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the Importance of Being EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde

A Trivial Comedy
For Serious People

The Village Hall, Escrick

Thu 17th, Fri 18th & Sat 19th

November 2016 at 7.30pm

www.mondayplayers.com



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THANKS

We would like to thank the following persons / organisations for their contributions to this production:

Pocklington School

Dragonfly Consulting, Selby

Escrick Club

Fasprint, Selby

Suzanne Ayers

Dress Circle

Escrick Village Hall Committee

All Other Escrick Village Hall Users

We would also like to thank the following businesses for promoting and advertising our production:

The Castle Inn, Cawood

The Ferry Inn, Cawood

The White Swan, Deighton

The Black Bull, Escrick

Escrick Club

The Fat Abbot, Escrick

Blacksmiths Arms, Naburn

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PAST PRODUCTIONS

1993

Dec Season's Greetings

1995

May The Happiest Days Of Your Life

1996

Feb When We Are Married

Nov Fish Out Of Water

1997

May Breath Of Spring

Nov Bedroom Farce

1998

May Suddenly At Home

Nov Flying Feathers

1999

May Cabaret Evening

Nov Stepping Out

2000

Apr The Farndale Avenue Housing
Estate Townswomen's Guild
Dramatic Society Murder Mystery

Jun Millennium Cabaret

Nov Celebration

2001

May Last Tango In Whitby

Nov Fringe Benefits

2002

Jun Separate Tables / Dress Rehearsal

2003

Jan Red Riding Hood

May Joking Apart

Nov Blithe Spirit

2004

Mar Sand Castles

Jun Cabaret 2004

Nov Daisy Pulls It Off

2005

May 'Allo 'Allo

Nov Lord Arthur Savile's Crime

2006

May Witness For The Prosecution

Nov Party Piece

2007

May Outside Edge

Nov Caramba's Revenge

2008

Apr Comic Potential

Nov Angels In Love

2009

May Cabaret 2009

Nov Natural Causes

2010

May Pygmalion

Nov Taking Steps

2011

May Habeas Corpus

Nov Role Play

2012

May Diamond Jubilee Cabaret

Nov Key For Two

2013

May Ladies' Day

Nov Season's Greetings

2014

May Salt Of The Earth

Nov Relative Values

2015

May The Odd Couple

Nov Absurd Person Singular

2016

May A Respectable Funeral /
Last Tango In Escrick

Nov The Importance Of Being Earnest

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Welcome to our latest play offering...

... The Importance Of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde.

Here we are again with our latest local 'value for money' evening out!

Finally, our long awaited production of The Importance of Being Earnest is here.

After a few false starts, and with mutton sleeves and wigs donned, we are ready to take on Oscar Wilde's glorious play.

It has been a mammoth task with regards to the scenery, requiring all three Acts to portray three very different settings.

In addition, costumes had to be authentic and of the period.

The actors however may argue that line learning has proved the most tricky of tasks. Some speeches resembling tongue-twisters if not delivered carefully and with clarity!

Well done to Sadie for sticking with her desire to put on 'Ernie' - she can hopefully sit back and relax now her job is done!

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to our newest members Helen Lawley and Jack Harrison.

And finally, thank you to our audience and sponsors for your continued support and patronage. It is, as always, greatly appreciated. I hope you enjoy the play!



Nicki

THE IMPORTANCE...

by **Oscar Wilde**

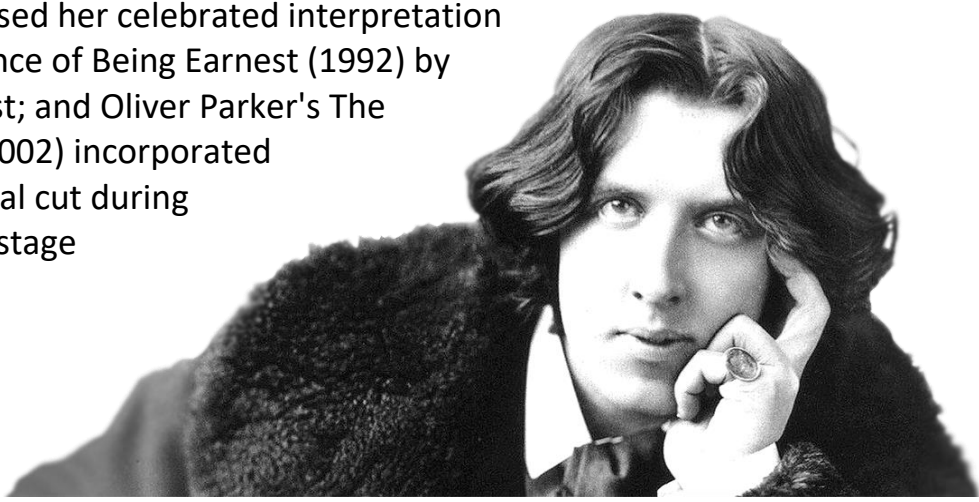
Oscar Fingal O'Flahertie Wills Wilde (16 October 1854 – 30 November 1900) was an Irish playwright, novelist, essayist, and poet. After writing in different forms throughout the 1880s, he became one of London's most popular playwrights in the early 1890s. He is remembered for his epigrams, his novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890), his plays, as well as the circumstances of his imprisonment and early death.

