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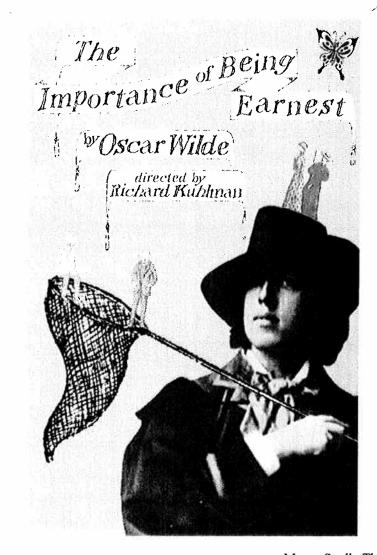
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Meany Studio Theatre 25th Season 60th Production January 27 -February 10, 2002

The Importance of Being Earnest

(A Trivial Comedy for Serious People) By Oscar Wilde

DIRECTOR Richard Kuhlman SET DESIGN Marion Williams COSTUME DESIGN Heidi Ganser* LIGHTING DESIGN Brian Barnett STAGE MANAGER Miller Freeman TECHNICAL DIRECTOR Alex Danischik CREW

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HOUSE MANAGEMENT Nicole Baja-Appleby, Michael

Thompson, Shane Walter

PRODUCTION OFFICE Amy Boyce, Mark Zufelt

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*In partial completion of a Masters of Fine Arts Degree SET CONSTRUCTION CREW

Brian Barnett, Ann Bartek, Eric Beauzay, Roxanne Breen, Matthew Smucker, Brian Spradlin, Carrie Whitney, Jennifer Zeyl LIGHTING CREW

Robert Aguilar, Galoe Dixon, Jessica Trundy, July Simpson COSTUME CONSTRUCTION CREW Students from the Drama 211 & 291 classes

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About the School of Drama

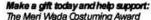
The School of Drama traces its origins to 1919 when Glenn Hughes joined the faculty of the Department of Dramatic Art, a part of the English Department. Though he came to the UW as a poetry fellow, Hughes soon became determined to create "a first-rate drama school." Hughes led the Department from 1930 to 1961, which became the School of Drama in 1940. For the past 60 years, students, faculty and staff in the School worked to mount a continuous offering of high-quality plays in addition to tending to the demands of the academic curriculum. The School's theatres are extremely busy and always have been, fostering an enthusiastic patronage in Seattle that included civic and social leaders and many community clubs.

The UW School of Drama is one of this country's leading training institutions for theatre artists and scholars. Twenty faculty and eighteen staff members serve over 200 undergraduate majors and 65 graduate students. The School offers a four-year undergraduate liberal arts education, Masters of Fine Arts degrees in acting, design, and directing, plus a PhD in theatre history and criticism. Ten shows are mounted annually at the Penthouse, Playhouse and The Meany Studio Theatres along with various workshops, projects and showcases. Works range from Shakespeare to Arrabal, Euripides to Chekhov, new plays and musicals, as well as contemporary favorites from the likes of Horton Foote, Sarah Daniels and Alice Childress. Well-known alums of stage and screen include Ella Raines, Frances Farmer, Lois Smith, Robert Culp, Patrick Duffy, Jean Smart, Pamela Reed, Kyle MacLachlan, Harry Groener and Richard Karn. Using the firm foundation generated by those who came before, the School of Drama is growing and evolving facing the new millennium with exciting new opportunities and developments.

Visit us on the web at http://ascc.artsci.washington.edu/drama!

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- · Help emerging artists escape the burden of student loans
- Assist us in continuing to attract outstanding students to the college



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The John Ashby Conway Memorial Scholarship
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Inquiries contact the Development Office at 206/ 221-6797

The Persons of the Play In Order of Appearance

Lane, Algernon's butler	Sam Wilson
Algernon Moncrieff	Tim Johnson*
John Worthing, J.P	Glenn Seven Allen*
Hon. Gwendolyn Fairfax	Jaclyn Williams*
Lady Bracknell	Jenny Mercein*
Cecily Cardew	Bridie Harrington*
Miss Prism, her governess	Jennifer Gillespie*
Rev. Canon Chasable, D.D.	Scott Giguere*
Merriman, a French maid	Nikki Przasnyski

* Member of the Professional Actor Training Program

The Scenes of the Play:

Act I

Algernon Moncrieff's flat in Half Moon Street, West

Act II

The gardens at the Manor House, Woolton
Time – 1895

There will be one fifteen-minute intermission

SPECIAL THANKS

A Contemporary Theatre, Intiman Theatre, Seattle Children's Theatre, Seattle Repertory Theatre, The Seattle Opera

About the Playwright

The Importance of Being Earnest opened, appropriately, on Valentine's Day, 1895, at the St. James Theatre in London. Although the city was engulfed in a blizzard, all of fashionable London was out in force for this opening, one of the social events of the season. In tribute to Wilde's trademark eccentric fashion style, many of the gentlemen sported lily-of-the-valley in their lapel. The playwright stood backstage for the performance, sporting the same lily-of-the-valley in his own lapel. The crowd of Victorian high-society ladies and gentleman watched as Wilde's play exposed the masks and mores of their upper-crust world with an elegance and wit that seduced them, as it seduces us today.

Oscar Wilde was born in Ireland in 1854. As a young man, with a consuming desire to make himself famous, Wilde moved to London to set about doing just that. Despite his Irish, middle-class upbringing and thinly veiled homosexuality, he penetrated Victorian high-society and his extreme wit and lavishly flamboyant style made him the most sought after guest among the London jet-set he called "the beautiful people."

Oscar Wilde continued to have success with his novel <u>The Picture of Dorian Gray</u>, a series of children's books, poetry, and plays like <u>Lady Windermere's Fan</u>, <u>The Importance of Being Earnest</u>, and <u>Salome</u>. However, a libel suit he filed against his lover's father, the Marquis of Queensbury, backfired. Queensbury was acquitted and Wilde, soon thereafter, imprisoned for two years' hard labor for sodomy. When he emerged from prison, Wilde's characteristic confidence and style were broken; he wandered around Europe living off the generosity of friends and hotel managers until his death from meningitis in 1900.

"I hope that you will enjoy my 'trivial' play. It is written by a butterfly for butterflies."

- From a letter to Arthur L. Humphreys from Oscar Wilde

Recommended Reading

Oscar Wilde: A Certain Genius / Barbara Belford / Random House / October 2000

Gross Indecency: Three Trials of Oscar Wilde / Moises Kaufmann / Vintage Books / February 1998



The School of Drama is proud to be a member of Theatre Puget Sound.

School of Drama

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Catherine Madden, Odai Johnson,
Shanga Parker, Tina Redd

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Jack Sydow, Aurora Valentinetti,
Jack Wolcott

*Deceased

STAFF

Kris Bain, marketing and pr manager Jordan Baker, stage technician Bob Boehler, stage technician Sue Bruns, graduate program Jenny Crook, computer technician Alex Danilchik, stage technician Josie Gardner, costume shop manager Arlene Hamilton, administrator Andrea Johnson, costumer Laurie L. Kurutz, costumer Rich Leibfried, master electrician Jennifer Lavy, development director Dena Petersen, fiscal technician Anne Stewart, general manager Joanne Tall, secretary Michael Thompson, assistant to the general manager Rebecca Traber, office assistant Alan Weldin, scene shop manager

The School of Drama extends a warm welcome to members of the President's Club, who are joining us for the February 1 performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.