



presents

Oscar Wilde's

# The Importance of Being Earnest



Programme £1



*Bringing drama to Huntingdon since 1944*

Affiliated to the National Operatic and Dramatic Association

# **The Importance of Being Earnest**

by **Oscar Wilde**

directed by Sarah Ward

assisted by Ronald Stevenson

and produced by John Morgan

This play is performed under licence and with the express permission of Samuel French Ltd.

There will be a 20-minute interval,  
when refreshments will be on sale in the foyer

**Thursday to Saturday, 25 – 27 March 2010 at 7.30 pm**

# The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde's last play has proved a popular and thoroughly enjoyable evening out ever since its premiere in 1895. This is partly due to its many memorable lines, including:

*'To lose one parent, Mr Worthing, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness.'*

*'I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train.'*

*'The good ended happily, and the bad unhappily. That is what Fiction means.'*

And of course, Lady Bracknell's immortal

*'A handbag?'*

It's tough on anyone, professional or amateur, to have to say those last two words, as so many of us remember Dame Edith Evans drawing them out to a seemingly impossible length and vocal range, in the 1952 film of the play. So good luck to Steph Hamer!

It's a challenging play for any director, and I'm sure you'll find Sarah Ward has done an excellent job. This is the first time she's turned her talents to directing, and she's had invaluable support from Ronald Stevenson and John Morgan. Once again, John has been trouble-shooter extraordinaire as producer, making sure that everything that has to be done to get a production on stage is done.

And we have an exciting cast, many of whom are acting with Huntingdon Drama Club for the first time. We hope they'll stay with us, and will help to put on our future productions.

That's all from me, now please prepare for a wonderful evening!

*Michael Block*

Chair, Huntingdon Drama Club

# The Cast

*In order of appearance*

Algernon Moncrieff ..... Michael Bohajczuk-Coles  
Lane, *Algernon's manservant* ..... Warren Laccohee  
John Worthing ..... Neal Dench  
Lady Bracknell, *Algernon's aunt* ..... Steph Hamer  
Gwendolen Fairfax, *Lady Bracknell's daughter* ..... Caroline Harbord  
Cecily Cardew, *John's ward* ..... Charlotte Pergande  
Miss Prism, *Cecily's governess* ..... Lindsay Kennedy  
Rev. Canon Chasuble ..... Mark Hebert  
Merriman, *John's butler* ..... Roy Bellass

Act 1: Algernon Moncrieff's flat in London

*Interval (20 minutes)*

Act 2: The garden at the Manor House, Woolton, Herts

Act 3: Drawing-room at the Manor House, Woolton, Herts

Huntingdon Drama Club produced the play in 1996, with this cast:

Algernon Moncrieff .....	Roger Wentworth
Lane .....	William Wilson
John Worthing .....	David Crosby
Lady Bracknell .....	Rosemary Austen
Gwendolen Fairfax .....	Shannon Milsom
Cecily Cardew .....	Judith Brightman
Miss Prism .....	Lynda Savory
Rev. Canon Chasuble .....	Phil Collins
Merriman .....	Dominic Whitehead

Directed and produced by Eric Usher

# The Production Team

Director .....	Sarah Ward
Assistant director .....	Ronald Stevenson
Producer.....	John Morgan
Stage Manager.....	Peter Welsh
Set design .....	Mel Panesar
Sound.....	Mel Pugsley
Lighting.....	Mel Pugsley
Costumes .....	Ann Monk, Carol Wadey
Hair .....	Kelly Mason
Make-up .....	Carol Wadey
Properties.....	Richard Meredith
Prompter .....	Scott Hutchison
Front of House.....	Tony Burrin and team
Poster.....	John Morgan
Programme .....	Michael Black
Publicity.....	Caroline Harbord, Kat Sexton
Photography.....	John Morgan
Piano.....	Michael Black

assisted by other Club members

*Many thanks to everyone who has helped us put on this production, especially*

Jenni and Lydia at Huntingdon Town Council, Malcolm and Roy at the Commemoration Hall, The Card Gallery, Spotlight Productions, Huntingdon Youth Theatre, Theatre 48 and SIMADS

*Our apologies to anyone who has helped us since the programme went to print.*

### **Caroline Harbord (Gwendolen Fairfax)**

Caroline's roles include leading parts in *Cold Comfort Farm*, *Ghost Writer* and *Separate Tables* with Huntingdon Drama Club. She has also performed with Shakespeare at the George and Brampton Park Theatre. Caroline is learning to speak Portuguese, ice skate and play the piano, but has never attempted all of them at the same time.



### **Charlotte Pergande (Cecily Cardew)**

Charlotte has played lead roles in several musicals for Spotlight Productions in Huntingdon, and has also worked as a television extra. This is her first straight acting role in five years, and her first production with Huntingdon Drama Club. She's enjoyed having the chance to be on stage again.

### **Lindsay Kennedy (Miss Prism)**

Lindsay is new to Huntingdon Drama Club, but has previously been an avid member of several groups, including Worcester Park Dramatic Society and Hong Kong Music Hall. As well as acting, Lindsay has helped backstage and has run drama clubs in several primary schools.



