

Acknowledgements

The Producer, Committee and members of CATS extend their grateful thanks to everyone who has given assistance with this production - from the storage of scenery to the loan of properties. Particular thanks go to_ Richard Hirons of Hirons' Nursery', Woodrow, for the loan of the plants and shrubs used to create the garden set .. Helen England of The Flower Room', for the Victorian display .. & the Management of 'The Range', Kidderminster, for the loan of the fireplace .

Our next production is . . .
MOTHER GOOSE

Everyone is welcome to the first read through' which will take place on Monday 21st May, at 7:30 pm at the Village Hall.

Show dates:

15th to 17th and 20th to 24th November 2007

Producer: Matthew Tunncliffe

01562 777 329



Chaddesley Amateur Theatrical Society
is an Amateur Society ~ and a member of N.O.D.A.

Chairman: Jonathan Swift

Vice Chairman: Peggy Cox

Treasurer: Paul Chiverton

Secretary: Jackie Brown (777 537)

Committee

Rupert Boden
Harry Grove

Nikki Davies
Andrew Hartill
Hugh Richards

Alyson Evans
Alan McFarlane



C.A.T.S.
Presents..

The Importance of being Earnest



A play by

Mr. Oscar Wilde

At

Chaddesley Corbett Village Hall

From

24th to 28th April, 2007

The Cast

Mr. Algernon Moncrieff.	Mr. Matthew Tunncliffe.
Mr. Jack Worthing. J.P.	Mr. Patrick Baines.
Lady Bracknell.	Mrs. Joanne Powick.
Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax.	Mrs. Beth Page.
Miss. Cecily Cardew.	Miss. Amy Bowen.
Rev. Canon Chasuble. D.D.	Mr. Rupert Boden.
Miss. Prism. (Governess).	Mrs. Carole Hislop.
Merriman (the Butler).	Mr. David Hislop.
Lane (a Valet).	Mr. Nigel Evans.
Maid.	Mrs. Lynne Tunncliffe

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People'

The Importance of Being Earnest was an artistic breakthrough for Oscar Wilde (1854-1900), being something between a self-parody and a deceptively flippant commentary on the dramas with which Wilde had already had so much success. In Wilde's hands, the form of Victorian melodrama (in which fallen' women and abandoned children of an uncertain parentage figure prominently - letters cross and re-cross the stage - and dark secrets from the past rise to threaten the happiness of seemingly respectable, well-meaning characters) became something else entirely.

He introduced a new character to the genre, the figure of the dandy (a man who pays excessive attention to his appearance) thus adding a moral texture the form had never before possessed. The character of the dandy was heavily auto - biographical and was often a stand-in for Wilde himself - a witty, overdressed, self-styled philosopher who speaks in epigrams and paradoxes, who ridicules the cant and hypocrisy of society's moral arbiters - and who self-deprecatingly presents himself as trivial, shallow, and ineffectual. In fact, the dandy in these plays always proves to be deeply moral and essential to the happy resolution of the plot.

The Importance of Being Earnest was an early experimental play, being part satire, part comedy of manners, and part intellectual farce. It seems to have nothing at stake because the world it presents is so blatantly and ostentatiously artificial - but below the surface of the light, brittle comedy, is a serious subtext that takes aim at self-righteous moralism and hypocrisy; aspects of society which would help bring about Wilde's downfall.

On the opening night of *The Importance of Being Earnest*, John Sholto Douglas, 9th Marquess of Queensberry, (father of Wilde's friend Bosie', the 26 year-old Lord Alfred Douglas - whose older brother Lord Francis Douglas, had died in a "shooting accident" following an 'association' with the then Prime Minister Archibald Primrose) believing his sons to have been corrupted by older men, planned to insult and socially embarrass Wilde by throwing a bouquet of turnips at the author when he took his curtain call. Wilde was tipped off and Queensberry was barred from entering the theatre. However, the play, which had opened on St. Valentine's Day 1895 to full houses and fine reviews, had closed by mid-May and Wilde was incarcerated in Reading Goal.

The Production Team

Producer.	Mr. Harry Grove.
Stage Manager.	Mr. Richard Walker.
Stage Crew.	Mr. Michael Ellis & Members of the Company.
Wardrobe Mistress.	Mrs. Peggy Cox.
Properties Mistress.	Mrs. Nikki Davies.
Lighting & Sound Manager.	Mr. Andrew Hartill.
Pianist.	Liberace.
Prompt.	Mrs. Margaret Grove.
House Manager	Mrs. Isobelle Swift.
Production Manger.	Mrs. Jackie Brown.
Catering.	Mrs. Sue. Quibell.
Ticket Sales.	Mr. Rupert Boden.

The action of the play_

Act One_

is set in the Drawing Room of the London home of
Mr. Algernon Moncrieff .. just before Tea-time ..

*There will be an Interval during which
Refreshments will be served for your delectation.*

Act Two_

is set in the garden of the Hertfordshire Country House of
Mr. Jack Worthing .. again, just before Tea-time ..

*There will be a further, short Interval,
For the comfort and convenience of our esteemed Patrons.*

Act Three_

takes place in the Conservatory overlooking the gardens ..
a little later that After-noon ..

After the Performance, your Carriages will await you at the Front Door.