'*The Importance of Being Earnest: A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*' was first performed on 14 February 1895 at the St James's Theatre in London. Contemporary reviews all praised the play's humour, though some were cautious about its explicit lack of social messages, while others foresaw the modern consensus that it was the culmination of Wilde's artistic career so far. Its high farce and witty dialogue have helped make *The Importance of Being Earnest* Wilde's most enduringly popular play.

The successful opening night marked the climax of Wilde's career but also heralded his downfall. The Marquess of Queensberry, whose son Lord Alfred Douglas was Wilde's lover, planned to present the writer with a bouquet of rotten vegetables and disrupt the show. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was refused admission. Soon afterwards their feud came to a climax in court, where Wilde's homosexual double life was revealed to the Victorian public and he was eventually sentenced to imprisonment. His notoriety caused the play, despite its early success, to be closed after 86 performances. After his release, he published the play from exile in Paris, but he wrote no further comic or dramatic work.

Upon his release he left immediately for France, never to return to Ireland or Britain. There he wrote his last work, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol* (1898), a long poem commemorating the harsh rhythms of prison life. He died destitute in Paris at the age of 46.

The Importance of Being Earnest has been revived many times since its premiere. It has been adapted for the cinema on three occasions. In *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1952), Dame Edith Evans reprised her celebrated interpretation of Lady Bracknell; *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1992) by Kurt Baker used an all-black cast; and Oliver Parker's *The Importance of Being Earnest* (2002) incorporated some of Wilde's original material cut during the preparation of the original stage production.



EARNEST 'FACTOIDS'

- According to moneysorter.co.uk Jack's annual income of £7000 to £8000 in 1895 would be around £630000 to £730000 now!!
- And Cecily's £130000 in the 'Funds' would now be £11.8 million!
- In an early draft of the play Wilde's name for the character of Lady Bracknell was the Duchess of Selby!
- The derivation of 'Bunbury' may have come from Henry Shirley Bunbury, a hypochondriac acquaintance of Wilde's youth.
- The play's popularity has meant it has been translated into many languages, though the pun in the title ("Ernest", a male name, and "earnest", the virtue of steadfastness and seriousness) poses a special problem for translators....!
- In 2007 a first edition manuscript was discovered inside a handbag in an Oxfam shop in Nantwich, Cheshire. Staff were unable to trace the donor. It was sold for £650.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL
IS NOT PERMITTED DURING THE PERFORMANCE.**



**PLEASE NOTE THAT PHOTOGRAPHY AND/OR
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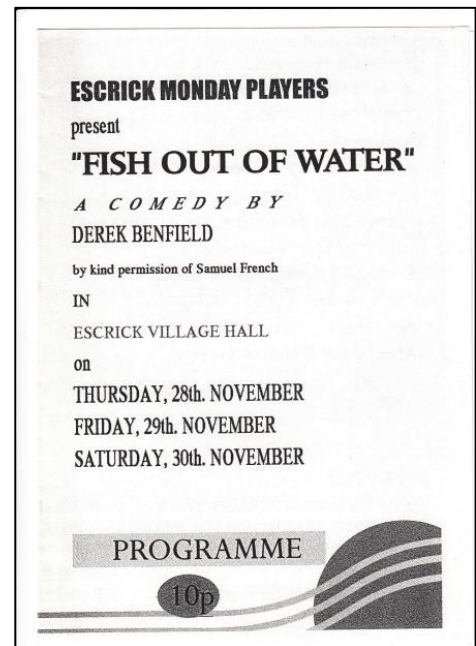
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO-OPERATION.



