

FootLights

ILLUMINATING THE THEATRE  COMMUNITY

Kentwood Players presents

THE
IMPORTANCE
OF

Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

Directed by
Drew Fitzsimmons

Produced by
Jim Crawford and
Alison Mattiza



MAY 7 - JUNE 12, 2010

Fridays & Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$18, \$2 discount for students, seniors and servicemen

Westchester Playhouse, 8301 Hindry Avenue, Westchester, CA 90045

The Importance of Being Earnest

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

by Oscar Wilde

Director

Drew Fitzsimmons

Producers

Jim Crawford and Alison Mattiza

Set Design

Sheldon Metz

Lighting Design

John Beckwith and
Richard Potthoff

Costume Design

Sheridan Cole Crawford

Cast

(in order of appearance)

Lane.....	Will Meister
Algernon Moncrieff	Lorenzo Bastien
John Worthing.....	Joshua Nelson
Lady Bracknell.....	Carmen Lynne
Gwendolen Fairfax.....	Marcy Agreen
Miss Prism	Judy Ewing
Cecily Cardew.....	Jessica Hayes
Moulton.....	Mark Mayes
Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.....	Ron Edwards
Merriman.....	Will Meister
Gribsby.....	Mark Mayes

Act I Scene 1 Algernon's Flat in London

 Scene 2 Garden of Jack's Country House

Act II Scene 1 Study of Jack's Country House

 Scene 2 Same

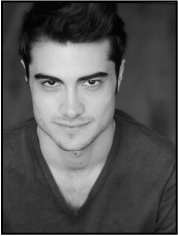
There will be a 15-minute intermission between Acts I and II.

Decaf coffee will be served at the intermission, courtesy of Kentwood Players

About the Cast



Marcy Agreeen (Gwendolen) – Marcy is beyond ecstatic to be returning to Kentwood's stage to take part in this literary masterpiece! She is a recently graduated Theater Major from Temple University in Philadelphia, PA. You may remember her from her turn as a Wife in *Li'l Abner*, as Daphne in *Present Laughter*, or as Ida in the World Premiere of *Little Green Men*. Other favorite roles include Monteen in the L.A. Premiere of *Parade* and Peggy in *Nurse Jane Goes to Hawaii*. She would most especially like to thank Drew for this unbelievable opportunity to play one of her dream roles, and gives thanks and love to Jordan for "opening the door." She would also like to thank all her friends and family for their unending love and support, as well as everyone here tonight for keeping this great art alive and thriving!



Lorenzo Bastien (Algernon) – After a successful run as the infamous Trent Conway in last season's *Six Degrees of Separation*, Lorenzo Bastien is honored to be back and bringing Oscar Wilde's controversial viewpoints on society to life through the equally infamous Algernon Moncrieff! He'd like to thank the cast for being a professional pleasure to work with and anything but business, the crew for their hard work on this beautiful set and Drew Fitzsimmons for allowing him to do his favorite thing in the world...eat! Special thanks to his mentors Mae West, Lady GaGa and Morrissey and even more of a special thanks to his savior the Lord Jesus Christ and of course 'The Children'. Hallelujah!



Ron Edwards (Dr. Chasuble) – Favorite stage roles include Morris Dixson in *Present Laughter*, Jim Bayliss in *All My Sons*, Donald in *The Boys in the Band*, Nick in *What The Butler Saw*, Peter in *The Zoo Story*, Kevin in *Inspecting Carol*, Fagin in *Oliver*, Leonato in *Much Ado about Nothing*, Gayeff in *The Cherry Orchard*, Buck in *Dog Plays*, Jonathan in *Oh Dad, Poor Dad...* and Mark in *The Shadow Box*. Ron is a graduate of Illinois State University.



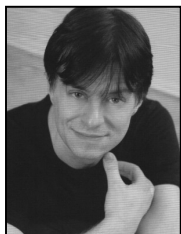
Judy Ewing (Miss Prism) – Judy is delighted to perform for the first time here with Kentwood Players. She was last seen on stage at the Redondo Beach Playhouse as Jeanette in Neil Simon's *Last of the Red Hot Lovers*. Prior to that, she was Gwendolyn in two productions of *The Odd Couple* (Redondo Beach Playhouse and a benefit performed at Fullerton College). She was also Mae in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof* at the Van Guard Theatre. Prior to that, she was Reba in *The Last Night Of Ballyhoo* (PV Playhouse). The list of her performances is indicative of her love for the theatre (it's a very long list) and she has had an absolute wonderful time working on this production of *The Importance Of Being Earnest*. When she's not working her day job, Judy enjoys sewing custom made blankets and playing beach volleyball.



