



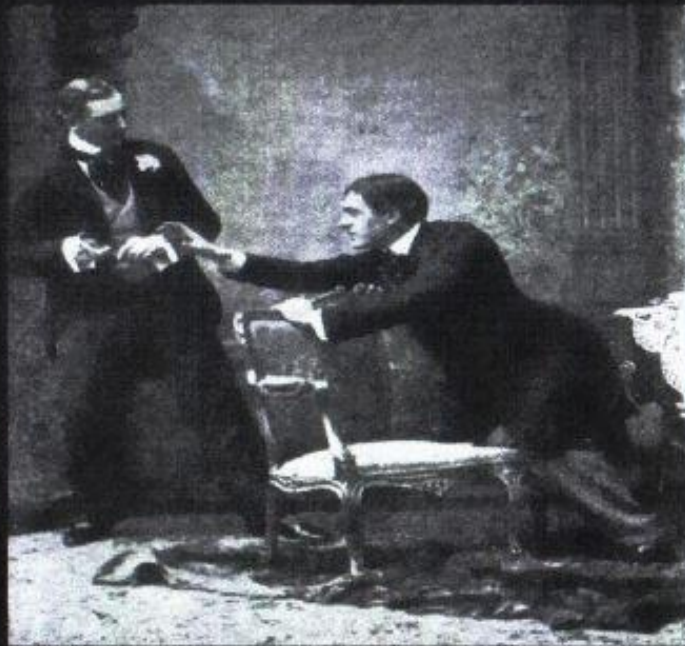
The Worthy Players

The Worthy Players

Amateur Dramatic Society
Presents

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde



Venue: The Jubilee Hall

Date: 27th, 28th & 29th March

Time: 19:30

The Importance of Being Earnest

Directed by Clare Cheung

I feel honored to be allowed to direct *The Importance of Being Earnest* as my first production with the Worthy Players. It is a classic play by a phenomenally witty playwright whose works have stood the test of time without falter.

As a director one often feels great ownership, and dare I say possessiveness over one's productions right up until the dress rehearsal when there is no more a director can do but hope it goes alright on the night. The ability and motivation of the cast and crew for this production have eased that burden from this poor weary director. I found that props, scenery and even cups of tea simply appearing before my eyes before I had even uttered a request. There has been a real group ownership of this piece throughout the rehearsal process and I feel thankful to both those who appear onstage and those members of the Worthy Players who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes, for allowing me to be, what feels like, a very small part of an enormously welcoming and fantastically organized group.

I would like to thank my Husband for tolerating me speaking lines and ideas in my sleep over the past few weeks and I would like to say a very special thank you to Alison and David Woolford for their hard work, support and faith in my sometimes questionable directorial methods.

I am proud to present on behalf of the Worthy Players; "*The Importance of Being Earnest*" by Oscar Wilde.

Act One

The curtain opens on the flat of wealthy Algernon Moncrieff in London's fashionable West End. While Algernon plays the piano, his servant arranges cucumber sandwiches for Lady Bracknell and her daughter Gwendolen. Mr. Jack Worthing announces his plan to propose marriage to Gwendolen. Algernon demands to know why Jack's cigarette case has an inscription from a mysterious lady.

In the country, Ernest is known as Jack Worthing, he uses a fictional brother called Ernest as an excuse to visit town. Similarly, Algernon has invented an imaginary invalid friend, named Bunbury, whom he visits in the country. Jack enlists Algernon's assistance in distracting Lady Bracknell so that Jack may propose to Gwendolen. Jack then faces severe interrogation from Lady Bracknell, Gwendolen's mother.

15 minute Interval

Act Two

At Jack Worthing's country estate Miss Prism is giving her student, Cecily Cardew, a lesson in German grammar. When Cecily expresses an interest in meeting Jack's wicked brother, Ernest. In her younger days, Miss Prism wrote a three-volume novel, and she proclaims that fiction shows how good people end happily and bad people end unhappily.

The local reverend, Dr Chasuble, enters and takes Miss Prism for a turn in the garden. While they are gone, Algernon arrives pretending to be Jack's brother, Ernest, much to the delight of young Cecily! Jack arrives home in mourning, for his brother Ernest is dead. Cecily announces that Jack's brother Ernest is in the dining room. Algernon announces he is in love with Cecily. She tells Algernon that her dream has always been to marry someone named Ernest.

5 minute Interval

Act Three

Program

Gwendolen and Cecily are in the morning room of the Manor House waiting for the men to come in from the garden. The ladies still have a problem with Algernon and Jack's Christian names.

All seems well until the arrival of Lady Bracknell. She desires an explanation, and Gwendolen tells her once again that she is engaged to Jack. Algernon adds that he and Cecily are engaged. Immediately, Jack faces another interrogation from Lady Bracknell about Cecily. Lady Bracknell believes her to have "distinct social possibilities." Unfortunately Cecily does not come into her fortune and lose Jack as a guardian until she is 35 years old. So Jack declares that he will agree to the marriage if Lady Bracknell will consent to his engagement to Gwendolen.

