

Coming up next at Mercer University Theatre...

Six Characters in Search of an Author

By Luigi Pirandello

Translation by Robert Brustein

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Six Characters in Search of an Author is the most popular of Pirandello's plays. In the play, audiences are confronted with the unexpected arrival of six fictional play characters that have been abandoned by their author. They interrupt and invade the rehearsal of another play and demand that the author not only finish their story, but in a way that they would like it to be told. The play asks probing questions about the nature of reality versus illusion, truth versus artifice and the workings of the creative process.

February 17, 18, 19, 22-26

7:00 PM

February 20, 27

2:00 PM

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change

Book and Lyrics by Joe DiPietro

Music by Jimmy Roberts

Now, at long last, *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change* exposes everything you've secretly thought about dating, mating, and romance but were afraid to admit. Mercer Theatre's upcoming production of this hit musical will take you on a joyride through the jungle of the modern-day suburban mating game.

I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change opened at the Westside Theatre in New York on August 1 1996 and became an immediate sellout following its world premiere at the American Stage Company. It closed recently Off-Broadway after becoming the longest running Off Broadway musical.

April 7, 8, 9, 12-17 7:00 PM

April 10, 18 2:00 PM

Presented at the Back Door Theatre, Mercer University

For reservations and information, call 478-301-2974, M-F 9am-3pm

Tickets \$5.00

For more information on the Mercer Players, visit them on Facebook, or go to the website at http://web.me.com/scotmann1/Mercer_Theatre/Welcome.html

Mercer University Theatre
presents
Oscar Wilde's
The Importance
of Being
Earnest
Directed by Scot J. Mann
at the
Back Door Theatre
November 5, 6, 9-13 at 7:00 P.M.
November 7 & 14 at 2:00 P.M.
Tickets: \$5
Box office opens 30 minutes prior to curtain.
Call 478.301.2974 For Reservations and Information
Monday-Friday, 9am-3pm
For more information on the Mercer Players, visit them on Facebook, or go to
http://web.me.com/scotmann1/Mercer_Theatre/Welcome.html

The Importance of Being Earnest

By Oscar Wilde

Directed by Scot J. Mann

Scenic Design Zach Broome
 Costume Design Shelley Kuhlen
 Lighting Design Marian Zielinski
 Sound Design Kelly Flemister

CAST

John Worthing, J.P. Jake Adams
 Algernon Moncrieff Connor Cosenza
 Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D. Kyle Shook
 Merriman Michael DellaPolla
 Lane Isaac Callahan
 Lady Bracknell Sheri Wilson
 Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax Sarah Stitt
 Cecily Cardew Leah Parris
 Miss Prism Monica Titus

MERCER THEATRE PRODUCTION STAFF

Technical Director Zach Broome
 Stage Manager Tory Johnson
 Assistant Stage Manager Leeanne Griffin
 House Manager Tory Mullins, Lauren Lunsford
 Lighting Crew Leeanne Griffin
 Lightboard Operator Kevin Mobolade
 Paint Crew Tory Johnson, Sarah Stitt, Connor Cosenza,
 Leeanne Griffin, Marian Zielinski, Scot Mann
 Set Crew Isaac Callahan, Marcella Murray,
 Brittany Chandler, Leeanne Griffin, Scot Mann
 Costume Crew Shelley Kuhlen, Marian McHugh,
 Evelyn Prater, Sarah Stitt, Suzan Bennett,
 Georgia Olsen, Ellen Parris
 Backstage Crew Leeanne Griffin
 Dialect Coach Monica Titus
 Dialect Consultant Georgia Olsen
 Hair and Makeup Ashley Feagin
 Graphic Design Darlene Murphy

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 or go the Mercer University Theatre website at:
http://web.me.com/scotmann1/Mercer_Theatre/Welcome.html*

The Players...

Jake Adams (John Worthing, J.P.), a freshman at Mercer, is a Macon native, son of Heyward and Laura Adams. He is making his debut at Mercer, but also performs at Theatre Macon on Cherry Street. You might have seen him in roles such as Huck in *Big River* or the Courier in *1776*. Jake is excited to finally work on a show at the college level and thanks Scot for the opportunity to do what he loves.

