

AUDITION PACK

The
Importance
of being
Earnest

17 MAY TO
1 JUNE

REGISTER HERE

The show

The Importance of Being Earnest, a Trivial Comedy for Serious People written by Oscar Wilde.

First performed on 14 February 1895, it is a farcical comedy depicting the tangled affairs of two young men about town who lead double lives to evade unwanted social obligations, both assuming the name Ernest while wooing the two young women of their affections. Oscar Wilde's brilliant comedy captures with wit and charm, the absurdity and delight of the Victorian "age of surfaces" (as Lady Bracknell calls it,) while capturing the struggle of four passionate lovers trying to conform to expectations and, in the most roundabout and delightfully funny way possible, love who they wish and live how they want.

Audition Details

Saturday, 25 January 2025 at QUT Kelvin Grove - Z Block

[CLICK HERE FOR ADDRESS.](#)

Registrations for this audition are essential.

Each slot will be group auditions and run for 50mins.

If you have any questions please contact **Prue Robb 0418537036** or email info@passionproductions.com.au

PLEASE PREPARE

Auditionees are required to prepare the sides (at the end of this document) for the character they wish to audition for.

Auditionees may also be required to participate in **cold reads**.

Rehearsal & Shows

Tuesdays, Thursdays & Sundays: 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Rehearsal will be at QUT Kelvin Grove - Z Block and begin **March 11**

The production season will have **six shows** running every **Saturday** and **Sunday** from **May 17 to June 1**. There may be an extension to the season, more details to be confirmed.

Casting notes

Passion Productions is steadfast in its commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive environment. We wholeheartedly welcome and encourage performers of all gender expressions & sexual identities, cultural backgrounds, ages, and abilities to audition.

Further, we welcome and strongly encourage ALL LGBTQI+ and BIPOC performers. As such, the descriptions below are playing only, actors can apply for any roles they wish to.

Characters

John (Jack) Worthing - A young, eligible bachelor about town. In the city he goes by the name Ernest, and in the country he is Jack — a local magistrate of the county with responsibilities. His family pedigree is a mystery, but his seriousness and sincerity are evident. He proposes to The Honorable Gwendolen Fairfax and, though leading a double life, eventually demonstrates his conformity to the Victorian moral and social standards.

Algernon Moncrieff - A wealthy and lackadaisical young man and a member of London high society, he is the nephew of Lady Bracknell as well as the best friend of Jack. He, too, leads a double life, being Algernon in the city and Ernest in the country. Algernon, unlike Jack, is not serious and is generally out for his own gratification. He falls in love and proposes to Jack's ward, Cecily, while posing as Jack's wicked younger brother, Ernest.

Lady Bracknell - 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. Lady Bracknell is Algernon's aunt, trying to find a suitable wife for him. A strongly opinionated matriarch, dowager, and tyrant, who married into the upper class from beneath it.

The Honorable Gwendolen Fairfax - Lady Bracknell's daughter, exhibiting some of the sophistication and confidence of a London socialite, believes style to be important, not sincerity. She is submissive to her mother in public but rebels in private. While demonstrating the absurdity of such ideals as only marrying a man named Ernest, she also agrees to marry Jack despite her mother's disapproval of his origins.

Characters

Cecily Cardew - Jack Worthing's ward, daughter of his adopted father, Sir Thomas Cardew. She is of debutante age, 18, but she is being tutored at Jack's secluded country estate by Miss Prism, her governess. She is romantic and imaginative, and feeling the repression of Prism's rules. A silly and naïve girl, she declares that she wants to meet a "wicked man." Less sophisticated than Gwendolen, she falls in love with Algernon but believes him to be Jack's brother Ernest.

Miss Prism - Cecily's governess and a symbol of Victorian moral righteousness. She is educating Cecily to have no imagination or sensationalism in her life. Quoting scripture as a symbol of her Victorian morality, she reveals a secret life of passion by her concern for the whereabouts of her misplaced novel and her flirtation with the local vicar. She becomes the source of Jack's revelation about his parents.

Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. - Like Miss Prism, he is the source of Victorian moral judgments, but under the surface he appears to be an old lecher. His sermons are interchangeable, mocking religious conventions. Like the servants, he does what Jack (the landowner) wants: performing weddings, christenings, sermons, funerals, and so on. However, beneath the religious exterior, his heart beats for Miss Prism.

Lane and Merriman - Servants of Algernon and Jack. Lane says soothing and comforting things to his employer but stays within the neutral guidelines of a servant. He is leading a double life, eating sandwiches and drinking champagne when his master is not present. He aids and abets the lies of Algernon. Merriman keeps the structure of the plot working: He announces people and happenings. Like Lane, he does not comment on his "betters," but solemnly watches their folly with a neutral facial expressions during crisis and chaos.

Callbacks

Callbacks may be held at a later date if required. You will be supplied material from the show to prepare. Auditionees successful in receiving a role in the production will be contacted within a few days after call-backs.

Note: Not getting a callback does not mean no role will be offered.

PAYMENT

This show is a community theatre show.

No payment made to actors.

No production fees of will be charged.

Membership to Passion Productions is purely optional.

Responsibilities of Cast

All cast members are to abide by Passion Productions **Code of Conduct** at all times.

Cast members agree to actively promote the show through their social media profiles and personal circles. It's expected cast members will be posting at least **once a week**, be it official posts or behind the scenes photos etc. Further details of what is and isn't allowed to be posted online will be discussed at the first rehearsal.

Respect all materials provided to you and ensure no damage comes to them.

Learning of lines.

