

by Oscar Wilde



PRESENTED BY WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE

October 30-November 1 & November 5-8, 2015 | Mainstage Theatre | Directed by Cindy Gendrich
Performances nightly 7:30 pm, except Sundays at 2 pm



WAKE FOREST
UNIVERSITY

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

“Most people are other people. Their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation.”

- Oscar Wilde

Algernon: What brings you up to town?

Jack: Oh, pleasure, pleasure! What else should bring one anywhere?

- *The Importance of Being Earnest, Act I*

What a joy it is to welcome you to the world of this fabulous play. Though I have been reading and working on *The Importance of Being Earnest* for most of 2015, I could gleefully devote myself to another year of study and rehearsal. The themes of course make it continually fascinating—in particular (as Wilde's first quote, above, might suggest), the slipperiness and expansiveness of identity, the power of social pressure, and the search for authenticity (or at least satisfying self-construction), in a world of conformity and duty.

However, in rehearsal we have focused at least as much on pleasure, as any self-respecting production of Wilde should. The pleasures of language, game-playing, flirtation, foolishness, and adventure make this play a delight to inhabit—as do the beautiful clothes, manners, and surroundings. Such pleasures are surely part of the reason ...*Earnest* remains popular 120 years after its first production. In fact, in writing that number (120 years!!) I'm shocked to think of this funny, fresh-feeling romp as something so old. And I can hardly think of the passage of time without wishing Wilde had lived and written for much, much longer than he did.

There is so much to say about the circumstances of the play, Wilde's life, late Victorian high society, class and labor politics, Wilde's Irishness, his sexuality, his Classics education, the burgeoning Women's movement, comic theory, the well-made-play, and so much more, that I think I'll just point you in the direction of the library and encourage you to find out more if you're so inclined. I, however, will say no more about ...*Earnest*, except through the production.

A few thanks are in order before I close. First, an enormous shout of gratitude to my dear colleague, Leah Roy, who, as Lady Bracknell, has been a rock, a bar-raiser, and an exemplary collaborator. A second, equally loud cry of thanks to my wonderful student cast-members and stage-management staff, who have made each evening's rehearsal an absolute joy. To Melissa Jenkins, in English, who recommended terrific sources on Wilde and shared her wisdom with the cast: thank you. To my faculty and staff colleagues who designed and created the gorgeous costumes, sets, props, and lights before you, who manage front of house and pay the bills, and to all the students who designed, built, and continue to run the show: you are the best team I could ever ask for. Endless thanks to you all. And finally, thanks to you, the audience, for coming. We hope two hours of delight, laughter, and “pleasure, pleasure” await you all.

INFORMATION

In consideration of performers and other patrons, please turn off any laptops, cell phones and electronic alarms. Please remember that any use of cameras and recording devices is strictly prohibited. Please refrain from eating or drinking in the theatre. Smoking is prohibited in the building. Any audience member disturbing other patrons or causing a disruption may be asked to leave without a refund or exchange of ticket.

Wake Forest University Theatre presents

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde

October 30-31 & November 1, 5-8, 2015

Director
Cindy Gendrich

Scenic & Lighting Designer
Rob Eastman-Mullins

Costume Designer
Mary Wayne-Thomas

Sound Designers
Branden Cook*^s
Cindy Gendrich

Dialect Instructor/Coach
Leah Elyce Roy

Stage Manager
Cheyenne Zuck*^s

CAST

(in order of appearance)

LANE, <i>The Manservant</i>	Caleb Cabiness*
ALGERNON MONCRIEFF.....	Philip Kayser*
JOHN WORTHING, J.P.....	T.J. Beeker
LADY BRACKNELL.....	Leah Elyce Roy
HON. GWENDOLEN FAIRFAX.....	Erin Farmer* ^s
CECILY CARDEW.....	Anne-Peyton Brothers* ^s
MISS PRISM, <i>The Governess</i>	Heather Sullivan*
REV. CANON CHASUBLE, D.D.....	Connor Sagerman*
MERRIMAN, <i>The Butler</i>	Avery McClure

*Anthony Aston Players member

^sPresidential Scholar in Theatre

SETTING

Act I: Algernon Moncrieff's Flat in Half Moon Street, W.
Act II: The Garden at the Manor House, Woolton.
Act III: Drawing-room of the Manor House, Woolton.

Time: 1895
Place: London

This production is approximately 2 hours long with two 10-minute intermissions.