Zach Broome (Scenic Designer/Technical Director) is excited to have had the opportunity to design the set for this show. As our world is overrun by twitter, facebook, and email our desire for immediate communication becomes rather overwhelming and our interest in the past (which is to say, anything more than 10 minutes old) begins to disappear. It is refreshing to be able to work on a play that was first produced over a century ago. Our connection to the past is invaluable and it is important to remind ourselves of this as often as possible. Zach wishes to thank Marian and Scot for their creative support and unshakable faith, and he thanks his amazing fiancé, Amelia, for her unending support and love.

Isaac Callahan (Lane) is a fifth year Mercerian working on a second degree in Theatre. This is his seventh production at Mercer, with some of his favorite roles being Mr. Montgomery in *The Richest Man in London*, Fyedka in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and Reed Hooker in *The Lucky Spot*. He wishes to thank his friends and family for all the support and kicks in the rear. "Yes sir."

Connor Cosenza (Algernon Moncrieff) is a Mercer freshman. His favorite roles have been Henry Drummond from *Inherit the Wind*, Elwood P. Dowd from *Harvey*, and Romeo from *Romeo and Juliet*. He would like to thank Scot for casting and guiding him and also his parents for their constant support for his passion. Enjoy the show!

Michael DellaPolla (Merriman) is one of our graduating seniors. Majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, this is his first time working with Mercer Theater. Prior to joining the play, Michael spent the majority of his time at Mercer teaching Organic Chemistry and running lacrosse practices as the Mercer's Lacrosse team captain. Michael spends his free time making abstract computer art and writing music for his synthesizer-based music project, *Belle Avant*. Michael looks forward to seeing what the future holds come graduation in May, since he lacks any substantial career plans.

Kelly Flemlister (Sound Designer / Sound Operator) is a junior Art History major at Mercer. Kelly has been involved in several productions, with roles including Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Doris/Others in *Degas C'est Moi*, and Karolina in *An Enemy of the People*. She has also worked as Stage Manager and Assistant Stage Manager, most recently stage managing for *The Lucky Spot*. Kelly was also given the opportunity to choreograph and perform in the belly dance sequences for the experimental theatrical production *Coriolanus*. She is as always overjoyed to learn new skills, and has truly cherished the job of finding music for this production. Kelly would like to thank everyone involved in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, and is honored to be working with this inspirational, talented group of people. She would also like to thank her family and friends for their unending support.

Leeanne Griffin (Assistant Stage Manager) is a Junior English Literature and Theatre double major with a Photography minor. She has been involved with several Mercer productions in various capacities. She would like to thank her parents, who have always encouraged her, and her fabulous housemate Meredith for being a constant source of sisterly love. This cast and crew is amazing, and she truly loves all of them. Her affections never change, and she hopes that she has served as a needed DISTRACTION for all of her theatre family involved in this play.

Tory Johnson (Stage Manager) is a senior at Mercer, and has been the Stage Manager for several Mercer Theatre productions, including *Zastrozzi*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, and *Stop Kiss*. She also served as the Production Stage Manager for *The Bantamweight Plays* with RareWorks Theatre Company in Boston, Massachusetts. With Emerson State at Emerson College, she was Second Assistant Stage Manager for *Mini Musicals* and the Company Manager for *X Dance 2010*. Thanks to the cast and crew for another wonderful experience in the theatre!

Shelley Kuhlen (Costume Director) is in her fourteenth season as Mercer Theatre's Costume Director. Her designs have been seen in our productions of *Zastrozzi*, *An Enemy of the People*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Rashomon*. She is also Costume Designer for Mercer Opera where her creations were seen in their latest production of *The Merry Widow*, as well as last season's *Elixir of Love*. She is also employed by Theatre Macon, and her work was last seen in *The Little Foxes* as well as this summer's production of *1776*. Shelley wants to thank her wonderful family for their continual love and support. She also wants to thank her amazing costume crew for their countless hours of hard work and for their encouragement, love, and laughter.

