16

11

show 2

.....Dorothy Macardle

MACARDLE: First track in full ^{(I.4) 4.10} ~~3.45~~ .. "Geneva, with its ignoble clos

WHITE : { Cathal O'Shannon.....Shaw the politician.

O'SHANNON: Tape II Cut 3. (extracts)

WHITE: What of his philosophy? Well, was he a philosopher at all, in any sense? Arland Ussher?

USSHER : Track 1 in full ^(II.2.A) 3.40 ".in heads of ordinary men"

WHITE: Shaw himselfeducated through music

OLDEN.

Tape I - Cut 6

...amusing and worth reading.

CUT IN AT ONCE ^(I.2) JOHNSTON II: "I never could take his attitude to women. all I got was a laugh" (1 mn)

WHITE: I'm not surprised. But here is what one of our own actresses thinks--Siobhan McKenna, who has become famous for her performance of Shaw's St. Joan.

McKENNA: II.1. (extracts)

WHITE: So this brings us back to the aspect of Shaw which, after all,but with Shaw the writer.

DONOGHUE: ^{4.30} II.4 Full track to "I think that 'central....very good drama"

LENNOX 2 mns. (III.2)

WHITE: ...retained an interest in Ireland--or did he?

JOHNSTON: 1 mn--"More anti English than pro-Irish". ^(I.3)

MACARDLE. 1 mn "I should be seen thro in a week" ^(I.5)

USSHER: II.2.B.

Fallon

Robinson III.3.
FALLON

UCD Archives
Copy Supplied for
Research or Private Study Only