

The Community Theatre of Howell
AUDITION NOTICE


THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

...A Trivial Comedy for Serious People
by Oscar Wilde

Oh, those crazy Victorians!

Oscar Wilde's most popular satire is as stingingly comic and relevant today as it was at its premiere in 1895. This classic play is required reading in many high schools and offers excitement for actor and audiences alike!

We invite you to be part of Earnest's 116th birthday party at CTH!

<p><i>Monday</i> 11/29/10 6:30pm paperwork 7:00pm begin Barnard Center OPEN AUDITIONS</p>	<p><i>Tuesday</i> 11/30/10 6:30pm paperwork 7:00pm begin Barnard Center OPEN AUDITIONS <u>8:30 pm</u> <u>CALLBACKS</u></p>	<p><i>Wednesday</i> 12/1/10 CAST LIST POSTED BY NOON on stage door, & www.cththeatre.org 6:30pm – 9:30pm Barnard Center ACTOR ROUNDUP FIRST READTHRU</p>	<p><i>Thursday</i> 12/2/10 6:30pm – 9:30pm Barnard Center REHEARSALS BEGIN.... (MON-FRI 6:30 TO 9:30pm)</p>	<p>HOLIDAY RECESS 12/23 – 1/2/11 NO REHEARSAL Monday 1/3/11 REHEARSALS RESUME</p>
<p>No conflicts allowed after Jan. 20, 2011</p>		<p><u>FRIDAY</u> <u>Feb. 4, 11</u> <u>7:30 PM</u> <u>PERFORMANCE</u></p>	<p><u>SATURDAY</u> <u>Feb. 5, 12</u> <u>7:30 PM</u> <u>PERFORMANCE</u></p>	<p><u>SUNDAY</u> <u>Feb. 6, 13</u> <u>2PM</u> <u>PERFORMANCE</u></p>

Synopsis: Two young gentlemen living in Victorian England have taken to bending the truth in order to put some excitement into their lives. Jack Worthing has invented a brother, Ernest, whom he uses as an excuse to leave his dull country life behind to visit the ravishing Gwendolyn Fairfax. Jack's

friend, Algernon Moncrieff, decides to assume the identity of Ernest to woo Mr. Worthing's young and beautiful ward, Cecily Cardew, at Jack's country manor. Things start to go awry when they end up together in the country and their deceptions are discovered by none other than Gwendolyn's formidable mother, Lady Bracknell, threatening to spoil their romantic pursuits. Will love by any other name conquer all?

AUDITION INFORMATION:

- **AUDITION LOCATION:** Barnard Recreation Center – 415 N. Barnard, Howell, MI. 48843. The Barnard Center is located four blocks north of Grand River. The CTH entrance is in the back where there is plenty of parking.
- **AUDITION FORM:** CTH website (www.cththeatre.org), may be filled out ahead of time. Please bring a current photo, as we have no camera available. We will have forms available at auditions.
- **CONFLICTS;** Please bring your calendar and ***all conflicts you have between December 1, 2010 and February 13th, 2011*** (no conflicts will be allowed after Jan 20, 2011) Please, be accurate and complete when listing your conflicts.
- **REHEARSALS: Monday through Friday beginning December 1, starting promptly at 6:30 pm until 9:30 pm.** (NO REHEARSAL 12/23 - 1/2)
- **SCRIPT REVIEW:** A script may be checked out by contacting **Kevin Rogers, Producer, at kevin@michmail.com**
- Audition scenes will be available on the website prior to auditions.

PLEASE NOTE:

- **Everyone who auditions must be age 16 or older.**
- **While British accents are NOT expected at auditions, actors will acquire a British accent during the rehearsal process. Dialect coaching will be provided.**
- **Most roles have a significant number of lines. Aggressive memorization will be expected.**

CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS:

- *The character age listed is a general range. The Director reserves the right to cast outside this range.*

The Ladies

Lady Bracknell: (50+) is Algernon's snobbish aunt and Gwendolen's very domineering mother. Her goal is to preserve the class distinctions and secure a very satisfactory marriage for her daughter. She delivers with complete seriousness many of the funniest lines in this play. She is confident in her position as part of England's high society. She simply demands that rank hath its privilege and is nonplussed when things do not go as tradition demands.

Gwendolen Fairfax: (20-30): is the daughter of Lady Bracknell and is also Algernon's cousin. She is a modern city girl. Sophisticated and always current in her views regarding style and taste, she is in love with Jack whom she knows as Ernest. She speaks with authority and confidence. She is fixated on only marrying a man who is called Ernest. She finds that just saying that name gives her "vibrations". She is in the full bloom of young womanhood and corseted sensuality.

Cecily Cardew: (18): is Jack's ward and the granddaughter of the old gentleman who found Jack when he was a baby. She is a lovely rosebud of femininity who is also captivated by the name Ernest, because of the exciting

wickedness of Jack's brother. The quiet country life has allowed her vivid imagination to create an elaborate love story with Ernest.

Miss Prism: (50+): is Cecily's governess. She is the epitome of Victorian restraint and gives high praise to Jack's good character while judging his brother Ernest harshly. Puritan on the surface...she harbors a romantic nature that is fixated on Dear Dr. Chasuble. Her sincerely delivered pronouncements are some of the funniest lines in the show.

The Gents:

John (Jack/Ernest) Worthing: (20-40): is a respectable young man who leads a double life. On his estate in Hertfordshire he is the responsible guardian of his beautiful ward Cecily. He uses his invented wicked brother "Ernest" to get away to London, where he assumes that identity and enjoys the pleasures of the city. He was adopted and does not know who his family is. He is in love with his friend Algernon's cousin Gwendolen. Jack must convince Lady Bracknell of his suitability to be Gwendolen's husband and fix the small problem of not really being the "Ernest" Gwendolen thinks he is.

Algernon Moncrieff: (20-40): is charming, idle, aristocratic...and in debt. He is witty, selfish, amoral and given to funny pronouncements that point out the paradox that is Victorian society. He has known his friend "Ernest" for years and discovers Jack's secret. Algie also has a secret, his imaginary invalid "Bunbury" who helps him escape the city to pursue pleasurable adventures and escape dull social obligations. Algie assumes the "Ernest" identity and visits Jack's home where he falls in love with Cecily.

Rev. Canon Chasuble: (50+) is the rector on Jack's estate. He staunchly defends his life of ecclesiastical learning and celibacy...but secretly entertains romantic notions toward Miss Prism. Wordy and nerdy, he is torn between his mind and heart's desires.

The Staff: (minor roles)

Lane: (20 -80+) is Algernon's manservant. He is droll, and unemotional. He is fully aware of Algie's Bunburying. (In Act 1 only)

Merriman: (80+) is Jack's loyal manservant... and is as old as dirt. (In Act 2 and 3 only)

Maggie: (any) is a housemaid on Jack's estate. (no lines and only in Act 2 and 3)

CTH WELCOMES YOU! While experience is helpful, the Community Theatre of Howell does not require previous theatrical experience. We do, however, require that you have the desire and the drive to help us produce high quality shows that our audiences have come to expect. Please come join us for a wonderful theatrical experience! We look forward to seeing you at the auditions!

Production Staff

If you have questions please contact:

Rebecca Dilworth, Director- r.dilworth@comcast.net 517-552-0955
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