Cast members will be expected to be "Scripts Down" by **April 15th.**

Audition Sides

Jack Worthing

It pains me very much to have to speak frankly to you, Lady Bracknell, about your nephew, but the fact is that I do not approve at all of his moral character. I suspect him of being untruthful. I fear there can be no possible doubt about the matter. This afternoon during my temporary absence in London on an important question of romance, he obtained admission to my house by means of the false pretence of being my brother. Under an assumed name he drank, I've just been informed by my butler, an entire pint bottle of my Perrier-Jouet, Brut, '89; wine I was specially reserving for myself. Continuing his disgraceful deception, he succeeded in the course of the afternoon in alienating the affections of my only ward. He subsequently stayed to tea, and devoured every single muffin. And what makes his conduct all the more heartless is, that he was perfectly well aware from the first that I have no brother, that I never had a brother, and that I don't intend to have a brother, not even of any kind. I distinctly told him so myself yesterday afternoon.

Algernon Moncrieff

Why does your aunt call you her uncle? 'From little Cecily, with her fondest love to her dear Uncle Jack.' There is no objection, I admit, to an aunt being a small aunt, but why an aunt, no matter what her size may be, should call her own nephew her uncle, I can't quite make out. Besides, your name isn't Jack at all; it is Ernest. You have always told me it was Ernest. I have introduced you to every one as Ernest. You answer to the name of Ernest. You look as if your name was Ernest. You are the most earnest-looking person I ever saw in my life. It is perfectly absurd your saying that your name isn't Ernest. It's on your cards. Here is one of them. I'll keep this as a proof that your name is Ernest if ever you attempt to deny it to me, or to Gwendolen, or to any one else.

Lady Bracknell

This Mr. Bunbury seems to suffer from curiously bad health. I must say, Algernon, that I think it is high time that Mr. Bunbury made up his mind whether he was going to live or to die. This shilly-shallying with the question is absurd. Nor do I in any way approve of the modern sympathy with invalids. I consider it morbid. Illness of any kind is hardly a thing to be encouraged in others. Health is the primary duty of life. I am always telling that to your poor uncle, but he never seems to take much notice . . . as far as any improvement in his ailment goes. I should be much obliged if you would ask Mr. Bunbury, from me, to be kind enough not to have a relapse on Saturday, for I rely on you to arrange my music for me.

Audition Sides

Gwendolyn Fairfax

You have admired me? Yes, I am quite well aware of the fact. And I often wish that in public, at any rate, you had been more demonstrative. For me you have always had an irresistible fascination. Even before I met you I was far from indifferent to you. We live, as I hope you know, Mr Worthing, in an age of ideals. The fact is constantly mentioned in the more expensive monthly magazines, and has reached the provincial pulpits, I am told; and my ideal has always been to love some one of the name of Ernest. There is something in that name that inspires absolute confidence. The moment Algernon first mentioned to me that he had a friend called Ernest, I knew I was destined to love you.

Cecily Cardew

You silly boy! Of course I'll marry you. Why, we have been engaged for the last three months. Ever since dear Uncle Jack first confessed to us that he had a younger brother who was very wicked and bad, you of course have formed the chief topic of conversation between myself and Miss Prism. And of course a man who is much talked about is always very attractive. I daresay it was foolish me, but I fell in love with you, Ernest. The engagement was settled on the 14th of February last. Worn out by your entire ignorance of my existence, I determined to end the matter one way or the other, after a long struggle with myself I accepted you under this dear tree here. The next day I bought this little ring in your name, and this little bangle with the true lovers knot I promised you always to wear. You've wonderful good taste, Ernest. It's the excuse I've always given you for leading such a leading such a bad life. And this is the box in which I keep all your dear letters. I remember only too well that I was forced to write your letters for you. I wrote always three times a week, and sometimes oftener. The three you wrote me after I had broken off the engagement are so beautiful, and so badly spelled, that even now I can hardly read them without crying a little.

Audition Sides

Miss Prism

Cecily, Cecily! Your German grammar is on the table. Pray open it at page fifteen. We will repeat yesterday's lesson. Child, you know how anxious your guardian is that you should improve yourself in every way. He laid particular stress on your German, as he was leaving for town yesterday. Indeed, he always lays stress on your German when he is leaving town. Your guardian enjoys the best of health, and his gravity of demeanor is especially to be commended in one so comparatively young as he is. I know no one who has a higher sense of duty and responsibility. Idle merriment and triviality would be out of place in his conversation. Mr. Worthing has many troubles in his life. You must remember his constant anxiety about that unfortunate young man, his brother. I do not think that even I could produce any effect on the character that according to his own brother's admission is irretrievably weak and vacillating. Indeed, I am not sure that I would desire to reclaim him. I am not in favor of this modern mania for turning bad people into good people at a moment's notice. As a man sows so let him reap.

REV. CHASUBLE

Your brother Ernest dead? Mr. Worthing, I offer you my sincere condolences. You have at least the consolation of knowing that you were always the most generous and forgiving of brothers. Was the cause of death mentioned? I myself am peculiarly susceptible to draughts. Will the interment take place here? You would no doubt wish me to make some slight allusion to tragic domestic affliction next Sunday. My sermon on the meaning of the manna in the wilderness can be adapted to almost any occasion, joyful, or, as in the present case, distressing. I have preached it at harvest celebrations, christenings, confirmations, on days of humiliation and festal days. The last time I delivered it was in the Cathedral, as a charity sermon on behalf of the Society for the Prevention of Discontent among the Upper Orders. The Bishop, who was present, was much struck by some of the analogs I drew

Lane / Merriman

Use any of the male monologues above.