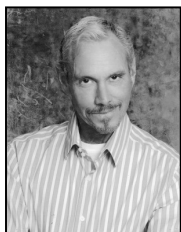
Jessica Hayes (Cecily) – Jessica is a recent graduate from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. This is her first production at the Westchester Playhouse, she is thrilled to be joining the Kentwood Players and Drew Fitzsimmons for their vision of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.



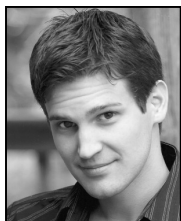
Carmen Lynne (Lady Bracknell) – Carmen is thrilled to be back at Kentwood, having played Liz in *Present Laughter* last year. She also won the Marcom Masque Award in 2003 for her portrayal of Mrs. Johnstone in *Blood Brothers* at KP. Carmen was an actress for 20 years in her native Britain before moving to California in 1997, and she actually played Miss. Prism in a tour of the show in 1986. It has been her dream for many years to play Lady Bracknell, so thanks Drew for making my dream a reality at last! Carmen lives in Redondo Beach with her cat Miranda, and by day (and night) she’s a hypnotherapist.



Mark Mayes (Moulton/Gribsby) – Mark has recently been seen in Los Angeles productions of *She Stoops To Conquer*, *The Zoo Story* and *The Merchant of Venice*. He appeared as Benvolio in Kentwood Players’ *Romeo & Juliet* and as Geoffrey in *6 Degrees of Separation*. Mark studied acting with Nina Foch



Will Meister (Lane/Merriman) – Will started acting as a child, in one of those unbearably boring “educational” films one sat through in Science class. He studied at Northwestern University and worked in various Commercials and Industrials in Chicago. After a long hiatus from acting, in Design and Real Estate, he is thrilled to be working with the Kentwood Players in this production.



Joshua Nelson (Jack) – Joshua is pleased to be making his first appearance for the Kentwood Players. Regional Theater- Pantelone in *Titanic: A Commedia Show*, Jigger in *Carousel*, Orlando in *As You Like It*, Lysander in *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, Rooster in *Annie*. Education- Graduate of Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota for Theater and Dance, studied at conservatory programs in London and Dublin.

About the Director

Drew Fitzsimmons– Drew is proud to make his main stage directorial debut with *The Importance of Being Earnest*, this superb cast of incredibly talented individuals and a wonderful crew headed by his amazing producers and dear friends the incomparable Alison Mattiza and Jim Crawford. Bringing it all together on the Kentwood Stage is an added bonus to Drew as he discovered his love of theatre on this very stage seven incredibly busy years ago and the love of his life a few years later. His prior directing credits include the highly successful Kentwood Kids productions of *Magic Words*, *The Trial of Goldilocks* and he co-directed *Willy Wonka* with the incredibly talented Meredith M. Sweeney who has graciously agreed to marry him. His only other directing credit is a well-received workshop of *Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf*. Outside of directing, Drew has performed in over 76 productions spanning the entire theatrical gamut since November of 2002. He also runs the Kentwood Kids Children’s Acting Program which has, in the last 2 years, grown from 7 to over 70 children circulating through the program as students and/or performers.

About the Producers

Jim Crawford– Jim earnestly works in various capacities on many Kentwood productions. He thanks the many Kentwood people who, with purpose, resolution, and determination, work seriously, thoughtfully and with purpose toward bringing *Earnest* to fruition-a most earnest effort by all!

Alison Mattiza– Alison is thrilled to be involved with this fantastic production with such a talented cast and crew!! Previous production credits with Kentwood Players include *The Cover Of Life*, *Nunsense* and *Father Of The Bride*. On stage, Alison has appeared as the Housewife in *Working*, Donna/Oolie in *City Of Angels*, Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*, Cassie in *A Chorus Line*, Roxie in *Chicago*, Anne in *All My Sons*, Amy in *Company* and Lola in *Damn Yankees*. Alison also enjoys working as a choreographer and has been known to work the light booth on several past KP productions. As always, Alison thanks husband Van and son Jack for their love and support.

Director's Note

Oscar Wilde led an extraordinary life... I will not tell you all about it here; there are a number of well-written books for that. But one must wonder what kind of life one leads that produces one of the greatest comedies, if not plays, ever written. The story has lasted over one hundred years and it still rings hilariously true today. His incredible use of wit and the subtle reversal of the roles of sex can leave an audience member unconsciously wondering which characters they related to for the first few day's following the play but eventually coming to the realization that we are simultaneously all of them and none. Humanity is woven in bold colors all throughout the piece in such a precisely random fashion that it is hidden in itself. It is my deepest desire that this play leaves you, the audience, so wonderfully confused and thoroughly tickled that the normal deconstruction and ever present critical analysis that some patrons are prone to do, are left for the unconscious thought that, I believe, Mr. Wilde intended. Welcome, and Enjoy!