### **Mark Hebert (Rev. Chasuble)**

Mark performs with a number of local societies, most regularly with Shakespeare at the George (including *Cymbeline* in June) and Wellworth Players in Needingworth. This is his acting debut with Huntingdon Drama Club, although he directed *Cold Comfort Farm* for us in 2008.

### **Michael Bohajczuk-Coles (Algernon Moncrieff)**

Michael recently graduated with a degree in Theatre Arts from Nottingham Trent University, where he played Petruchio in *The Taming of the Shrew*. This is his first time working with Huntingdon Drama Club.



### **Neal Dench (Jack Worthing)**

Neal has been involved in amateur dramatics since he was a teenager, and has been a member of Wellworth Players for a number of years. This is his first production for Huntingdon Drama Club. His next role is in *Cymbeline*, this summer's Shakespeare at the George.

### **Roy Bellass (Merriman)**

Roy has been a musician for many years. He joined Huntingdon Drama Club in 2007 and had parts in *Jane Eyre* and *Cold Comfort Farm*. He has been involved in several Pantomime 89 and Shakespeare at the George productions, and has a musical role in *Cymbeline* this summer.



### **Steph Hamer (Lady Bracknell)**

Steph last appeared with Huntingdon Drama Club in *Separate Tables*. She's directed and acted in numerous plays and musicals. She played Paulina in *The Winter's Tale* at the George, and last week she was the judge in Brampton Park Theatre's *Beyond Reasonable Doubt*.

### **Warren Laccohee (Lane)**

Warren acted in the Club's last two productions, *Absent Friends* last July, and *And then there were none* in November – where he also took the part of a superior kind of manservant. He's also a talented musician, playing regularly at the Samuel Pepys in Huntingdon as half of the duo The Decanters.



### **Sarah Ward (Director)**

Sarah joined the Club in 2008, and has been in *Cold Comfort Farm*, *Hay Fever*, *Separate Tables* and *And then there were none*. *The Importance of being Earnest* is Sarah's debut as director. She has also performed in Shakespeare at the George, and her next role is as Autolycus in *The Winter's Tale* in Saffron Walden.

### **John Morgan (Producer)**

Since he was 15, John has usually been found behind the sound and lighting desk. But having developed a taste for acting, he's appeared on stage several times – most recently in *Separate Tables* and *And then there were none*, both times playing men considerably older than himself. He's also produced several Huntingdon Drama Club plays.





# Our next two productions

## **PORT OUT, STARBOARD HOME!**

*Warning: This cruise may change your life*

a new comedy by former Huntingdon Drama Club member turned professional, Richard James, directed by Michael Black

22 – 24 July 2010, in the Commemoration Hall

## **THE HAPPIEST DAYS OF YOUR LIFE**

a farce by John Dighton, directed by Richard Meredith

11 – 13 November 2010, in the Commemoration Hall

Please contact us if you'd like to take part, on-stage or off.

For further information visit [www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk](http://www.huntingdondramaclub.org.uk), phone Michael Black and John Morgan on 01480-454486, or contact any other Club member.

## **Booking online**

Booking online is very easy: all you need to do is visit the Club's website, click to book tickets, and enter your requirements. Tickets cost the same whether you buy them online, over the phone, from the Card Gallery, or at the door.

The Club is currently paying the commission for using the online service, rather than add it to the price of the ticket, as many organisations do. We hope we can continue to afford to do this, and can keep ticket prices to the current level.

Each production costs us at least £1,500. To cover costs, we need to sell well over 200 tickets.

To help us keep ticket prices down, there's something simple you can do:

***Please spend lots of money on refreshments, the programme and raffle tickets!***

## Past productions – the last 25 years

1985	Filumena Suddenly at Home	1998	An Ideal Husband On the Razzle
1986	Arms and the Man Absent Friends Night Must Fall	1999	Rope Working with Amateurs
1987	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime Laburnum Grove	2000	Bazaar and Rummage One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
1988	Any Number can Die Easy Virtue	2001	Picasso at the Lapin Agile Journey's End
1989	Under Milk Wood Pygmalion	2002	Worlds Apart Mixed Doubles
1990	A Day in the Death of Joe Egg Caught on the Hop	2003	The Real Inspector Hound Wedding of the Year
1991	The School for Scandal Pass the Butler	2004	May-Hem Bobby Dazzler
1992	Lady Windermere's Fan Ghost Train	2005	Fallen Angels From Mafeking to the Millennium
1993	A Chorus of Disapproval Loot	2006	Silhouette Move over Mrs Markham
1994	Tom Jones The Empress of Othernow	2007	Joking apart A murder is announced Jane Eyre
1995	No Sex Please, We're British Out of Sight... Out of Murder	2008	Cold Comfort Farm Hay Fever Ghost Writer
1996	The Importance of Being Earnest Dracula	2009	Separate Tables Absent Friends And then there were none
1997	The Hollow Absurd Person Singular		

**The National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA)** was founded in 1899 and has a membership of approximately 2,500 amateur theatre groups and 3000 individual enthusiasts throughout the UK.

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