BIOGRAPHIES



TJ Beeker (Jack) is a graduate student (and former Psychology/Russian double major) from Mobile, Alabama. He enjoys 80s music and movies, long walks on the beach, and saying inappropriate things in Cockney accents. Ask for a free sample after the show. He would like to thank Cindy for casting him and providing such fantastic direction, the entire cast and crew for being so enjoyable to work with, his parents for their incredible and boundless support, Tom Cruise for showing him the *Danger Zone*, Patrick Swayze for teaching him that “Pain don’t hurt,” and Patrick Bateman for the appropriate voice and commentary for business settings.



Anne-Peyton Brothers (Cecily) is a first-year from Roanoke, Virginia. She is thrilled to be making her Wake Forest stage debut in *Earnest*. She would like to thank Cindy for giving her this opportunity, and the entire cast and crew for being so great and so much taller than her.



Caleb Cabiness (Lane) is a freshman from Archdale, North Carolina. His role of Lane in *Earnest* marks his second role in a Mainstage production at Wake. He plans to double major in Theatre and Vocal Performance. You can see Caleb in the acappella group, Chi Rho, around campus. He would like to thank Cindy for her direction, his family and friends for supporting him, and God for giving him his opportunities.



Branden Cook (Sound Designer) is a junior from Charlotte. He is a Presidential Scholar in Theatre. This is Branden's first time doing sound, but he has thoroughly enjoyed it. Enjoy the show!



Erin Farmer (Gwendoline) is a sophomore from Dalton, Georgia, the carpet capital of the world, and the city with the third most Mexican restaurants per square mile. She is a Psychology major with a Theatre minor and a Presidential Scholar in Theatre. You may remember her as the Princess of France in *Love's Labor's Lost* last year, and she is excited to be continuing her streak as the hot, blonde, take-charge ingenue as Gwendolen. She would like to thank Cindy for the amazing opportunity to portray her favorite character in her favorite play, Cheyenne for all her hard work/John Cena, Laura Garland for being her trap queen, Anne Peyton for the muffins, TJ for having dimples, her parents for always being her bestest friends, and especially her entire cast for the endless laughs and making rehearsal and Jesus Town, USA her home away from home. It's been a "Wilde" ride, everyone (don't worry, she hates herself, too). Enjoy the show!



Phil Kayser (Algernon) is a junior from Apex, North Carolina and an Economics major with Pre-medical credits. This is his eighth show at Wake Forest and nineteenth show in total with recent credits including *Our Town*, *Waiting for Godot*, and *Clybourne Park*. When not acting, Philip works as a student manager at Benson University Center. Philip would like to thank his mom, dad, and brother for their love and support.



Avery McClure (Merriman) is a freshman from Raleigh, North Carolina. This is his first production at Wake Forest, and he's so thankful for the opportunity to work with this talented cast and crew. Avery was involved in theatre throughout his high school career, performing in Main Stage musicals and plays at his high school and in the community. This show is a blast to perform and watch, so grab a muffin, settle in, and enjoy.



Leah Elyce Roy (Lady Bracknell) has been teaching acting, voice, and movement at Wake Forest University since 2002. After receiving her MFA in Acting at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, Ms. Roy acted with Shenandoah Shakespeare, The Montana Repertory Theatre, and Madison Repertory Theatre, along with other theatre companies. In Winston-Salem, she has served as vocal and dialect coach for Wake Forest productions, as well as for The North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, Triad Stage, and Festival Stage. Last seen on the Wake Forest Mainstage in the 2005 production of *Hay Fever*, Ms. Roy is delighted to once again work with her talented colleagues and students. She dedicates this performance to her mother, who is with the show in spirit.



Connor Sagerman (Dr. Chasuble) is from Winston-Salem studying Theatre and Philosophy. This will be his fifth performance here at Wake Forest, with past productions including *Sylvia*, *This is Our Youth*, and *The Ugly Duckling*. He thanks Cindy for the chance to stretch his acting chops once again as the dear Rector, Heather for being stellar, everyone in the crew and cast for their hard work, and Leonardo DiCaprio.



Heather Sullivan (Miss Prism) is a senior Communication major with minors in Film, Theatre, and Psychology. You may have seen her earlier this fall as Mrs. Gibbs in *Our Town*. She'd like to thank Cindy for being an excellent mentor to her in so many ways and Cheyenne for her incredible work as a stage manager. It has been so much fun to work with such a talented cast of humans and lizards. Love and endless gratitude, as always, to the Pitás, her parents, her siblings, and you, dear friend. Shout-out to Emily Jo for letting Heather write this on her laptop.



