

Faringdon Dramatic Society



In association with

presents

**THE  
IMPORTANCE  
OF BEING  
EARNEST**

**BY OSCAR WILDE**

June 28 29 30 2007  
Faringdon Junior School

[www.faringdondramatic.org](http://www.faringdondramatic.org)

Affiliated to NODA



# The Importance of Being Earnest

Oscar Wilde wrote *The Importance of Being Earnest* in the summer of 1894 whilst on a family holiday in Worthing. His philosophy in what was to be his last play was 'that we should treat all trivial things very seriously and all the serious things of life with sincere and studied triviality'.

With his sophisticated wit and his characters' wilful playfulness Wilde parodies the conventions and values of late Victorian society.

In the twenty-first century “Earnest” remains a favourite of many who love to revisit the sparkling language and intelligent humour.

We welcome you to join us in this tale of love, identity, muffins and of course A HANDBAG.

*Jeff Barry*

Act 1 - Algernon's flat in Half Moon Street, London

Act 2 - The garden of The Manor House, Woolton, Hertfordshire

Act 3 - The morning room of The Manor House

There will be an interval of twenty minutes between Act 1 and 2 when the bar will be open and the raffle will take place, and a further interval of ten minutes between Acts 2 and 3.



## Cast in order of appearance:

Algernon Moncrieff	Daniel Lander
Lane	Austen Roberts
Jack Worthing	Adrian Wells
Lady Bracknell	Sarah Varnom
Gwendolen Fairfax	Jayne Isham
Miss Prism	Joan Lee
Cecily Cardew	Verity Crowdson
Reverend Canon Chasuble	John Taylor
Merriman	Austen Roberts
A Footman	Tim Evans

Director: **Jeff Barry**

Assistant Director: **Debbie Lock**

## Acknowledgements

We would like to thank:

- **Faringdon United Church** for rehearsal facilities
- **Faringdon Junior School** for their co-operation
- **The Nut Tree** for box office facilities
- **Members of the society** for kindly providing the props

Men's costumes from **BathTheatrical Costume Hire**

Ladies' costumes designed and made by **Jeni Summerfield** and **Joan Lee**

## Production Team

Producer	Sandra Keen
Stage Manager	Gary Field
Set Design	Sallie Seymour
Set Construction	Jeff Barry, Nick Evans, Tim Evans, Gary Field, Sandra Keen, Richard Lock, Alan Merrick, Sallie Seymour, Peter Webster
Lighting	Ian Chandler, Gary Bates
Sound	Gary Bates
Piano	Kathryn Whiffen
Wardrobe	Jeni Summerfield, Joan Lee
Props	Kate Tempest
Prompt	Karen Whiffen
Posters	Jo Webster, Adrian Wells
Programmes	Dave Headey
Front of House Coordinator	Denise Monk
Front of House staff	Lynda Bates, Joyce Harrison, Dave Headey, Jill Headey, Jeni Sumerfield, Carole Tappenden, Ann Taylor, Carolyn Taylor, Alan Taylor, Jo Webster, Peter Webster, Jenny Whiffen, Lynda Wisbey, Simon Wisbey

The next production at the Junior School will be **Lend me a Tenor** by Ken Ludwig, staged by the Fort Erie Theatre Group from Canada. They are being hosted by FDS for a week in September and the play will be staged on two nights only, **September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>**.

See enclosed flyer for more details.

Looking further ahead, our annual Panto next year will be a revival of **Peter Panto**, written by FDS member Peter Webster.

## Cast Profiles

### Daniel Lander (Algernon)

This is Daniel's sixth production with FDS. Previous credits include Lloyd Dallas in **Noises Off**, Mortimer Brewster in **Arsenic & Old Lace**, Nico in the award-winning **Albert**, and Lopakhin in **The Cherry Orchard**. Professionally trained, Daniel has worked with Gordon Kaye from 'Allo 'Allo and was a contributing writer on a BBC comedy sketch show along with Ricky Gervais.