Scot Mann (Director) A Mercer Alumnus, Scot Mann presently serves as Mercer's Director of Theatre. As director, he received a Meritorious Achievement Award for his direction of *Scapin*, by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival in 2005. Scot is also an internationally recognized and award winning Fight Director, certified through the Society of American Fight Directors and the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat. He has choreographed, performed and coached theatrical violence with such companies as The Steppenwolf Theatre, The Alliance Theatre, Alabama Shakespeare Festival, Theatrical Outfit, Georgia Shakespeare Festival, and The North Carolina School of the Arts. He has also served as an instructor for the British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat in London, and Stage Combat Deutschland in Freiberg, Germany. As an actor, Scot has appeared with the Georgia Shakespeare Festival, New American Theater, New American Shakespeare Theatre, Atlanta Opera, motion capture talent for digital media, and various voice-over recordings for radio, T.V. and the Internet. Scot appeared as a stunt-player and served as tactical choreographer and gun wrangler for the newly released movie, *Eyeborgs*, as well as on-set Swordmaster and stunt double for the "Bollywood" epic, *Drona*. Scot is an alumnus of the MFA/PAT program at The Alabama Shakespeare Festival. He thanks Kelly and his magical daughter, Madelyn!

Kevin Moholade (Light Operator) is a sophomore Biology major here at Mercer. This is his first production with the Players, and he would like to thank his loved ones, cast, crew and God for giving him the opportunity to be a part of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Leah Parris (Cecily Cardew), freshman, is a native of Macon who has been involved in local theatre for most of her life. She was most recently seen as Julia in Mercer's *Zastrozzi* earlier this

year and is overjoyed to be back on the stage of the Back Door Theatre. Leah would like to thank Scot for this super fun role, Tory for keeping us all in check, and the entire cast and crew just for being their wonderful selves!

Kyle Shook (Rev. Chasuble) is a junior English Literature and Women and Gender Studies double major looking to pursue a graduate degree in Medieval Studies once he graduates. This is his eighth production with Mercer Theatre and he is excited about being involved in another terrific show. In his spare time, he is a member of Mercer Players, Phi Eta Sigma, Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance, Mercer Shakespeare Society and Common Ground. He thanks Scot for challenging him to find his inner-vicar, his creator and personal savior, Oscar Wilde, Lauren for being essentially the best roommate ever, and his miserable family for calling him every few days just to make sure that he is alive. He thinks that about covers it. Enjoy the show!

Sarah Stitt (Gwendolen Fairfax) is a junior here at Mercer University majoring in Christianity. She is making her Mercer Theater debut in *Earnest*, but has been performing with community and professional theaters in her hometown since 2001. Favorite past roles include Courfeyrac in *Les Miserables*, Chiffon in *Little Shop of Horrors*, and Nancy in *Oliver*. Last spring she played the role of Emmy in Mercer's opera *Tickets Please* and became certified in rapier and dagger stage combat. This summer she assistant directed Twilight Theatre's 2010 cast of *Les Miserables* and directed the second annual performance of *A Princess Tea Party*. She would like to thank the crew of *Earnest* for everything they've put into the show and Scot for the opportunity to try a show where no one bursts into song. Big thanks also to her family and friends who drove all this way to see the show.

Monica Titus (Miss Prism) is a junior Music major studying Voice and Theatre, and eager to appear in her fourth production here at Mercer. She has been involved with Mercer Theater as well as the university's opera program since her arrival at Mercer. She was last seen as Ugly Step Sister Number Two in *Cinders*, here in the Back Door Theatre, and appeared as Lady Marian this summer in *The Somewhat True Tale of Robin Hood* at the Henegar Center in Melbourne FL. She is particularly excited to have been able to apply something that she has learned in school, and therefore has thoroughly enjoyed her experience as vocal coach. She would like to say, "Break a leg!" to her cast and crew and thanks to all of her friends and family who probably haven't seen or heard from her as much as they might have liked. You are all wonderful!

Sheri Wilson (Lady Bracknell) is a non-traditional junior Theatre Arts major. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, she is a retired paralegal, now pursuing her true passion of THEATRE. She has performed in many plays over the years. Among her most memorable roles are LaLa and Normal Jean in *The Colored Museum*, Ruth in *A Raisin in the Sun*, Juror #5 in *Twelve Angry Women*, Dorothy in *The Wiz*, Young Darlene Love in *Leader of the Pack*, and Woman #3 in *Everyday Women*, among others. This is her first production here at Mercer University. "Scot, your wisdom and guidance are truly gifts - Thank you! Christopher and Jessi, you are my heart. And to my husband - my own "creative consultant", Anthony, I love you FEF AFL."

