



The Importance of Being Earnest

Théâtre en Anglais
22nd November 06-11-2006

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST,

Oscar Wilde, Version courte par Andrew Loudon et Emma Reeves

- ◆ Mise en scène : Lucille O'Flanagan
 - ◆ Décor : Andrea Bujdoso
 - ◆ Son : Jacques Cassard
 - ◆ Vidéo : Chris Mack
 - ◆ Assistants à la mise en scène : Karina Rinaldi et Tiphaine Lievois
 - ◆ Produit par : Le Théâtre en Anglais (association loi 1901)
 - ◆ Distribution (5 comédiens Britanniques) :
Barnaby Apps, Elizabeth Ingham, Sophie Nahmias, Michael Rickwood, Ginnie Watson
 - ◆ Spectacle en version anglaise sans sur titrage pouvant intéresser tous niveaux lycées et 3e collèges avec un niveau d'anglais moyen.
 - ◆ Durée : 1hr30 sans entracte
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Mais qui est Ernest ? Deux femmes sont amoureuses de lui, deux hommes revendiquent son identité, mais Ernest n'existe pas ! Ou existe-t-il ? Quand les mensonges de Jack et Algy sont dévoilés, les vieux secrets remontent à la surface et l'étonnante vérité concernant Ernest est révélée. Acclamée comme la plus spirituelle des pièces en langue anglaise, la romantique comédie de mœurs d'Oscar Wilde est toujours aussi fraîche et pétillante aujourd'hui. Jack, Gwendolen, Cecily et Algernon trouveront-ils le véritable amour ? Ou leur romance sera-t-elle réduite à néant par la terrifiante Lady Bracknell ? Découvrez-le dans une nouvelle adaptation du Théâtre en Anglais facilement compréhensible pour notre public et fidèle à l'esprit d'Oscar Wilde.

En hommage au génie flamboyant d'Oscar Wilde et à travers une réminiscence de l'Art Déco, nous avons développé une scénographie colorée et surdimensionnée, de superbes costumes victoriens. Nous y avons ajouté un large écran vidéo où seront projetés trois courts-métrages muets au cours du spectacle pour apporter 3 interludes comiques. 3 Actes. 3 décors : Une demi-tranche de concombre géant, un champ de fleurs qui sentira dans la salle et un énorme sac à main. Il faut le voir pour le croire !

En tournée : du 6 novembre 2006 au 10 février 2007

http://theatre.anglais.free.fr/2006_2007_earnest/presentation_generale.html

Oscar Wilde (1854 - 1900)



Oscar Wilde was born in Dublin, Ireland on October 16, 1854. He was educated at Trinity College, Dublin and Magdalen College, Oxford. He was considered a brilliant student. In 1878, his poem *Ravenna* won the Newdigate Prize. Shortly after leaving university his first volume of poetry was published. He moved to London in 1879.

Wilde married Constance Lloyd, the daughter of a wealthy Dublin barrister, in 1884 and the couple had two sons. Wilde wrote fairy stories for his boys. These were later published as *The Happy Prince and Other Tales*.

After being married for 11 years, Wilde had left his wife and began having a homosexual affair with Alfred Douglas. In May 1895, Wilde was prosecuted and imprisoned for homosexuality under the terms of the Criminal Law Amendment Act. He served two years in Old Bailey in London. Regrettably, his mother died while he was still in jail

In 1897, after being released from Reading Prison, Wilde moved to France. A year later he wrote *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, a poem inspired by his prison experience. Wilde's time in prison badly damaged his health and he died on November 30, 1900, in Paris, France, three years after leaving prison. He is buried in Père Lachaise Cemetery in Paris, in a tomb designed by Epstein. Wilde has become an iconic figure in modern popular culture, both as a wit and as an archetype of gay identity.

Famous quotations by Oscar Wilde:

- I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself.
- The old believe everything, the middle-aged suspect everything, the young know everything.
- It is absurd to divide people into good and bad. People are either charming or tedious.
- Ambition is the last refuge of failure.
- There is only one thing in the world worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about.
- A man's face is his autobiography. A woman's face is her work of fiction.
- In America the young are always ready to give to those who are older than themselves the full benefits of their inexperience.

<http://wilde.thefreelibrary.com>

Abridged Bibliography

Plays

- *Lady Windermere's Fan* (1892)
- *A Woman of No Importance* (1893)
- *Salomé: A Tragedy in One Act: Translated from the French of Oscar Wilde by Lord Alfred Douglas* (1894)
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)
- *La Sainte Courtisane* and *A Florentine Tragedy* first published 1908 in Methuen's *Collected Works*

Prose

- *The Canterville Ghost* (1887)
- *The Happy Prince and Other Stories* (1888) [5]
- *Lord Arthur Savile's Crime and Other Stories* (1891)
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1891)
- *A House of Pomegranates* (1891)
- *De Profundis* (1905)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oscar_Wilde

The Importance of Being Earnest

The Importance of Being Earnest is a play by Oscar Wilde, a comedy of manners in either three or four acts (depending on edition) inspired by W. S. Gilbert's *Engaged*. It was first performed for the public on February 14, 1895 at the St. James' Theatre in London.

It is set in England during the Victorian era, and its primary source of humour is based upon the main character John's fictitious younger brother Ernest. John's surname, Worthing, is taken from the town where Wilde was staying when he wrote the play.

Characters

It has a small cast, which is as follows:

- Jack Worthing
- Algernon Moncrieff
- Lady Bracknell
- Cecily Cardew (ward to John Worthing)
- Gwendolen Fairfax (daughter to Lady Bracknell)
- Miss Prism (governess to Cecily)
- Dr. Chasuble (a minister who lives near John's country house)
- Lane (butler to Algernon)
- Merriman (butler to John)



Plot summary [without the ending]

Algernon, a wealthy young Londoner, pretends to have a friend named Bunbury who lives in the country and frequently is in ill health. Whenever Algernon wants to avoid an unwelcome social obligation, or just get away for the weekend, he makes an ostensible visit to his "sick friend." In this way Algernon can feign piety and dedication, while having the perfect excuse to get out of town. He calls this practice "Bunburying."

Algernon's real-life best friend lives in the country but makes frequent visits to London. This friend's name is Ernest...or so Algernon thinks. When Ernest leaves his silver cigarette case at Algernon's rooms he finds an inscription in it that claims that it is "From little Cecily to her dear Uncle Jack". This forces Ernest to eventually disclose that his visits to the city are also examples of "Bunburying," much to Algernon's delight.

In the country, "Ernest" goes by his real name, Jack Worthing, and pretends that he has a wastrel brother named Ernest, who lives in London. When honest Jack comes to the city, he assumes the name, and behaviour, of the profligate Ernest. In the country John assumes a more serious attitude for the benefit of Cecily, who is his ward.

Jack himself wishes to marry Gwendolen, who is Algernon's cousin, but runs into a few problems. First, Gwendolen seems to love him only because she believes his name is Ernest, which she thinks is the most beautiful name in the world. Second, Gwendolen's mother is the terrifying Lady Bracknell. Lady Bracknell is horrified when she learns that John is a foundling who was discovered in a handbag at a railway station.

Jack's description of Cecily appeals to Algernon who resolves to meet her. Algernon soon gets the idea to visit John in the country, pretending that *he* is the mysterious brother "Ernest." Unfortunately, unknown to Algernon, Jack has decided to give up his Bunburying, and to do this he has announced the tragic death of Ernest. A series of comic misunderstandings follows...