### Adrian Wells (Jack)

Adrian has thoroughly enjoyed appearing in a variety of productions over the years since 1994, including **Lark Rise**, **The Crucible**, **Arsenic & Old Lace** and, recently, **Albert** and **Dreamers**. The list may have been longer, but he has to compete with other members of his family who also enjoy what the Society has to offer! When not acting, he happily spends his time poring over clipart and designing many of the FDS posters.

### Jayne Isham (Gwendolen)

Jayne has been appearing on stage since primary school, in musicals at secondary school and involved in over forty productions during her time at Swindon New College where she studied performing arts. She has more recently appeared as Helga in Stanford in the Vale Amateur Dramatic Society's performance of 'Allo,'Allo. This is her first experience of FDS - but hopefully one of many!



### Verity Crowdsen (Cicely)

Verity's first role main role was as Hermia in a school production of **A Midsummer Night's Dream**. At University she shunned the limelight and took a backstage role as costume manager but is now much involved in school drama, this time as a teacher at Shellingford School.

This is Verity's first production for FDS and she says she has enjoyed every minute - so far!

### Sarah Varnom (Lady Bracknell)

Sarah has been involved with the theatre since she first trod the boards at the age of six. Since joining FDS she has enjoyed all manner of roles in the society from Wicked Witch, to prompt, to Chairman, to man-eating Muriel in **Habeus Corpus**, Fraulein Kost in **Cabaret** and Maggie in **Dancing at Lughnasa**. Sarah's last appearance for FDS was as Belinda Blair in **Noises Off**.





## John Taylor (Canon Chasuble)

John has taken part in many of FDS's most successful productions, as actor, producer or director, and his reassuring presence either on stage or in the director's chair is always welcomed by cast members. Most recently he has appeared as Michael in **Dancing at Lughnasa** and last year directed **The Cherry Orchard** to great critical acclaim.

## Joan Lee (Miss Prism)

Joan has been seen all too rarely on the FDS stage in recent years, but her character roles as Martha Brewster in **Arsenic and Old Lace** and Maggie Festoon in **Idle Chatter** are fondly remembered. Joan is also one of our Wardrobe Wizards, and when not on stage usually has a mouth full of safety pins. It's fair to say she is a "mainstay" of the ladies' costumes in **Earnest**.



## Austen Roberts (Merriman, Lane)

With a degree in Drama and Theatre Studies, Austen brings a depth of knowledge and experience to the group. He founded a drama school for 5 to 17 year olds, appeared in **The Bill**, worked in both professional and amateur theatre in London and Derby and has toured Europe as a member of a chamber choir. Now happily settled in Faringdon and about to be married to Verity (congratulations!) this is his debut appearance for FDS.

## Our Director

**Jeff Barry** has also appeared in **The Importance of Being Earnest** with the Leach Valley Players and in **Sweeney** with the Stratton Drama Group. His first role with FDS was Gerry in **Dancing at Lughnasa** and has also been seen as impoverished landowner Pishchik in **The Cherry Orchard**. Recently, many people will recall his fall down two flights of stairs as Garry Lejeune in **Noises Off**. **Earnest** is his directorial debut: "at least I haven't got lines to learn"





## New Members

Faringdon Dramatic Society was formed nearly sixty years ago, in 1948. Since then it has mounted over 140 productions, ranging from pantomime to dramas, comedies and Shakespeare. Recently we have carried off a number of awards including the Ron Kench Shield for Drama for “Dancing at Lughnasa” in 2004, and Wallingford Drama Festival’s Best Play for “Albert” in 2005.

Our current membership is 60, but new members are always welcome, and there are opportunities for backstage and front of house personnel as well as actors.

For up to date details of the Society or membership please visit our website:

**[www.faringdondramatic.org.uk](http://www.faringdondramatic.org.uk)**

Or email us at [webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@faringdondramatic.org.uk)