Cheyenne Zuck (Stage Manager) is a sophomore prospective Classics and Theatre double major from Lancaster, Pennsylvania (aka Amish Country). She is a Presidential Scholar in Theatre and a Collins Scholar. Previously at Wake Forest, she has been an assistant stage manager on *These Shining Lives*, and a design assistant for *Waiting for Godot* and *Our Town*. She would like to thank Cindy for this wonderful opportunity and fantastic direction; Lillie and Jyles for their support and help; Erin for John Cena jokes; Leah for ALL the granola bars; the cast for their sense of humor and hard work throughout this entire process; and Rob and Trevor for dealing with the fact that she needs to be put in a hamster ball. To quote Erin's horrible joke, it's been a "Wilde" ride.

SPECIAL THANKS

Woody Hood
Tyler Wilson
UNCSA Props Dept.

Margaret Flock
Buy Smart Carpet
Frock Coat courtesy of PlayMakers Repertory Company

Michael Kamtman
Twin City Stage

PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director.....	R. Trevor Anderson
Assistant Stage Managers.....	Lillie Burrow [§] , Jyles Rodgers
Properties Master.....	Justice von Maur ^{*§}
Assistant Dialect Instructor/Coach.....	Eric Bray [*]
Assistant Scenic Designer.....	Andrew Hayes ^{*§}
Master Electrician.....	Andrew Hayes ^{*§}
Electricians.....	Cheyenne Zuck ^{*§} and THE 150 class
Scenic Artists.....	Jyles Rodgers, Zoe Wang, Courtney Geiger, Alexa Erb ^{*§}
Scene Shop Assistants.....	Andrew Hayes ^{*§} , Price Dawson [*] , Alexa Erb ^{*§} , Serena Cates [*] Eric Bray [*] , Hope Peterson [*] , Emily Jo Williams, Jyles Rodgers Tracy Wegner [*] , Cheyenne Zuck ^{*§} , Courtney Geiger, Monty King
Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Kaitlin Fara Smith
Costume/Prop Conservator.....	Alice Barsony
Assistant to the Costume Designer.....	Jay Buchanan ^{*§}
Milliner.....	Alice Barsony
Stitchers.....	Jay Buchanan ^{*§} , Megan Nigro Emma Kennett, Aubrianna Patsey, James Ward
Wardrobe Assistants.....	Charlotte Wu, Carly Parker
Grips.....	Suna Guo, Charles Cicchino, Anna Hibbert, Sophie Scheinman
Light Board Operator.....	Eric Bray [*]
Sound Board Operator.....	Branden Cook ^{*§}
Photographers.....	Bill Ray III, Ken Bennett, Leslie Spencer
House Manager.....	Jake Skillings
Box Office Staff.....	Rachel Bradley, Anna Hibbert, Courtney Mason, Stephanie Moore [*] , Alacyia Young
Ushers.....	APO Fraternity, Anthony Aston Players, WFU Dance Company

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE AND DANCE

Director of Theatre/Associate Teaching Professor.....	J. E. R. Friedenberg
Administrative Coordinator.....	Carol Lavis
Staff Assistant.....	Richard Williams
Technical Director.....	R. Trevor Anderson
Costume/Props Conservator.....	Alice Barsony
Costume Shop Supervisor.....	Kaitlin Fara Smith
Audience Services Coordinator.....	Leslie Spencer
Instructional Technology Specialist.....	Ryan McCollum
Digital Media Assistant.....	Justice von Maur ^{*§}
Office Assistant.....	Heather Sullivan [*]
Department Chair/Associate Professor.....	Dr. J.K. Curry
Director of Dance/Associate Professor.....	Nina Maria Lucas
Director of Film Studies/Professor.....	Dr. Woodrow Hood
Professors.....	Dr. Cindy Gendrich, Mary Wayne-Thomas
Associate Professors.....	Sharon Andrews, Jonathan Christman, Dr. Brook Davis Rob Eastman-Mullins, Christina Tsoules Soriano
Associate Teaching Professors.....	Lynn Book, Leah Roy
Assistant Teaching Professors.....	Brantly Shapiro, Chris Martin
Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor.....	Michael Kamtman
Part-Time Instructors.....	Amy Love Beasley, Gabriel Clausen, Michael Huie Debra Sayles, Robert Simpson, Tina Yarborough-Liggins
Teaching Fellows.....	Jessie Laurita-Spanglet, Tyler Wilson
Accompanists.....	Ray Ebert, Randy Hawkins, Dan Knight, Hashim Saleh