Production Staff

Stage Manager	Bruce & Hollister Starrett	
Script Supervisor	Hilary Fitzsimmons, Julian Kang	
Stage Crew.....	Jim Crawford, Jordan Bland	
Booth Crew.....	Mel Miller, Richard Potthoff	
Sound Design.....	Susan Stangl	
Set Decoration Design.....	John Russell	
Set Decoration Assistance	Michael Nozzi, Scot Renfro	
Original Graphic Design.....	Liz Reinhardt	
Lobby Design	Marcy Agreen	
Master Builder	Shawn K. Summerer	
Costume Assistance.....	Kathy Dershimer, Valerie Ruel, Maria Cohen, Julia Maggs Properties.....	Kaye Porter
Publicity Photos.....	Shari Barrett, Adam Dunberger	
Audition Assistance.....	Jeannie Spain, Max Stormes and Jordan Bland	
Hospitality Coordinator.....	Larry Cosgrove	
Box Office	Cynthia Adent	

Strike Crew and Work Sunday

Marcy Agreen, Michael Allen, Miriam Amster,
Lorenzo Bastien, Carol Becker, Jordan Bland, Scott Briscoe,
Barbara Brophey, Tom Brophey, Geanne Clarke,
Arlene Cohen, Maria Cohen, Michael Cohen, Sheridan Cole,
Fred Cook, Jim Crawford, Adam Dunberger, Ron Edwards,
Judy Ewing, Hal Fisher, Andrew Fitzsimmons,
Daniel Frederick, Marco Antonio Garcia, Jayne Hamil,
Jessica Hayes, Gretchen Luna, Ben Lupejkis, Carmen Lynne,
Julia Maggs, Lori Marple-Pereslete, Scott Martin,
Alison Mattiza, Mark Mayes, Will Meister,
Virginia Mekkelson, Treva Merritt, Melvin Miller,
Calia Mintzer-Wolf, Fred Mintzer-Wolf, Mike Murphy,
Barry Nackos, Joshua Nelson, Frank J. Olivadoti,
Tony Pereslete, Lee Polak, Charlotte Lee Schildkret,
Jeremy Speed Schwartz, Elizabeth Summerer,
Shawn Summerer, Meredith Sweeney, Lynn Warech

Special Thanks

Alice & Jim Lunsford
Cast and Crew of *Li'l Abner*, Crew of *As You Like It*
Meredith M. Sweeney, Calia Mintzer-Wolf
Charlotte Lee Schildkret, Susan Weisbarth
Hilary Fitzsimmons

Kentwood Players' Board of Directors 2009-2010

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During the performance please turn your pagers to silent,
and turn off your cell phones and alarms on your digital watches.
There is no louder sound in a theatre than the rattle of cellophane.
Please unwrap your candy or cough drops before the play begins.

Kentwood Players is a Member of the
LAX COASTAL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

You are invited to meet and greet cast members
after the performance in the Green Room.
Please use the outside stairway at the rear of the theater.

For up to date info about Kentwood Players visit our website
www.kentwoodplayers.org

Kentwood Players Coming Attractions

As You Like It

A Comedy by William Shakespeare

July 9 – August 14, 2010

Director: Karintha Touton

Dracula, a Drama

by Hamilton Deane and John L. Balderston

from Bram Stoker's novel

September 10 – October 16, 2010

Director: Shawn K. Summerer

Annie, a Musical

Book by Thomas Meehan

Music by Charles Strouse

Lyrics by Martin Charnin

Based on the Tribune Media Services Comic Strip,

Little Orphan Annie

November 5 – December 11, 2010

Director: Susan Goldman Weisbarth

A play to be announced

January 14 – February 19, 2011

Special Theatre Parties

A special Theatre Party planned for your organization or group can be a financial success as well as an entertaining evening (or matinee) at the theatre. For further information call:

Jenny Boone (310) 204-1838 or Calia Mintzer-Wolf (310) 837-3609

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From Shakespeare to Simon, from Sondheim to Hammerstein, we have worked diligently, putting in countless volunteer hours, keeping our prices low enough to allow all in our community access to a magical evening or matinee in the theatre.

Now, we need your help. We have some critical improvements that will be beyond what we as a small community theatre can manage. We need a new roof, a new heating and air conditioning system, and most of our facility needs to be updated. For the first time in our history, we are asking our wonderful patrons and dedicated community members to partner with us and become sponsors of our beloved theatre.

There are many ways you can help. Of course, we welcome your contributions no matter how large or small. Together we can keep quality theatre in Westchester at prices that are still affordable for our audiences. Please take a look at our sponsorship opportunities and if we can answer any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

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Donation envelopes can be found in our lobby.

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Spotlight Supporters – \$250-\$499

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-

Donations of any size will receive recognition in our programs along with our heartfelt thanks. Kentwood Players is a registered 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and your contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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