



THE
IMPORTANCE
OF BEING
EARNEST



Written by
OSCAR WILDE

Directed by GREGORY BROWN

MAY 1—10, 2026



351 Railroad Ave., Pittsburg

The Importance of Being Earnest is produced through special arrangement with Concord Theatricals.



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THE
IMPORTANCE
OF BEING
EARNEST

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

by

OSCAR WILDE

Directed by
GREGORY BROWN

Assisted by
ZOE LEWIS

SPECIAL THANKS

The production team would like to extend a special thanks to the following for their help in bringing this production to the stage:

The City of Pittsburg
Anthony Lane and the California Theatre
Community Presbyterian Church, Onstage Repertory Theatre
Diane McRice, Stephen Thompson, Miresa Wilson

DIRECTOR'S NOTES



I have loved *The Importance of Being Earnest* since I was a teenager, have appeared in it once (as Jack), and have long wanted to direct it. Every so often it experiences a re-birth in interest around the world, which seems to be happening at present. I am confident in saying no current production could have given any director as wonderful and committed a cast as I have been able to assemble here. It has been a true joy to work with so many talented, and, above all, funny actors. Acting Wilde is a giddy delight, but it is also just damn difficult to do. The number of words an actor has to traverse in any singular sentence (sometimes while eating) and saying it all with an absolutely specific delivery in order to get the laugh, is as exhausting as it is exhilarating. That's true of most every play, of course, but doubly so for Wilde.

A special thanks to Michael Wilson who lets me have my, sometimes very demanding, way whenever designing a set for me, always to stunning results. And I must thank my right-hand woman, Zoe Lewis, who is wise beyond her years and invaluable to someone who is sometimes beyond his wise years. She did most of the heavy lifting here so I could sit back and enjoy myself, and I am certainly grateful for that.

Thank you so much for your support of community theatre, and please enjoy the show.

Regards,
Gregory Brown



About the Director...

Gregory Brown (Director) has acted in numerous local shows, but considers Pittsburg Theatre Company his true theatre home. Recent directing credits include *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*, *Clybourne Park* and *The Real Inspector Hound* for PTC (the latter winning a BroadwaySF award for Best Direction) along with *Love and Information* and *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* for Los Medanos College, where he also teaches English and Drama courses. Gregory has been a member of PTC since its inception and he is proud to honor the legacy of its founder, his mother, Betty Brown. He currently serves on the PTC Board as the Historian and Dramaturg.

SCENES

~ TIME: 1895 ~

ACT 1

**Algernon Moncrieff's Flat in
Half Moon Street, W. London**

*There will be a fifteen-minute intermission
between Act I and II.*

ACT II

**The Garden at Jack Worthing's country estate,
the Manor House, Woolton.**

ACT III

Drawing Room at the Manor House, Woolton.

*Please silence your phones.
No photography or videography of any kind.*

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CAST

CAST (in order of appearance)

LANE	Aqeel Andreas Torres-Sabir
ALGERNON MONCRIEFF	Jin Poon
JOHN (JACK) WORTHING	.....	Carter Chastain
LADY BRACKNELL	.....	Michele Delattre
GWENDOLEN FAIRFAX	.....	Brittany Young
CECILY CARDEW	.....	Alyssa Poncé
MISS PRISM	.....	Deborah Huaco
CANON CHASUBLE	.....	Kevin Burns
MERRIMAN	.....	Gabriel McKenzie

