

The Importance of being Earnest

Georgetown Little Theatre

REVIEW BY STEPHEN BAKER

Oscar Wilde was a large, ungainly man with a face only a mother could love. But what he lacked in physical presence he more than made up for by wit. His masterpiece, *The Importance of being Earnest* is regarded by many as the wittiest play in the English language. In it Wilde lampoons the pomposity of the aristocracy and monied classes of Victorian England.

The play is still fresh and hilarious 110 years after its first performance. Some of its lines have passed into the fabric of English culture. As an example, John Worthing, the central character, is subjected to a quizzing by his prospective mother-in-law, Lady Bracknell and confesses that he is an orphan, to which she utters the immortal line "To lose one parent can be regarded as unfortunate, to lose both parents is nothing short of carelessness."

The play requires impeccable timing and crystal clear diction. The temptation to actors is to deliver the lines too crisply when they should be drawled aristocratically to give full weight to the words. Think Rupert Everett and you get the picture. As the old acting adage goes "Dying is easy, comedy is hard". The implication being that drama only requires emotion while comedy requires accurate timing. Opening night is never the fairest time to do a review. All plays need a live performance or two to iron out the wrinkles. What was easy in rehearsal is never as fluid in front of the first audience.

The Georgetown Little Theatre production was staged artfully with impressive sets and costuming. Performances were uniformly strong and there was good balance in the interplay between characters. Nerves did play a part in the early scenes but by the second act the players had hit full stride and settled into the full rhythm of the play. Special mention should be made of the performance of Julia Lederer playing Cecily Cardew. The part fitted her like a glove and she brought a girlish sauciness to the character that was enchanting.

A very enjoyable evening. The play runs until Sat. Nov. 12 and tickets can be obtained by calling 905-877-3700



PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Suitor Jack Worthington played by Brian Jedan wing Gwendolen Fairfax played by Kathy Santha. David Brock plays Algernon Moncrieff with Julia Lederer as Cecily Cardew in the Oscar Wilde comedy.

Halton Happenings

Please note: Halton Happenings is a free editorial service to non-profit groups, churches, schools, and charities. Other events may be inserted at the discretion of the Editor. Deadline for submission is Tuesday at noon prior to insertion on Friday. Please restrict information supplied to include the date, time, venue, organization and contact details for your event. The Halton Compass reserves the right to edit each submission for brevity. Inclusion is at the discretion of the publisher and is dependent on space. To submit an event for Halton Happenings call 905-854-3333 or email info@haltoncompass.com

- November 11**
 - Milton Concert Presents *Serenade Chamber Ensemble* with Arkady Yanivker. Music for friends, by friends. Selections from; Beethoven, Spohr, Schubert, Tchaikovsky, Gershwin and more. St Paul's United Church 123 Main St Milton, tickets: \$25 & \$30. Call 905-878-4732 for more information.
- November 12**
 - Milton District Hospital Auxillary will be holding a **Christmas Gift Fair and Luncheon** at the Milton District Hospital, 30 Derry Road from 9 am to 1:30 pm. Giftware, crafts, gift shop, take a chance, raffles, bake sale and more.
 - The **10th annual Acton High School craft sale** will be held 10 am to 4pm at the school on 21 Cedar Road, Acton. Up to 100 vendors, raffles, BBQ lunch and bake sale. Adults \$2, children under 2, free. All proceeds directly benefit student activities. For more information, contact 519 853-2920.
- November 14**
 - Acton Seniors' Recreation Centre's **Christmas Bazaar and Tea**. Acton Arena Community Hall from 11 am to 2 pm. Crafts, baking, draws, country story, granny's attic and more.
 - Used Book Sale** at the Rockwood Branch of Wellington County Library during Library hours. Donations accepted until Nov 12. Please call 856-4851 for more information.
- November 15**
 - Please note the Canadian Mental Health Association/Halton Annual General Meeting has been scheduled for 6:30 pm at Hugh Foster Hall, 53 Brown Street, Milton
 - IODE Bazaar** 11:30 to 2:30 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Acton.
 - St. Andrew's United Church will be offering **Baby Yoga** for Babies 6 weeks to crawling and for their mothers. The focus will be on stretching, strengthening, and being aware of breath. Classes from 10am to 11:15 am and the cost for a 4 week session is \$40. Call 905-877-4482 for more info or to register.

