

SPECIAL THANKS

The artistic director and managing director would like to recognize and thank:

Mr. Jack Frick and the Dubuque Arboretum and Botanical Gardens

Ms. Sandye Voight and the Telegraph Herald

You, our audience!

BIOS (CONTINUED)

NICK JOHNSON (Jack Worthing, J.P.) has recently been seen on local stages with alarming frequency. Be careful! You may not always recognize him! Recent disguises include an indian chief, a movie studio tycoon, a major general, a gambler, and a male stripper. If you should find yourself at a show featuring Nick Johnson, don't panic. Just sit back and enjoy the performance!

ALEX MCCARTHY (Lane/TWP Managing Director) has been called "the funniest man in fifteen years." This quote cannot be verified because shortly after the woman said it, she was flown to the nearest medical facility. Alex is pure seriousness. He seriously serves as the Managing Director of TWP. He would literally wear many hats in the Dubuque theatre community if it were not for his big head, so he just does the jobs sans hats. Some of his most serious acting roles were *The Mousetrap* (Paravicini), *The Zoo Story* (Peter), *RiverWrites: Outside the Box* (Ensemble) and *Hamlet/R&G* (Osric). Alex seriously enjoys directing and some of his directing endeavors included *Dinner and Destiny*, *The Game*, *The Death Reel*, and *Fresh Ink*. He hopes to find a nice lady, a nice house, a super high paying job teaching high school English, and raise lots of weird kids who think he is cool. Alex would like to thank his family and friends for not disowning him.

MICHELE MCKINLAY (Lady Bracknell/Props & Scenery) has performed and directed for several area theatre companies during the past decade. Directing credits include Tennessee Williams' *Suddenly Last Summer*, Sophie Treadwell's *Machinal*, Sarah Ruhl's *Dead Man's Cell Phone*, and Arthur Miller's *All My Sons*. Acting credits include Dubuque Museum's Dead Artists' Series (Mary Cassatt), the Loras Players/FBNP production of *Hamlet* (Queen Gertrude) and *Enchanted April* (Lotty). She is a professor at the University of Dubuque where she also serves as the Co-Director of Core Curriculum.

SARAH ELISE SZEIBEL (Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax) returns to Oklahoma City University in the fall as a senior Vocal Performance and Music Theatre major and French minor. Memorable roles include those in *Dracula* (Lucy), *Seussical! The Musical* (Cat in the Hat), *Don Giovanni* (Zerlina), and *Gianni Schicchi* (La Ciesca). She is a TWP founder and directed and music directed the TWP production of *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*. Gummy bears are her favorite food. She's a fairy princess. Seriously.

KYLIE WEITZ (Production Stage Manager) is a recent theatre graduate from UNI this spring. "Earnest" is her second production with Trainwreck. She is enjoying the show as an audience and crew member. She is extremely grateful to be a part of a fun company and hopes to make more train stops along the journey with them.

*We aspire to produce the best damn found-space theatre
and foster young playwrights in Dubuque, IA.*

For station info, wreckage, and more, visit www.TrainwreckProductions.org



presents...

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

by
Oscar Wilde

adapted and directed by
Ryan Michael Decker

Props & Scenery Coordinator
Michele McKinlay

Costume Coordinator
Whitney Arnold

Sound Coordinator
Gwen Beatty

Stage Manager
Traci Evers

Production Stage Manager
Kylie Weitz

July 27-29, 2012 The Formal English Garden

The Importance of Being Earnest is in public domain and performed without royalties.

THE PERFORMANCE IS ONE HOUR AND WILL HAVE NO INTERMISSION.

FROM THE DIRECTOR

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

I assume nearly everyone here today has read *The Importance of Being Earnest* before, at least in high school (perhaps a long or short time ago) if nowhere else. 117 years after Wilde originally wrote “Earnest”, we will still read it, produce it, and talk about it. Is it because Wilde crafted an incredibly rich plot? Probably not. Because it carries a deep, complex message that shook the public? Unlikely.

My guess: It’s smart.

In my opinion, Wilde does nothing well as a playwright if not exciting an audience with impossibly sharp wit. It’s dry and sparring, but it’s engaging. And charming. Wilde had very definite opinions on society, aristocracy, and courtship – and he holds nothing back. What results is a humorous play – trivial play of serious people.

But I’ll let the play speak for itself.