PRODUCTION TEAM

PRODUCER	.....	Michael Wilson
DIRECTOR	.....	Gregory Brown
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/ STAGE MANAGER	.....	Zoe Lewis
COSTUMES	.....	Jana McDowell
SET DESIGN	.....	Michael Wilson
SET PAINTING	.....	Cast and Crew
SET CONTRUCTION	.....	Dianna Schepers, Bruce Brandt, Sean Gendreau, Alex Schepers, Mick Bryant, Roxy Fletcher, Maya Duran, Gregory Brown, Michael Wilson
PROPERTIES	.....	Teddie Gilbert, Teresa Wilson
DECK CHIEF	.....	Maya Duran
CREW	.....	Maria Coniglio, Anthony Elrod, Rachel McElroy
LIGHT DESIGN	.....	Aaron Yi
SOUND CONSULTANT	.....	Ron Keeler
SOUND DESIGN/ OPERATOR	.....	Ron Tonn
SHOW GRAPHIC DESIGN	.....	Sara and Phillip Leylva
GRAPHICS/PROGRAMS/ PRE-SHOW	Dianna Schepers
VIDEOGRAPHY	Mel Nash
PHOTOGRAPHY	Sara Leyva



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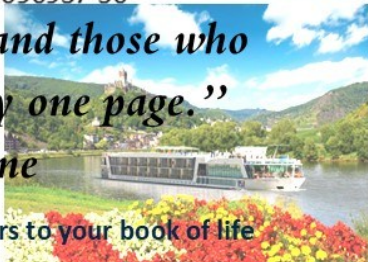
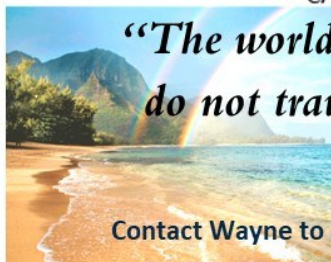
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do not travel read only one page.”***

St. Augustine

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SUMMER THEATRE PROGRAM



PROGRAM DATES

June 15 - July 12, 2026

PERFORMANCES

July 10 @ 7:30 pm
July 11 & 12 @ 2:00 pm

MEETING TIMES

Monday thru Friday
8:30 am – 12:30 pm

LOCATION

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351 Railroad Ave., Pittsburg

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WHY BUNBURY?

The Importance of Being Earnest opened on Valentine's Day, 1895 in London, and was an immediate hit. It seemed perched to send its author, already famous and admired, into new reaches of stratospheric success. Two months later, Oscar Wilde was arrested and tried for "gross indecency" in a trial nearly as well-attended by the public as any of his plays had been. Wilde languished in Reading Gaol for two years, often subjected to hard labor, for the unforgivable offense of loving another man. After his release, widely despised and with a literary career in shambles, he fled to Paris where he died essentially penniless. His reputation would not be restored for decades to come. He was officially pardoned of his "crime" by the British government 117 years after his death, in 2017.

Writing about a homosexual love affair would have been impossible in Wilde's time, of course, as his subsequent fate makes clear. There is, however, an unmistakable theme of leading a double life that runs throughout the play. Wilde, married with two sons, was leading exactly that sort of life, and the experience of such a juggling act finds expression in the creation of the imaginary character of Bunbury, whom Algy invents to make excuses for what might be seen as questionable behavior in Victorian England. The very act of fabricating such a cover becomes the noun Bunburying; a practice all gay men and women were likely forced to adopt to one degree or another at the time.

Written by Gregory Brown

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& First Congregational Church of Antioch*

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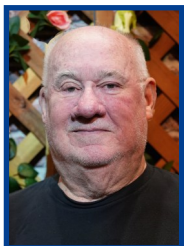
WIT AND WISDOM OF OSCAR WILDE



The number of clever and profound things Wilde has said or written over the course of his life seems endless: below, some of my favorites.

- ◆ No man is rich enough to buy back his past.
- ◆ The public have an insatiable curiosity to know everything, except what is worth knowing.
- ◆ Life is never fair...And perhaps it is a good thing for most of us that it is not.
- ◆ There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.
- ◆ We are all in the gutter, but some of us are looking at the stars.
- ◆ Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught.
- ◆ The books that the world calls immoral are the books that show the world its own shame.
- ◆ There is no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written, or badly written. That is all.
- ◆ All art is quite useless.
- ◆ A cynic is a man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.
- ◆ A man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies.
- ◆ I am not young enough to know everything.
- ◆ Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go.
- ◆ I can resist anything except temptation.

