

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

Play no. 490

Opening: 16/11/1996

Translator: Yoram Kaniuk

Director: Andrew Manley

Designer: Paul Edwards

Lighting: Natan Panturin

Production Manager: Sharon Shapira

Assistant Director: Yulia Pevzner

Assistant Designer: Iris Ratinsky

Photography: Gadi Dagon

Graphic Design: Magen Chalutz

CAST

Lane/Meriman: Eyal Nachmias

Algernon Mancrieff: Micha Selektar

John Worthing: Uri Ravitz

Lady Bracknell: Lia Koenig

Miss Gwendolen Fairfax: Orna Rotberg

Miss Prism: Ora Meirson

Miss Cecily Cardew: Yael Harder

Rev Canon Chasuble: Robert Henig

SYNOPSIS

In seeking the redoubtable Lady Bracknell's consent for his engagement to her daughter Gwendolen, John Worthing reveals that he was a foundling. She dismisses his appeal and advises him that it is vital he should find an identity. Jack and his friend Algernon (Lady Bracknell's nephew) have both exercised their powers of invention to evade some of the pressures of society: as alibis, Jack has invented a scapegrace brother called Ernest, and Algernon an invalid friend named Bunbury. Algernon's discovery of Jack's double life sets him on the track of Jack's young ward Cecily. He makes her acquaintance by visiting Jack's house in the country, claiming to be Ernest. Both men's pretenses are exposed when Jack arrives in the morning for Ernest; whereupon, the insistence of both Cecily and Gwendolen that they will only marry a man called Ernest, sets both men arranging a rebirth (through christening) in that name and image. The necessity for this is obviated by the revelations of Miss Prism, Cecily's governess, recognized by Lady Bracknell as a nursemaid who once mislaid a baby. So it is discovered that Jack is Algy's brother, and that their father's name was Ernest. The play is set for a triple (ironic) happy ending – for Miss Prism and Canon Chasuble as well as the two younger couples.