Marian Zielinski (Lighting Designer) is Professor of Theatre at Mercer University. In addition to designing theatre productions, Marian has written and presented conference papers on the arts in Germany, Japan, Denmark, Italy, Sweden, British Columbia and Great Britain. She is also an award-winning fiber artist who most recently won first place for her piece titled "Morning

Light" in the Middle Georgia Art Association's show, *The Golden Hour*. Marian is an avid swimmer and painter who lives with her husband, Dr. Frank Macke, Chair of the Department of Communication Studies and Theatre at Mercer University, their dog, Buttons, and two kittens, YoYo and Panda. She dedicates this work to Frank for his love and inspiration.

Director's Notes

When we decided to produce *The Importance of Being Earnest* we knew we had the most important ingredient for a strong production: a truly magnificent work of dramatic literature. At each turn, Oscar Wilde kept us engaged with the dry, sparkling, engaging, and charming wit of these delightful characters. Cast members who were not familiar with the piece were delighted from the first read. Indeed, it was often difficult to continue due to the laughter in the room. This gift from Wilde deserved our best efforts, and the cast and entire production team hope very much that we have done justice to this timeless work.

Oscar Wilde died 100 years ago. In fact, he died on 30 November 1900, penniless, in Paris (ironic since he wrote the same fate for Jack's imaginary brother in *Earnest*). His comedies are not just funny; they are serious, if you dare to notice it. With *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Wilde boldly satirizes Victorian ideals, and the society he satirizes flees to the theatre to watch itself being roasted on the sharp skewer of Oscar Wilde's wit.

Much of our society is obsessed with surfaces, as well, and you might just notice a parallel or two to our own times if you look closely. It is, after all, how a play gains the title "timeless".

Scot J. Mann

Assistant Professor/Theatre Director, Mercer University
Fight Director, Society of American Fight Directors
Certified Teacher, British Academy of Stage and Screen Combat.

Mercer University Theatre Presents

**The Importance of
Being Earnest**
by
Oscar Wilde

Directed by Paul Oppy*
Set designed by Marian Zielinski*
Lighting Designed by Jim Cook
Costumes by Costume Crafters of Atlanta

Cast

John Worthing, J.P..... Christen Dockins*
Algernon Moncrieff..... Rich Benson
Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D..... Mark Brunson
Merriman..... Christopher Sheets
Lane..... Tom McKlin
Lady Bracknell..... Kristen Michele Thomas
Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax..... Kenley Grace Raynor
Cecily Cardew..... Christine Buel
Miss Prism..... Pamela Webb*

The Scenes of the Play

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.

Production Crew

Stage Manager
Assistant Stage Manager
Technical Director
Movement Coach
Music Consultants
Master Carpenter
Assistant Master Carpenter
Scene Shop Staff

Costume Shop Staff

Set Construction Crew

Master Electrician
Lighting Crew

Running Crew

Publicity Crew

Poster/Program Cover
Program Layout
Box Office Manager

Roland Ochoa
Mary Chris Waller
Marian Zielinski*
Robin Ervin*
John Stege, Diana Stege
Doug Martinek*
Gregg Franklin
Kelly Finley, Gregg
Franklin, Debbie Viggiani
Lori Behrendt, Christine
Buel, Johnna Cross*, Sara
Ewell
Rich Benson, Mark
Brunson, Christine Buel,
Johnna Cross*, Kelly
Finley, Gregg Franklin,
Tina Jenkins, Kelley
Lord*, Wendy McFarland,
Tom McKlin, Erin Peitso,
Kenley Raynor, Michele
Rosales*, Marian Savige*,
Christopher Sheets,
Debbie Viggiani
Jim Cook
Kelly Finley, Kelley
Lord*, Wendy McFarland,
Michele Rosales*, Amy
Worthy
Kelly Finley, Doug
Martinek*
Mark Brunson, Steve
Kight, Ron Light, Patti
Mathews, Christopher
Sheets
Marian Savige*
Christopher Sheets
Doug Martinek*

* Member of Alpha Psi Omega, National Dramatic Honorary

Mercer University Theatre Presents

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde

Special Thanks to:

Dr. John Chalfa
Dr. Gerre Price
Kay Sexton
Macon Telegraph and News
Warner Robins Daily Sun
Macon Arts Alliance
WMAZ-TV, WGMT-TV, WGXA-TV
Good News Television
Peach State Radio, WPEZ-Radio
WMKS-Radio
Cox Cable



May 4-7 & 11-14 8pm
May 8 2pm

Backdoor
Theatre