WHO'S WHO



KEVIN BURNS (CANON CHASUBLE) has been a member of Pittsburg Theater Company for over 32 years. Recent favorite productions include *Spamalot*, *The Sunshine Boys*, *Annie*, and *Sister Act*. Kevin is a 10-time Shellie Award nominee and a 3-time Shellie Award winner. He likes to cook new recipes, watch old movies, and take an afternoon nap now and then. Kevin and his wife Janet live in Antioch, where they occasionally are entertained by their two very energetic grandsons.



CARTER CHASTAIN (JOHN "JACK" WORTHING) is thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with such an incredible and supportive cast and crew. In his previous roles, he has been anything his three little audience members at home need. He would like to dedicate this performance to his parents, as he indeed should, and very much shall, but also to Ivy, Jasper, and Caspian.



MICHELE DELATTRE (LADY BRACKNELL) is a founder of Curtain Theatre in Mill Valley -- producing, acting, directing, playing music, and hauling chairs for outdoor Shakespeare in Old Mill Park Amphitheater since 2000. Indoors, she is on the Envision Committee at Masquers Playhouse producing second stage projects. As an actress she has appeared at many local community theatres and Shakespeare festivals in Maine, Minnesota and California. She is very excited to be joining the great team at PTC as Lady Bracknell, one of her all-time favorite characters.

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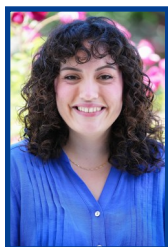
DEBORAH HUACO (MISS PRISM) is thrilled to return to PTC as Miss Prism in this brilliant and witty play after a long hiatus. Her first role with PTC was Margaret Houlihan in *MASH*. Another favorite was Ruth Condomine in *Blithe Spirit*. She wishes you much laughter and enjoyment.



GABRIEL MCKENZIE (MERRIMAN) is very excited to join PTC for the first time and is very grateful to be chosen for the role of Merriman. *Earnest* is one of his favorite comedies. He has performed in *The Book Club Play*, *A Midsummer Nights Dream*, *Into the Woods*, and more. Gabriel has been acting for 6+ years and hopes to pursue it as a career. Special thanks to his family for supporting him, as well as this lovely cast and hardworking crew.



JIN POON (ALGERNON MONCRIEFF) is honored to join PTC in this production, and is ecstatic to take on the irreverent fun that is Algy. His previous stage credit is with Onstage Repertory Theatre's production of *Boeing, Boeing* as Robert last fall. Above all, he is deeply grateful for the support of his family, friends, and colleagues.



ALYSSA PONCÉ (CECILY CARDEW) is thrilled to be playing Cecily Cardew, a role she has long dreamed of bringing to life. She previously worked as both actor and director with the UC Santa Cruz Theater Department and is excited to return to the stage after several years away. Acting has always been her passion, and she is honored to be a part of PTC's production.

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1939



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AQEEL ANDREAS TORRES-SABIR (LANE) is a 24 year old theater arts graduate. Having acted in prior shows, he is excited to be on stage for his first production with PTC. Born and raised in the Bay Area, and performing since his earlier years, he looks to share his art and culture aiming to make an impact on the world around him in a positive way. Seeing each story, no matter the size, is just as important as the one he told before. Aqeel gives thanks not only to his

support team, but also to every cast and crew member he was able to work with.

BRITTANY YOUNG (GWENDOLEN FAIRFAX) is an actor and writer. She



is originally from Chicago and is now based in the Bay Area. Brittany has trained in screenwriting at Second City (Chicago) and in acting at z/a Studios (San Francisco), grounding her work in both strong narrative craft and a versatile performance technique. Her stage credits include *Loose Knit* with Masquers Playhouse, *From One to Another* with African-American Shakespeare Company, *The Bloodless Jungle* with The Black Repertory Group and *3rd and*

Palou for The Bayview Opera House. In addition to her work as a performer, Brittany serves as the musical theater choreographer for the Salesian Boys and Girls Club, where she brings movement and storytelling to young performers.

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