20 YEARS AGO

CAST

Brigadier Hubback	Simon Dowswell
Mrs Hubback	Barbara Hardcastle
Marisa (the maid)	Tricia Lane
Dora Cowley	Alma Belbin
Agatha Hepworth	Carole Money
Fiona Francis	Jean White
Mr Mallett	Ken Davison
Julian Whittle	Brian Ledger
Len Barrett	Lee Maloney



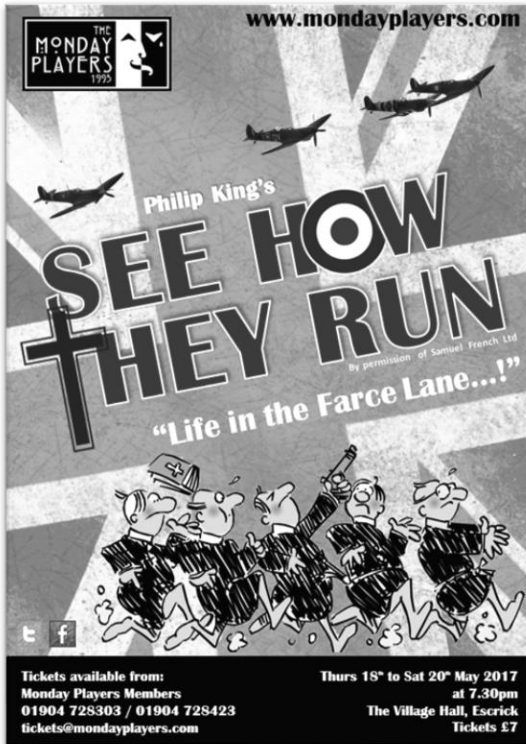
PLAY: Fish Out Of Water
PLAYWRIGHT: Derek Benfield
DATE: 28th - 30th November, 1996
DIRECTOR: Brian Ledger

Set in the romantic atmosphere of a sun drenched hotel on the Italian Riviera, the peace of the holiday makers is shattered by the arrival of a determinedly outspoken widow, Agatha Hepworth and her timid spinster sister, Fiona Francis. Agatha crushes all protests as she rounds up the hotel guests in communal games and other healthy pursuits. Her unflinching spirit of togetherness invades the private lives of all the characters with riotous results.



NEXT PRODUCTIONS

May 2017 – ‘SEE HOW THEY RUN’



Galloping in and out of the four doors of an English vicarage are...

...an American actor and actress (he is now stationed with the air force in England), a cockney maid who has seen too many American movies, an old maid who "touches alcohol for the first time in her life", four men in clergyman suits, an escaped prisoner in disguise and a sedate Bishop aghast at all these goings on!!

November 2017 – ‘THEFT’



Imagine returning from a pleasant anniversary celebration to find that your house has been burgled. In this witty thriller, the culprit is still in the house and, for a while, he convinces the returning couples that he is a policeman.

Unmasked as the thief, Spriggs reveals that he knows a number of uncomfortable truths that disrupt two seemingly happy marriages and one formerly strong friendship.

THE CAST

John Worthing
Algernon Moncrieff
Lady Bracknell
Gwendolen Fairfax
Cecily Cardew
Rev Canon Chasuble
Miss Prism
Lane
Merriman
Maid

Mike Waters
Graeme Parker
Barbara Hardcastle
Nicki Clay
Helen Lawley
Andrew Faulkes
Barbara Miller
David Lane
Samuel Valentine
Lisa Valentine

THE PLAY IS SET IN 1895

ACT ONE

Algernon Moncrieff's flat in Half Moon Street

ACT TWO

The Garden of the Manor House, Woolton

ACT THREE

Morning-Room at the Manor House, Woolton

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Act One & Act Two when soft drinks and choc ices will be available to purchase

There will be an interval of 15 minutes between Act Two & Act Three when a raffle will be drawn (tickets available from members)

The play will finish at approximately 10.15pm

THE CREW

DIRECTOR

Sadie Ashton

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

John Parker

SET DESIGN

David Lane

SET CONSTRUCTION

David Lane, John Parker,
Sadie Ashton, Linda Baillie
and Robert Hardcastle

STAGE MANAGER

David Lane

STAGE CREW

Linda Baillie, John Parker
Lisa Valentine and Terry Yates

LIGHTING & SOUND

Ken Davison
Pat Davison

TRANSPORT

Nick Leaf

PROMPT

Norma Nicholson

PROPS

Pam Newsholme
Lisa Valentine

COSTUME

Pam Newsholme

PROGRAMME & POSTER DESIGN

Graeme Parker

TICKET SALES

Sadie Ashton
Pamela Yates

FRONT OF HOUSE

Pamela Yates
with
Robert Hardcastle, Jack Harrison
David Newsholme, Pat Parker
Jill Pearson, Anita Shipley
Barrie Shipley, Nic Spencer
Nancy Waters and Kath Wilson

Please note that there will be no late admission after the commencement of the play following the intervals