

by Oscar Wilde Directed by Finola Hughes

Boston Court Pasadena January 26-30, 2024

USC School of Dramatic Arts 23/24

USC School of Dramatic Arts presents

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by Oscar Wilde

With

Alcides B. Costa Jr. Devin Craig Deniz Himmetoglu Beryl Liu Krosby João Roza Megan Tomei Gabriella Weltman Kai Zhang

Costume Design **Morgan Whittam** BFA Theatrical Design, Senior Lighting Design
Brandon Baruch

Technical Director Jesse Soto

Stage Manager Lisa Toudic She/Her, BA Theatre, ME Education, Senior

Directed by Finola Hughes

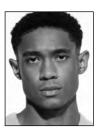
Boston Court Pasadena

January 26-30, 2024

CAST (In alphabetical order)



Alcides B. Costa Jr. He/Him, Canon Frederick Chasuble • MFA Acting Year 3



Devin Craig He/Him, Lane/Merriman • MFA Acting Year 3



Deniz Himmetoglu He/Him, Algernon Moncrieff • MFA Acting Year 3



Beryl Liu she/Her, Miss Laetitia Prism • MFA Acting Year 3



Krosby João Roza He/Him, Jack Worthing • MFA Acting Year 3



Megan Tomei she/Her, Gwendolen Fairfax • MFA Acting Year 3



Gabriella Weltman She/Her, Cecily Cardew • MFA Acting Year 3



Kai Zhang He/Him, Lady Augusta Bracknell • MFA Acting Year 3

This performance contains a 15-minute intermission.

CONTENT WARNING

Please be advised this production contains outdated expectations of gender roles and classist statements.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

USC is built on the unceded land of the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people. We at SDA acknowledge and honor the Tongva, Chumash and Kizh people/communities and wish to amplify that they are still here. We encourage everyone to find out whose ancestral land you live on and commit to our shared responsibility to be agents of change, and for each of us to consider our roles in reconciliation, decolonization and allyship.

NOTE FROM THE ARTISTIC TEAM

IN A LETTER to his good friend Ada Leverson, Oscar Wilde wrote: "I hope you enjoy my 'trivial' play. It is written by a butterfly for butterflies."

Hidden among the many paradoxes and parodies within Earnest are satirical truths and longing for a world free of sexual boundaries. Wilde dresses up his genuine search for idealized love within upper class British rigidity by utilizing Shakespearean star-crossed lovers and rapid-paced, witty dialogue. His bravery to touch on social convention and gender roles in plain sight, skewering the very audience the play was written for, shows guts and daring. His style is at once silly and stinging, exposing the skin-deep triviality of the "ruling class." Playing with versions of British snobbery onstage, perhaps Wilde found a better interpretation of the illusion that was Victorian society, the "earnest" world on the outside, full of sham and falsities.

ADDITIONAL THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST PRODUCTION STAFF Vocal/Dialect Coach Louis Colaianni | Intimacy Director Jaclyn Chantel Production Deputy Megan Tomei | Assistant Stage Manager Trevor Williams Production Manager Leia Crawford | Stage Management Mentor Jenn Sarvas Hair & Makeup Consultant Juliet Black | Costume Assistant Maya Reddy Wardrobe Supervisors Allie Rones, Kale Hinthorn | Costume Mentor Samantha Jones | Technical Crew Ali-Moosa Mirza, Chelsea Allison, Christian Johnson, Colum Goebelbecker, Hannah Harding, Montserrat Videla Samper, Phillips Payton, Toni Willis

SPECIAL THANKS David Warshofsky, Natsuko Ohama, Emily Roxworthy, Manny Prieto, EmmaJo Spencer

USC School of Dramatic Arts

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ABOUT THE SCHOOL

The USC School of Dramatic Arts fosters the talents of artist-scholars who are dramatically different — who are willing to imagine the future of the entertainment industry and bring it to life. Through an interdisciplinary, entrepreneurial education students develop the skills necessary to discover their unique voice and are exposed to diverse styles and multiple media. Students and recent alumni are supported by the School's unique Professional Development Center which offers career services and professionalization opportunities to help students establish and sustain successful careers as creators, performers and cultural innovators. For more information, visit dramaticarts.usc.edu.

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The USC School of Dramatic Arts would like to recognize the generosity of the following individuals and organizations who have supported the School over the past year towards core programs such as production, professional development, scholarship, Dean's Strategic Fund and our new Drama Center. We recognize at the visionary level those donors whose tremendous generosity has reached the cumulative giving level of \$1 million+. Their extraordinary commitment has built the foundation for our continued ascent and future achievements.

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