

**'Importance of Being Earnest' comes to Elliott Theatre**

# New challenges in Wilde's classic play

By CHRIS AAGAARD  
Herald Staff Writer  
When the curtain rises April 30 on Georgetown Little Theatre's production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest", director Derek Joyne will probably feel like a father watching his daughter head off on her first date.

The opening performance will carry, for the cast and every GLT member, more than the usual stage jitters. It marks the first time GLT has produced a play, complete with elaborate set changes, with the spacious John Elliott Theatre stage in mind.

Among the best comedies ever written in English literature, "Earnest" demands flawless. It's a light, witty play meant to roll on well-oiled theatrical ball bearings; any bumps would surely jar the audience back into the dreary spring of 1901 after enjoying moments suspended in time with some rather whimsical members of late 19th century British "haute couture".

Certainly a large share of the responsibility for maintaining the play's intended comic momentum will rest with the cast; but to ensure that the visual effects are literally seamless, GLT has taken advantage of a special theatre grant and commissioned a professional stage designer for a few weekends of instruction.

For the last two weekends and next Saturday and Sunday as well, David Antscherl is joining GLT's backstage crew and cast members at Sacre Coeur Church hall, offering advice which will be used over and over again on how to properly build stage sets for areas as large as the Elliott Theatre stage.

Thanks to his instruction, GLT will be able to transform the stage three times during the play, moving the audience from a London apartment after the first act to the luxurious garden of an English country house and finally into the same house's drawing room.

"Visually, it should be an excellent production," producer Jo Heed told The Herald Monday. "Mr. Antscherl has given superb detailed drawings for us to follow as we construct the sets. This enables us to build up a good stock of flats and windows (which can be used in future productions)."

**TAKES PLACE**  
Mrs. Heed added that Mr. Antscherl has studied the period in which the play takes place—just before the end of the 19th century—and using Wilde's development of character, tries to imagine what sort of environment Algernon Moncrieff and John Worthington would live in.

"From the actors' point of view, they love it," Mrs. Heed said. "It's definitely a new approach for us. When we were based in 'Wrigglesworth School on Sacre Coeur', we could go in and build a set, add furnishings and leave them there. Now, we have to pre-fabricate everything—it all has to be lightweight so that we can take it apart and move it to the theatre before the performances."

Previous GLT plays at the theatre - "Not Now, Darling", the annual Christmas feature and most recently "Our Town", have relied on frugal sets and backdrops. For the first time at the theatre, GLT will use no less than three sets, one for each act, comprising 60 flats.

"The purpose is not just to design a set for the 'The Importance of Being Earnest', director Joyne said. "It is also to teach us the steps of stage design and pre-fabrication."

Why all the fuss?

**FEW PLAYS**  
There are few plays in English literature which seem to retain their timelessness as

## the HERALD Entertainment



Oscar Wilde was 40 years old when he posed for this photograph (taken by R.H. Shepard in 1894). A year later, his most highly acclaimed play, "The Importance of Being Earnest", debuted on the London stage. Georgetown Little Theatre will bring this lively and timeless classic to the John Elliott Theatre April 30, May 1, 6, 7 and 8. It will be the first production GLT has done specially designed for the large stage in the theatre and will require three complete set changes.

end of the century that they take great pleasure in inventing people to act as foils in their otherwise untroubled lives.

Critics have described the play as "flawless" from a literary point of view. The self-contained vacuum in which the characters live allows them a child-like innocence; there are no dark recesses in the play behind which evil can lurk to mark the lives of the characters.

Not surprisingly, in the innocence of the play, the love interest is far from serious. It's a whimsical, spur of the moment, struck-by-Cupid's-arrow type of emotion. John Worthington and Algernon Moncrieff are the gentlemen of stature who, like a pair of teenagers, respectively fall in love with Gwendolyn Fairfax and Cecily Cardew. Their inventiveness (Worthington has a facilitious brother and Moncrieff tells lies about an ailing friend) provides them with something to do and talk about later over tea and cucumber sandwiches.

**LOVE FLIRTING**

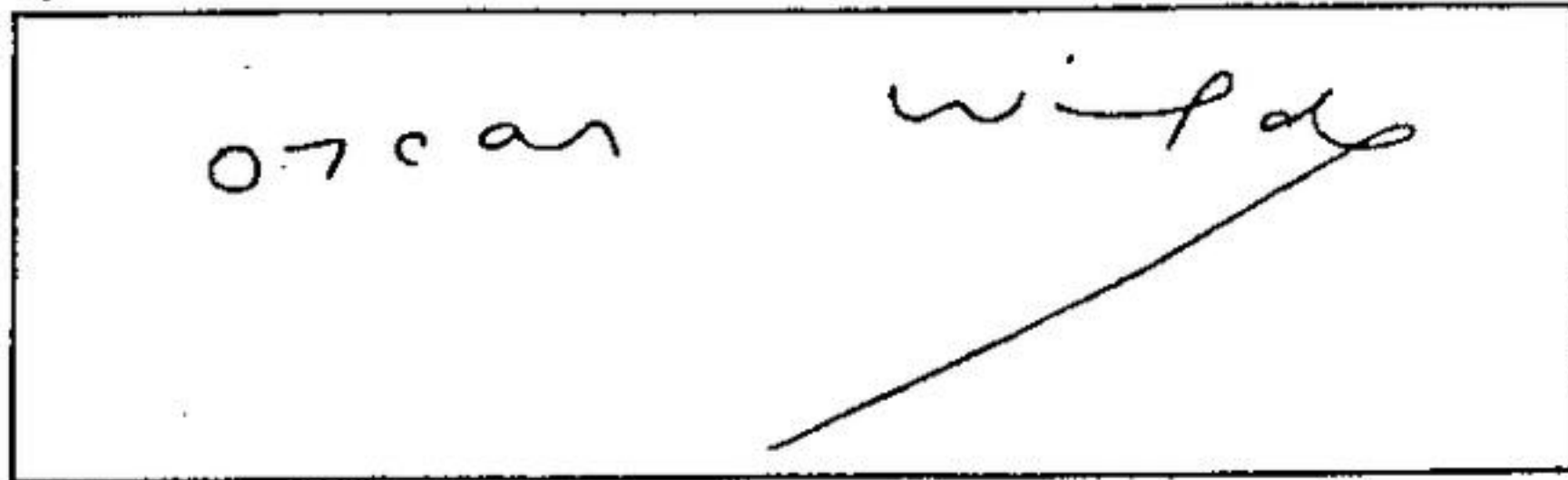
Both of them love flirting with "danger" or the chance that their little ruses will be uncovered. Sure enough, their inventiveness, put to use in the pursuit of love, does wind them up in a "scrape" and on the wrong side of the law which, in this microcosm, happens to be the aristocratic hawk, Lady Bracknell.

