

Starkville Community Theatre
presents



Oscar Wilde's

The *Importance* Being
EARNEST

*Even before I met you, I was far from indifferent to you.
In matters of grave importance, style, not sincerity, is the vital thing.
"A hard bag!" He has nothing, but he looks everything.
My duty as a gentleman has never interfered with my pleasures in the smallest degree.*

Directed by Lyle Tate

September 11-14 and September 16-20, 2008
Playhouse on Main



The *Importance* of Being
Oscar Wilde's
EARNEST

Directed by Lyle Tate

Cast

(In Order of Appearance)

<i>Lane</i>	Christopher Walrath
<i>Algernon Moncrieff</i>	Kris Lee
<i>Jack Worthing</i>	Marcus Vowell
<i>Lady Augusta Bracknell</i>	Madeline Golden
<i>Gwendolen Fairfax</i>	Katrina Bohn*
<i>Ms. Prism</i>	Tracy Power*
<i>Cecily Cardew</i>	Mandy Kinney
<i>Dr. Chasuble</i>	Thomas La Foe
<i>Merriman</i>	Christopher Walrath

* SCT Debut

Time & Place

Act I

Algernon Moncrieff's flat on Half-Moon Street, W.
A spring afternoon in 1910.

Act II

The garden at the Manor House, Woolton.
The following day.

Act III

The drawing room of the Manor House, Woolton.
Immediately following.

(There will be a ten-minute intermission between Acts I & II.)



Production Team

Director	Lyle Tate
Assistant Director/Stage Manager	Andrew Watkins
Lighting / Sound Design	Thomas La Foe
Lighting / Sound Operator	Brenda Mayo
Costume Design & Construction	Sue Snow
Additional Costuming	Diane Ellis
Milliner	Cherri Golden
Costuming Assistant	Karen Ketchum
Hair Design	Jansen Fair
Properties	Claudia Bennett, Maureen Hughes, and Cooper Kennard
Box Office	Bob Anderson & Marsha Williams
Reception Decorations	Derek Aaron
Set Construction.....	Katrina Bohn, Ty Davis, Lee Dempsey, Madeline Golden, Mandy Kinney, Thomas La Foe, Kris Lee, Paula Mabry, Sam Pote, Tracy Power, Amanda Clay Powers, Sue Snow, Lyle Tate, Marianne Ulmer, Marcus Vowell, Christopher Walrath, Andrew Watkins, Molly Watkins, and Collin Whitten

Special Thanks

Bob Anderson
Peppy Bidy & Mississippi University for Women Department of Dance & Theatre
Melanie Harris & Theatre MSU
House of Tux
Margaret Kennard
Sarah Morse
Marco & Mary Sue Nicovitch
Amanda Clay Powers
Angie Marquez
Paul Ruff
Carole Sorenson
Starkville High School Drama Department
Hal Sullivan
Tom Booth & Tupelo Community Theatre
Esther Ulmer

Special Note of Appreciation: Gabe Smith & Marianne Ulmer



About the Cast

Katrina Bohn

Katrina (*Gwendolen Fairfax*) is very thankful for the opportunity to make her debut on the SCT stage. Acting and dancing since age two, Katrina has performed in numerous venues across the country, but SCT is quickly becoming one of her favorites. Katrina received her bachelor's degree in theatre from Middle Tennessee State University, and she spent last summer studying theatre in London. Being able to immerse herself in the culture and historical landmarks of England has made this particular show even more significant to her. She has thoroughly enjoyed working and laughing with this wonderful group of people on such a brilliant show. She currently resides in Columbus with her husband, Cody, and pug puppy, GusGus.

Madeline Golden

Madeline (*Lady Augusta Bracknell*) is excited to be on stage in SCT's season opener. She welcomes newbies Katrina and Tracy to the SCT stage and is thrilled to tread the boards again with Kris, Thomas, Christopher, Marcus and Mandy. She sends special love and thanks to Lyle for giving her the opportunity to play "Lady Bracknell," to Andrew for being there for her all the times she called, "LINE!" and to Sue for the many hours of work she put into costumes for the cast. Madeline works on the MSU campus in the Office of Agricultural Communications.

Mandy Kinney

Mandy (*Cecily Cardew*) is very excited to be in her second SCT show. You may remember her as "Vicki/Brooke" in last year's *Noises Off*. Mandy teaches theatre and directs at Starkville High School. She would like to thank the cast and crew for supporting her memory loss with her lines, Paula for guidance, Lyle and Andrew for wonderful direction, Sam for support, and her students for their encouragement and patience. Enjoy the show!

Thomas La Foo

Thomas (*Dr. Chasuble*) is appearing in his first speaking (not speaking AND singing) role since *Postmortem* in the 2006-2007 season. Usually found making a spectacle of himself in the summer musicals, Thomas has been seen in other regular season shows like *Forever Plaid* as "Sparky," *Terror by Gaslight* (also under the direction of Tate), and *I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change*. He has also directed several shows for SCT: *It Runs in the Family*; *Not Now, Darling*; *Laura*; and *The Complete History of America [Abridged]*. He is excited to be directing *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare [Abridged]* as a season extra in May, as that's the show he REALLY wanted to do the first time around (even though he would not trade the memories of *America* for ANYTHING). Outside of the theatre Thomas works for MSU Libraries as an Instructional Technology Specialist, teaching software workshops and the like.