^{*}Anthony Aston Players member

[§]Presidential Scholar in Theatre

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY THEATRE ASSOCIATION

2015-2016 Season

October 23, 2015

BENEFACTORS

Barton & Brenda Baldwin*
Estate of John Arthur Collins III
J.K. Curry & Dan Bradley
Caroline Sandlin Fullerton
Denise Koch*
James & Angela McNamara
Alison McWilliams*
Harold & Josie Tedford
Dr. James & Patricia Toole*

John J. Casey
Claire & John Friedenberg*
Mr. & Mrs. Henry H. Jordan II*
Joel Leander
Sioban Nicole McNamara*
Margaret Henry Moore
Mary Wayne-Thomas
Don & Nancy Wolfe
Estate of Robert Parker Wilson

Edwin* & Emily Wilson*

CONTRIBUTORS

Monty King

SUSTAINERS

Jill Carraway & Debora Horning

Dr. & Mrs. Byron Moore*

Jane Bess Wooten*

PATRONS

Brook Davis* & Michael Huie*
Louise Y. Gossett
Bill & Marty Lamb
Meyressa Schoonmaker* & John Carroll

Paul & Linda Edwards Early
Ellen E. Kirkman
Elizabeth Rief & Shawn Hooper
Emily Seelbinder

Lawrence & Sandra Webb

SPONSORS

Celia Hooper

David & Kathryn Levy

William H. Turkett, Jr.

FRIENDS

Elmer Hayashi
Dennis Sykes

Patsy Michel
Margaret Wagstaff

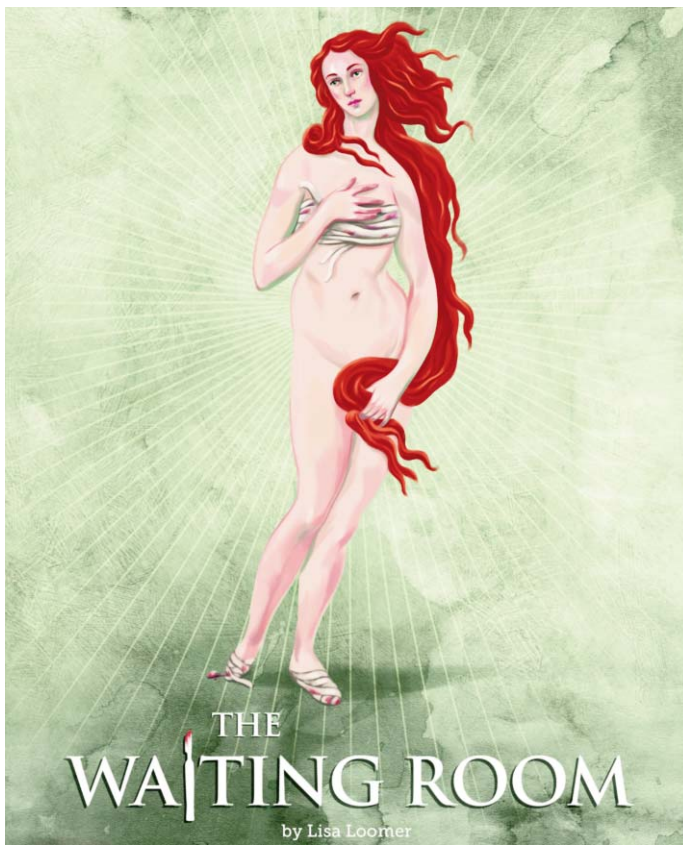
OTHER

Shirley Amen

Suzanne Carroll

Jodie Johnson

* Wake Forest alumni



THE WAITING ROOM

by Lisa Loomer

Directed by JERFriedenberg

Feb. 12-13 & 18-20 at 7:30 PM

Feb. 14 & 21 at 2:00 PM

Mainstage Theatre

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$12 senior
citizens, \$7 students

336.758.5295

<http://college.wfu.edu/theatre>

FALL FACULTY & GUEST ARTIST CONCERT

Directed by Nina Maria Lucas

November 19-21 at 7:30

November 22 at 2:00 PM

Mainstage Theatre

Tickets: \$15 adults, \$12 senior
citizens, \$7 students

336.758.5295

<http://college.wfu.edu/theatre>

