

JOHN RUSKIN GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Christmas Play  
1949

"THE IMPORTANCE  
OF BEING EARNEST"

by

OSCAR WILDE

# " THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST "

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## FOREWORD

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This, the most popular of Oscar Wilde's plays, was first produced in 1895. It has retained its appeal ever since as a piece of light satire on ladies who are over-particular in their choice of lovers, and of gentlemen whose outward respectability belies their secret adventures. The Honourable Gwendolen Fairfax will have no one for a husband unless his name be Ernest. John Worthing, Esq., J.P., assumes that name to win her, and his one fabrication leads to endless others. The untangling of this tissue of untruths gives point to the title of the play, in which "Earnest" is an adjective, not a proper noun.

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## THE CAST

John Worthing, J.P. ... .. (of the Manor House, Woolton, Herts.)	...	...	...	...	Owen Everson
Algernon Moncrieff ... .. (his friend)	...	...	...	...	Robert Banks
Lady Bracknell...	...	...	...	...	Anthony Nye
The Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax (her daughter)	...	...	...	...	John Eveleigh
Cecily Cardew... .. (ward of Mr. Worthing)	...	...	...	...	Harold Bailey
Miss Prism ... .. (her governess)	...	...	...	...	Andrew McIntyre
Rev. Canon Chasuble... .. (Rector of Woolton)	...	...	...	...	Bernard Leadbeater
Lane ... .. (Mr. Moncrieff's servant)	...	...	...	...	Derek Howes
Merriman (Butler to Mr. Worthing)					Robert Jones

## SCENES OF THE PLAY

ACT I: Algernon's Flat in Half Moon Street.

ACT II: The Garden of the Manor House, Woolton.

ACT III: The Morning Room of the Manor House.

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*Producers:* Mr. York, Mr. Cracknell and Mr. Griffiths.

*Wardrobe:* Mr. Brooke.

*Stage Management and Décor:* Mr. Gee, Mr. Alexander,  
Mr. Evans and Mr. Peacock.

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*During the Intervals the School Orchestra will play to you*