About the Cast

Kris Lee

Kris (*Algernon Moncrieff*) is an award-winning playwright and a former recipient of the Gertrude C. Ford Fellowship for playwriting. As an actor, he has debuted two roles for the American stage. He is also a seasoned cabaret artist with pianist James Lesniak, formerly affiliated with the Santa Fe, Pittsburgh, and New York City Operas as well the National Opera with Plácido Domingo. Kris is a member of the Dramatist Guild of America and co-creator of Under the Billiam Tree Productions, currently located in Tucson, Arizona.

Tracy Power

Tracy (*Ms. Prism*) is a recent graduate of MUW's Department of Music and Theatre. She is very excited about her first show at SCT and is grateful for the warm welcome she's received. Tracy will soon be packing her bags and moving to Sacramento to join the B Street Theatre. She would like to say "thank you" to all of her friends and family for their constant support.

Marcus Vowell

Marcus (*Jack Worthing*) is delighted to be once again on the SCT stage. He has appeared in a number of previous productions including *Lion in Winter* ("Henry II"), *Smoke on the Mountain* and *Sanders Family Christmas* ("Stanley"), *It Runs in the Family* ("Dr. Mortimer"), and the odd summer musical revue. When not pretending to be other people, he works in the IT department of EMCC and announces at MSU baseball and volleyball games. He wants to thank his beautiful wife and children for all of their support while he's been off being silly. "Krista, Peyton, and Meghan, I love you guys! You're my inspiration!"

Christopher Walrath

Christopher (*Lane / Merriman*)... is still here. Fortune or maybe fate still keeps him in good old Starkville with another show under his belt.

“ In matters of
grave importance, style, not
sincerity, is the vital thing. ”



From the Director

"It has a music of its own. It produces vibrations."

Home tonight from our first dress rehearsal with full costumes (and hats!), I am simply thrilled. Scrolling through my photos, I get more and more excited about having an audience – you! – see and share this production with us in just a few nights. This project has been so special to me for the past six weeks (and, really, even before then), and I cannot wait to introduce Oscar Wilde and *Earnest* to someone new and to remind those familiar with him how wonderful his writing truly is.

"How immensely you must amuse them."

Creating *The Importance of Being Earnest* each evening with this group of amazing people has been my privilege and joy. To me, this is truly a power cast if ever one was assembled. They have learned these massive lines and have remained remarkably true to the text. I am supremely proud of them (especially since I didn't have to learn line one). The more shows I get to share with my dear friends Kris, Madeline, Thomas, Mandy, Marcus and Christopher, the more I learn and the more I grow to love SCT. Katrina, I am so very pleased you've brought your talents to the Playhouse for what I hope is the first of many productions with you. Tracy, bless your soul and thank you for jumping full-force into this production (I can hardly believe it was only a few days ago); the B Street is lucky to be getting you!

"If I am occasionally a little over-dressed, I make up for it by being always immensely over-educated."

As with all SCT productions, many people came together to make this one possible. However, one person especially put hours and hours of her time into making *Earnest* particularly beautiful. Sue Snow's research, expertise, enthusiasm, kindness, and patience are evidenced on this stage tonight and are forever in my heart. Sue, I owe you beyond big-time. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

"He has nothing, but he looks everything."

To Andrew I also say "thank you" for agreeing to share this journey with me, for making me laugh, for keeping track of the money, for assuring me throughout, and for making these weeks together so very special. You are my friend and one of my very favorite people. (I hope our executive director approves.)

"Even before I met you, I was far from indifferent to you."

To you, our audience members, tonight I say welcome to the beginning of SCT's 31st season! My hope is that you will love *Earnest* as much as we have. Enjoy!

Lyle Tate
8 September 2008

Director Sought

Starkville Community Theatre is seeking a director for an exciting event taking place in January. SCT singers will pair with the MSU's State Messengers to perform one night of music at Lee Hall.

The director will choose the singers, work with Michael Brown of MSU on the program for the evening, and basically head up this new event.

If you wish to submit your name to direct this collaboration, you must email (kbvowell@netdoor.com) or call (323-4711) Krista Vowell by Monday, September 22.

Upcoming Auditions

Doubt

By John Patrick Shanley

Sunday and Monday, November 2 and 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Directed by Gabe Smith

For more information please check www.sct-online.org

Please Join Us for Fourth Fridays

* Sometimes held on the first, second or third Friday of the month

September 26 - Poetry

Featuring works by *Devon Brenner* and *Claire Sheperis*

October 24 - Drama

Featuring works by *Kris Lee*

November 14 - Fiction

Featuring works by the *Starkville Novel Writing Month Writers*



JOIN US FOR SCT'S 2008-2009 SEASON

The Importance of Being
EARNEST



By Oscar Wilde ~ September 11-20, 2008

COMPANY

By Stephen Sondheim ~ October 30--November 8, 2008

DOUBT

By John Patrick Shanley ~ February 19-28, 2009

Let's Murder
Marsha



By Monk Ferris ~ April 23-May 2, 2009

The 2007-2008 Season is sponsored by a grant in part from the Mississippi Arts Commission and in part from the National Endowment for the Arts.