The play's snifty dialogue guarantees lots of good belly laughs as the characters plunge headlong into comic chaos, surfacing innocently enough in an elaborate denouement.

ment scene and living happily ever after following the reconciliation. Shakespeare used this technique religiously in his comedies and the more absurd the final scene, the better. Audiences just gobble the stuff up.

Advance ticket sales indicate that Halton Hills viewers are eager to join Algernon, Worthington and the other characters for tea, cakes and bread and butter. There are few seats remaining for each of the shows starting April 30

and continuing May 1, 6, 7 and 8. It promises to be a classic theatre-lovers won't want to miss and will close one of GLT's most successful seasons. Ticket sale information is available by calling the GLT box office at 877-5407.



**'IN THE CHURCHES'**  
and Part 30 in our  
**Church Series return soon**

J. Novak D.T. J. Kohari D.T.  
Georgetown  
122 Guelph Street on Hwy. 7.  
**Denture THERAPY Clinic**  
Phone: 877-8974 791-2314

**Trio Has Money Saving**

# EASTER SPECIALS

<b>TERRY'S EASTER EGGS</b> 1/2 PRICE	<b>Sardi Decorated EASTER EGGS</b> 1/2 PRICE	<b>Jelly Bean Filled EASTER BUNNY</b> 1/2 PRICE	<b>Rowntree Chocolate Easter EGG (Filled with Smarties)</b> 100 g. 1/2 PRICE Only \$1.15 each
<b>"Strawberryland" MINIATURES</b> Brightly painted figures small delicious! \$2.47	<b>"Crayon" COLOGNE</b> Non-toxic "Yellow Rose" scent. Spillproof bottle. \$1.99	<b>"Crayon" PLAY LIPSTICK</b> Washable, non-toxic. Colour choice. \$1.99	<b>Rowntree, marshmallow filled EASTER EGGS</b> 1/2 PRICE Only 20¢ each
<b>"Kenner" "GLAMOUR GALS"</b> 4" tall, fully pose-able fashion dolls. Ages 4 and up. \$2.99	<b>"Mattel" "BARBIE FASHIONS"</b> Assorted "Best Buy" fashions. Shoes not included. \$1.29	<b>Hi-Dri TOWELS</b> 89¢ 2 Rolls	<b>Coronet FACIAL TISSUE</b> 49¢ 120's
<b>TETLEY TEA</b> Box of 72 bags. \$1.79	<b>TIDE</b> 6 litre \$3.99	<b>PAMPERS TODDLERS</b> \$4.33 24's	<b>Cameo BATHROOM TISSUE</b> 99¢ 2 ply 4 rolls
<b>OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK</b>			<b>SALE ENDS SUN. APRIL 11th</b>

**GEORGETOWN**  
Halton Hills Plaza  
235 Guelph St.  
Hwy. No. 7

**GEORGETOWN**  
Moore Park Plaza  
128 Main St. North  
Hwy. No. 7

**FIND THE FOX SLEEP**  
IN STYLE... Choose from our Large selection of Waterbeds & Accessories, any size, any style. One just right for you!

**GEORGETOWN WATERBEDS**  
PHONE US FOR YOUR CONVENIENT SHOP AT HOME SERVICE  
MOUNTAINVIEW PLAZA 877-2826

# EASTER

## APRIL 10<sup>TH</sup> & 11<sup>TH</sup>

come celebrate our **EASTER WEEKEND SPECIAL.**

The Colonel's boys and girls have a **BUCKET** of finger lickin' good chicken, **16 oz. SALAD** and **FAMILY FRENCH FRIES** FOR ONLY **\$11.95**

**Kentucky Fried Chicken**  
The Colonel's taste is best.  
**chicken Villa**  
116A GUELPH STREET GEORGETOWN 877-5241

**FIND THE FOX**  
BEAUTIFUL HAIR IS NOT BY CHANCE BUT BY CHOICE!  
**JOCELYN'S HAIR STYLING**  
WE USE ONLY TOP QUALITY PRODUCTS  
877-8200

**LIMESTONE ALL SIZES A&B GRAVEL FILL AND TOP SOIL**

**'BUD' HAINES**  
3 DURHAM ST.  
877-3302 877-4593