



Audition Notice

Importance of Being Earnest *By Oscar Wilde*

Directed by Jason Sharland & Leisa Bye

Venue:	Windsor School of Arts, 381 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor
Performance dates:	23, 29, 30, 31 May, 5, 6 June
Rehearsals:	Monday & Thursday 6:30 - 9:30 pm Sunday 1:30 - 4:30 pm

Audition Details

Growl Theatre members only - Expressions of interest. Auditions held progressively over February.

Parking: There is a small car park beside the Hall. Alternatively, street parking is available on Maygar Street and the streets that run off Maygar Street.

SYNOPSIS

The Importance of Being Earnest is the most renowned of Oscar Wilde's comedies. It's the story of two bachelors, John 'Jack' Worthing and Algernon 'Algy' Moncrieff, who create alter egos named Ernest to escape their tiresome lives. They attempt to win the hearts of two women who, conveniently, claim to only love men called Ernest. The pair struggle to keep up with their own stories and become tangled in a tale of deception, disguise and misadventure. The elaborate plot ridicules Victorian sensibilities with some of the best loved, and indeed bizarre, characters to be found on the modern stage.

www.growltheatre.org.au

Performance Address: Windsor School of Arts, 381 Lutwyche Rd, Windsor, Qld, 4030

Mailing Address: 21 Yarraman St, Lutwyche, Qld, 4030



Characters (description & ages)

Please note:

- *Ages are guidelines for the playing age, not requirement of actor's age.*
- *The roles of John, Gwendolyn, Algernon and Cecily need to be close to one another in age, which will be a strong consideration in casting.*
- *Miss Prism and Rev'd Chasuble need to be a plausible couple too.*
- *We would ideally like for Merriman and Lane to be the same person, but would split the two if we had two individuals who wished to take on these smaller roles.*

John (Jack) Worthing Age: 29. In the city he goes by the name Ernest, a fun-loving bachelor, and in the country he is Jack, a land-owner and guardian of Cecily. He is about to take his place in society by proposing to Gwendolyn Fairfax.

Algernon Moncrieff Age: 21-25. A languid poser of the leisure class, bored by conventions and looking for excitement. Algernon, unlike Jack, is not serious and is generally out for his own gratification.

Lady Augusta Bracknell Age: 50-65. The perfect symbol of Victorian earnestness - the belief that style is more important than substance and that social and class barriers are to be enforced. She is a strongly opinionated matriarch, who bullies everyone in her path.

The Honorable Gwendolen Fairfax Age: 25 - 29. Lady Bracknell's daughter, believes style to be more important than sincerity. Romantic, hardheaded and opinionated, much like her mother.

Cecily Cardew Age: 18. Jack Worthing's ward, grand-daughter of his adopted father, Sir Thomas Cardew. She is romantic and imaginative, and able to wrap men around her little finger before they know what happened.

Miss Prism Age: 50-65. Cecily's governess. She is educating Cecily to have no imagination or sensationalism in her life. Outwardly a symbol of Victorian morality, she reveals a secret life of passion, including having written a three volume sensational novel.

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. Age: 50-65. Local vicar, and a source of moral judgments, but easy-going and pleasure seeking nonetheless. His proudest achievement is the all-purpose sermon that can be used for christenings, weddings and funerals alike.

Lane and Merriman Age: 30-65. Servants in the households of Algernon and Jack. Both solemnly watch the follies of their "betters", and save them from embarrassment. They are the pillars upon which the easy-going lifestyle of the ir employers rest.



Rehearsal Schedule

Read Through

March: Sunday 15, 1:30pm

Rehearsals:

March: Monday 16, 6:30pm; Thursday 19, 6:30pm; Sunday 22, 1:30pm; Monday 23, 6:30pm; Thursday 26, 6:30pm; Sunday 29, 1:30pm; Monday 30, 6:30pm;

April: Thursday 2, 6:30pm, Sunday 5, 1:30pm; Monday 6, 6:30pm; Thursday 9, 6:30pm; (*Easter*) Sunday 12, 1:30pm; Monday 13, 6:30pm; Thursday 16, 6:30pm; Sunday 19, 1:30pm; Monday 20, 6:30pm; Thursday 23, 6:30pm; Sunday 26, 1:30pm; Monday 27, 6:30pm; Thursday 30, 6:30pm;

May: Sunday 3, 1:30pm; Monday 4, 6:30pm; Thursday 7, 6:30pm;

Tech Set up: Sunday 10 May - morning

Dress/Tech Rehearsals:

May: Sunday 10, 1:30pm; Monday 11, 6:30pm, Thursday 14, 6:30pm; Sunday 17, 1:30pm; Monday 18, 6:30pm, Thursday 21, 6:30pm;

Performances:

Saturday 23, Friday 29, Saturday 30, Sunday 31 (matinee) May, Friday 5, Saturday 6 June
7:30pm evening shows, 2:00pm matinee show

Bump Out:

Sunday 7 June, 10am

This is our intended rehearsal schedule. A clear understanding of your availability allows us to make the best decisions to make good use of our schedule.

Performances (5:30pm to late)

General rehearsals (6:30 to 9:30pm weeknights, 1:30 to 4:30pm Sundays)

Critical events (dress/tech etc) (roughly as above. Negotiated with cast). All cast members will be expected to contribute to at least one set working bee.

Please understand the pressure that it creates when people either [a] commit to a role then pull out, or [b] commit to the times then become unavailable. Whilst we recognise that illness and unforeseen circumstances can occur, please ensure that you have considered birthdays, engagements, weddings, pre-existing commitments etc. Also ensure that work commitments will not clash. Persistent lateness is always a source of frustration for others; please audition knowing that you need to be on time.