What I really want to do is sincerely thank everyone who has made this performance, and Trainwreck Productions, possible. The cast and crew have brought a lot of focus, excitement, and fun to our very short rehearsal process (Three weeks!). This collection of people have shared a belief that the fun of performance and bringing these characters to life originates in dedicated, focused effort in (and outside) rehearsal. They have made this production a pleasure for me – and really, what more could any director ask? To the cast, crew and all of our supporters, thank you.

Finally, I would like to thank you, our audience, for taking the time to share this evening or afternoon with us. *The Importance of Being Earnest* may not shake your world or change your life, but I hope that our toil will bring you a few smiles and laughs. Thank you. We hope you enjoy!

- Ryan

CAST (in order of speaking)

Lane Alex McCarthy
Miriam Mandy Brosius
Algernon Moncrieff Tim Goranson
Jack (Ernest) Worthing, J.P. Nick Johnson
Lady Bracknell Michele McKinlay
Hon. Gwendolen Fairfax Sarah Elise Szeibel
Miss Prism Whitney Arnold
Cecily Cardew Gwen Beatty

TRAINWRECK PRODUCTIONS

Artistic Director Ryan Michael Decker
Managing Director Alex McCarthy
Board of Directors .. Whitney Arnold, Mandy Brosius, Traci Evers, Jake Heims

BIOS

WHITNEY ARNOLD (Miss Prism/Costumes) is very excited to not only be involved in another “Trainwreck,” but to be involved in “Earnest” again, albeit as a different part! A recent graduate of Loras, her recent roles include *The Game (Life)*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Featured Singer)*, *The Madwoman of Chaillot (Madame Josephine)*, and a lot of random small characters in between both on and off stage. She would like to thank her family and friends (especially Mandy Brosius) for coming and supporting her in shows (even if it is a drive for them!) LOVE YOU ALL!

GWEN BEATTY (Cecily Cardew/Sound) is a corporate coffee slave. Some of her favorite roles have included *A Midsummer Night’s Dream (Hermia)*, *12 Angry Jurors (Juror 8)*, and *Almost, Maine (Sandrine, Marci, Gayle)*. She’s so indie it almost hurts. This is the best show in the world. Thank you.

MANDY BROSIOUS (Miriam) is thrilled to be a part of yet another Trainwreck Production this summer alone! She previously was involved in Fresh Ink, the earlier production of this summer where she played two of her favorite roles she’s ever played, Karen and Skipper. Since enrolling at Loras College in fall 2010, she has been “bitten by the theatre bug.” As of last spring Mandy was inducted into the Guild of St. Genesius, the Loras honor theatre fraternity, and elected as Vice President. She has also recently become involved with community theatre and was part of Rising Star’s production of *Hairspray* that just closed. She hopes to continue to be involved both on and off stage in the future and would like to thank her friends and family (especially Whitney Arnold) for all of their love and support. LOVE YOU ALL!

RYAN MICHAEL DECKER (Director/TWP Artistic Director) graduated in May from UNI with a B.A. in Acting & Theatre Performance and minor in Music. He is a freelance actor, director, teaching artist, musician, and writer. He has over 40 credits as an actor on stage, film, and television; favorite roles include *The Zoo Story (Jerry)*, *Chicago (Mary Sunshine)*, *On the Verge (Grover, Yeti, Troll, Gus)*, *Bat Boy: The Musical (Ron)*, *Almost, Maine (Steve, Phil)* and *Reefer Madness (Ralph)*. His directing credits include productions of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Alice in the Underground*, *Close to the Flame*, and *Godless*. www.RyanDecker.yolasite.com.

TRACI EVERS (Stage Manager) Traci has been a member of Trainwreck Productions for the past two years. She is thrilled to be a part of another Trainwreck Production after acting in *The Game* last summer. She has acted in numerous shows at Loras College before graduating this past May, and she has learned a lot about the offstage aspects of theatre through involvement with Trainwreck Productions. She would like to thank Alex and Ryan for all of their hard work and dedication that has made Trainwreck Productions so successful.

TIM GORANSON (Algernon Moncrieff) has had a long and varied acting career. From such roles as a man sitting on a box in *Our Town*, to a man wearing a silly beard in *White Christmas*. Of all of his roles, his favorite would easily be a stripper-reject in *The Full Monty*. Working on *The Importance of Being Earnest* has really challenged Tim’s acting “talents.” This is a much larger role than Tim has had in the past. Not only has he been given a part with a name, but lines as well, which is a major change to roles he has had in the past. Outside of acting Tim enjoys strong drinks, bad jokes, and hash browns.

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