- November 16**
 - Georgetown Horticultural Society - Meeting at 7:30 pm, at St. George's Anglican Church on Guelph St. The speaker will be Trevor Ashbee of Lynwood Gardens in Fergus on the topic "Rock Garden Plants and Garden Design". For info call Janice @ 905-873-9890. New members welcome!
- November 18**
 - Town & Country Christmas House tour in Milton. Six homes of various sizes and styles decorated for Christmas by professionals as a United Way fundraiser. Decorating ideas for everyone. 3 tour times, 3 prices, 3 lunch options, 6 different houses, 7 different decorators. Fri night bus tour \$65, Sat. self-directed tour \$25, Sat. bus tour - \$50. For information and tickets please call United Way of Milton (905) 875-2550 or www.milton.unitedway.ca.
 - No Name Band old time country jam-boree and dance at Curwin Pub in Rockwood, 148 Main Street North, 7:30 pm to 11 pm, downstairs in the banquet hall. Admission \$5. For more information call Jim at 905 873-0310.
 - Erin's Window Wonderland! A festive display in all the shop windows, starts at 6:00pm, village Christmas tree lighting at 6:30 p.m. Festivities include carol singing, complimentary warm apple cider, hot chocolate, hot dogs and cookies for everyone. Shops open until 8 pm and Santa will be visiting. Sponsored by the Village of Erin BIA. For further information contact Jo Fillery @ What's Cookin (519) 833-0909
- November 19**
 - "Christmas in the Country" Bazaar at Carlisle United Church, 1432 Centre Rd., 10-2 pm. Crafts, Christmas decorations, bake table, gourmet deli, silent auction, kid's corner, gift baskets, quilt draw, and much more. Lunch 11-1. For more information contact Ruther Harper 905 689-4515
 - Milton District Hospital Auxillary will be holding a **Christmas Gift Fair and Luncheon** between 9am and 3 pm. for the fair and 11 am and 1:30 pm for the luncheon at 30 Derry Road, Milton. Bake sale, raffle, take a chance and more.
 - Sonlife Youth Ministry Strategy Seminar 8:30 am until 4:30 pm. Erin Centre 2000. \$69 per person includes workbook, lunch, seminar and giveaways. Call Erin Village Alliance Church at 519-833-7114 to register.
 - The 10th Annual Acton High School **Craft Sale** will be held 10 a.m - 4 p.m. at the school on 21 Cedar Rd., Acton. 100 Vendors, raffles, BBQ lunch, and bake sale, something for everyone. Adults \$2.00 children under 12 free. All proceeds directly benefit student activities. For more information contact 519 853-2920

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<p>COMING EVENTS</p> <p>TORONTO TOY/DOLL COLLECTORS' SHOW, November 20 - 10am-4pm; International Centre, 6900 Airport Rd, Mississauga. Free Toy Identification Clinic, 12-2pm. Hundreds of antique/collectible toys. Bring the family! www.antiquetoys.ca, 905-945-2775</p>	<p>FINANCIAL SERVICES</p> <p>DEBT STRESS? End the worry. Avoid bankruptcy. Reduce payments by 30-40% & consolidate into one. End those phone calls & achieve peace of mind! Contact us online: www.mydebtsolution.com or toll-free 1-877-556-3500 (Pacific).</p>	<p>A BELOW BANK RATE, 1st and 2nd Mortgages, 95% to 100% Financing, Debt Consolidation, No Income Verification Plans, Residential, Commercial, Industrial. CALL TODAY 1-800-225-1777, www.homeguardfunding.com</p> <p>BELOW BANK RATES! \$\$\$ 1st & 2nd & Construction Mortgages. Lines of Credit... 95-100% Financing. Poor credit & bankruptcies OK. No income verification plans. Call Jim Potter, Homeguard Funding Ltd. Toll-Free 1-866-403-6639, email: jpotter@homeguardfunding.com</p>
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