Dr. Chasuble arrives and announces that he is ready for the christenings. Miss Prism is waiting for him in the church. The name Prism shocks Lady Bracknell, and she demands to see the governess. Lady Bracknell reveals that Miss Prism left Lord Bracknell's house 28 years ago with a baby carriage. She disappeared, along with the baby. Through Miss Prism's confession Jack's heritage unravels and he finally realises the importance of being earnest..

Produced by

The Worthy Players

CHAIRMANS RAMBLINGS

It doesn't seem long ago that I was writing about 'King Arthur and the Nuts of the Round Table', now we are putting on Oscar Wilde's 'Importance of being Earnest'. It is really good that we have got some new talent (I use the word advisably!) in this production including our producer Clare Cheung, who was a drama teacher and brings lots of new and interesting ideas to the group.

Being a local group, we have been at the Jubilee Hall for over 30 years; it is very satisfying to attract new members and audiences from the area and especially some younger members but we are always on the lookout for more. We have a very active social calendar as well as the drama side and a wide diversity of members means that all tastes are catered for. Please speak to a member of front of house if you would like to know more about us.

I hope you enjoy this production and I would personally like to thank all those that have spent many hours getting costume, sets, advertising, lights and props ready and also those staffing the shows.

David Woolford

The Cast

Jack Worthing

Ben Cawse



This is the first production Ben has taken part in for the Worthy Players. He has made numerous appearances at the Chesil Theatre. Ben was recently awarded BTEC First Diploma in Performing Arts with a Distinction. He is currently studying Drama at Peter Symonds College in Winchester.

Algernon Moncrief

Ollie Southworth



Ollie thinks he is very sexy and says "if u r between 15-25 tall, blonde and large chested see me at the stage door for my phone number!" He has been a member of the group since he was a young dancer in pantomime, and last Christmas made the role of Mordred in King Arthur and the Nuts of the Round Table quite memorable. Ollie was recently awarded BTEC First Diploma in Performing Arts with Distinction.

Cecily Cardew

Roxy Parkins



I have recently graduated from a Performing Arts degree at the University of Winchester where I spent most of my time performing in plays and musicals in many of the university societies. I have always had a strong passion for performing and this passion led me to join the Worthy Players. This is my first performance with the Worthy Players and I hope there will be many more to come.

Gwendolin Bracknell

Claire Huck



Claire has been a member of the group for many years and has interspersed guest appearances at the last few pantomimes with jaunts all over the world. This is Claire's first play with the group since her role as Mariette in Darling Buds of May.

Miss Prism

Jo Mason



Jo joined the players in 2004 and is known mostly for her fight scene in 'Darling Buds of May'. She is a dance teacher whose expertise has been much in demand over the years. She also co-produces all shows for TAPAS at the Tower Arts Centre.

Dr Chasuble

David Woolford



David has been a member of the Worthy Players for a quarter of a century and is currently the group Chairman. He has played many roles during this time, as well as directing, set building, and writing a number of pantomimes. David has enjoyed the challenge of a new director with new ideas, especially the warm-up games.

Lady Bracknell

Ginny Walker



Ginny is new to The Worthy Players and this will be her first appearance on stage in any production for near enough ten years. Previous appearances include an Ugly Step sister in Cinderella and Mary Warren in The Crucible for Tokyo International Players in the late 1990s! It's been a long time, but it's great to tread the boards again!

Merriman

Martin Pettigrew



Martin has been a member of the Worthy Players for the past 5 years appearing in several of the Christmas productions including the recent King Arthur as one of the knights. However, he is probably best remembered as Pop Larkin in The Darling Buds of May two years ago.

Lane

Mike Heseldin



Mike's first ever part with the Worthy Players was as the dame in "Humpty Dumpty" in 1994! Being a member of the Worthy Players has given him the opportunity to indulge three of his passions on stage - being silly, "singing" and dressing-up. As a member of the Chesil Theatre and also St Cross Players Mike is never far from the stage.

The Crew

Production Manager	Alison Woolford
Set Design	Michael Edwards
Lighting and Sound	Ellen Tappenden
Stage Hands	Mike Heseldin, Martin Pettigrew, David Woolford
Front of House Manager	Jackie Nouwens
Bar Manager	Sarah Hammond

Special Thanks To...

The many, many players and players' spouses	who helped to build, paint and create the wonderful set and scenery.
Miriam Edmond	for putting her reputation on the line by producing a piece of badly played piano!
Nick Kearns	for help with venue bookings and marketing.
Alison Woolford	for collecting, creating and making costumes and props.
Anyone and every one who has helped and I have forgotten to thank!	Thank you