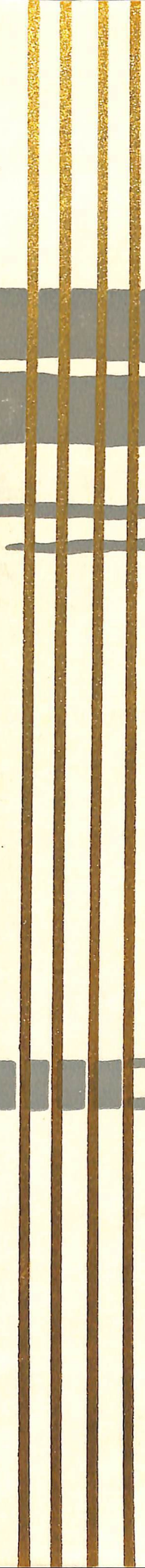


*The Importance
of Being Earnest*

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M. A. D. C.

presents

**THE IMPORTANCE OF
BEING EARNEST**

A Trivial Comedy for Serious People

by

OSCAR WILDE

AT THE

MANOEL THEATRE

VALLETTA — MALTA

WEDNESDAY, 20th MARCH, 1963, at 8.30 p.m.

THURSDAY, 21st MARCH, at 7.30 p.m.

FRIDAY, 22nd MARCH, at 7.30 p.m.

SATURDAY, 23rd MARCH, at 8.30 p.m.

Swiss House.

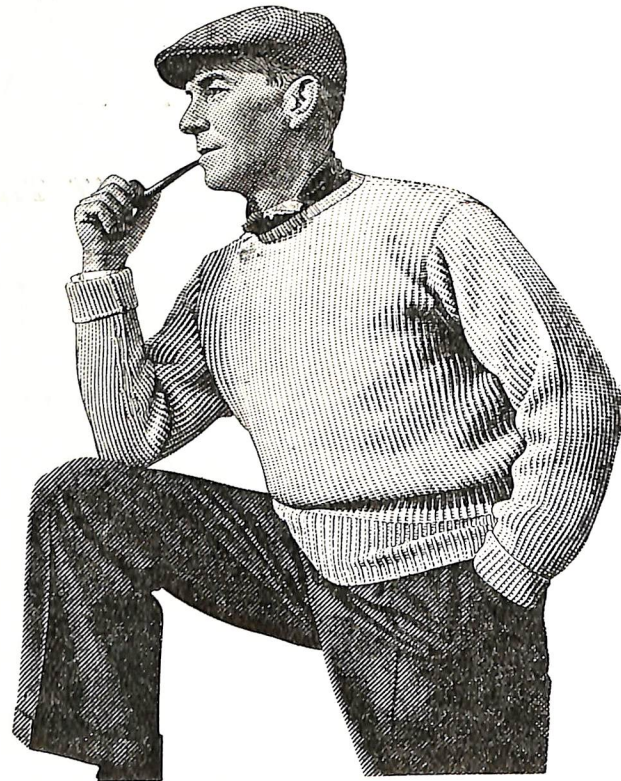
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PLAYERS OF IMPORTANCE

MARY MORTON

Her first part for the Club was the leading lady in "The House by the Lake" at the De Porres Hall in the autumn of 1960. Her mother Lesbia Scott was a member of the Club and is still remembered for her performance in "Nine till Six". She is an enthusiastic producer for the Religious Drama Guild in England, and imbued her daughter, at an early age, with a love of the drama. Mary Morton is a first class comedienne, as shown by her performance in "Breath of Spring" last December, but she will be chiefly remembered in Malta for her magnificent Emilia in "Othello" in 1962, and for her grace and wit as Mrs. Candour in "The School for Scandal".

JILLIAN BINNS

This delicate and charming actress left the professional stage on her marriage and good fortune brought her to Malta, where she is well known for her playing of Shakespearian leading parts and for a delightful 'Lady Teazle'. Jillian Binns is a connoisseur of the best in the modern theatre.

MAUREEN CHEYNEY

When a member ten years ago of the M.A.D.C. she played small parts, and her profession as a W.R.N.S. officer led her to play increasingly difficult roles in the R.N. Drama groups in the United Kingdom. She excelled in Noel Coward's "Marquise". She was seen in "The Sound of Murder" a year ago, after which she produced "Othello" and played the lead in "The Amorous Prawn" last October.

ALEX NICOLL

Alex Nicoll has been constantly playing with the M.A.D.C. since he joined the society in the spring of 1962. He first appeared at the Manoel Theatre as Charles Surface in "The School for Scandal" a year ago, and followed this success with 'Cassio' in "Othello" and the General in "The Amorous Prawn".

PETER STAMPER

Peter Stamper joined the M.A.D.C. with a reputation for comedy, which was fully justified by his performance in "The Amorous Prawn" and now in "The Importance of Being Earnest".

JANE FRANKLIN

Jane Franklin is a young player of charm, who was spotted for talent when she acted in a private Club production of Rattigan's "Harlequinade". She is now cast for the ingénue role in the present play.

JOHN McALLISTER

John McAllister's first appearance for the M.A.D.C. was Mr. Crabtree in "The School for Scandal". He appears now in a part, which his wit greatly embellishes.

FRANK SEWARD

This actor's appearance and personality have led him to play fine supporting parts in Shakespeare. He is specially remembered for his Earl in Pertwee's "The Paragon".

EDWARD HAYLOCK

Edward Haylock has played small parts and was recognised for his quality in a private Club production.



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ABOUT THE PLAY

"The Importance of Being Earnest" is the last play which Wilde ever wrote and in it he achieved his masterpiece. After a few years of never wholly genuine seriousness of subject, he had at last come to realise the exquisite importance of *not* being earnest. This comedy's cardinal merit is its complete irresponsibility — an airy state in which only the inconsequent statement or situation is of consequence.

The play was first produced by Mr. George Alexander at St. James' Theatre, London on 14th February 1895, and was an immediate success, a success which was to afford Wilde his last moments of glory before his tragic downfall.

Since 1895 the play has constantly been revived in London and New York and now holds its own special place of honour in the English Drama. It also has the singular distinction of having been produced as a radio play, a television play, a film and even a long playing record.

As a piece of theatre it offers a particular challenge to amateurs. More than most plays it requires style, exquisite movement, perfection of dialogue and a fine sense of timing. All the characters have a superb confidence in their own self-conscious wit and this means that the amateur must not simply know his lines, he must dominate them.

We hope that tonight our cast will give you a performance worthy of this — one of the gems of the English theatre

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

(A Trivial Comedy for Serious People)

Characters In The Order Of Their Appearance

LANE, Mr. Moncrieff's man-servant *John McAllister*

ALGERNON MONCRIEFF, a gentleman of leisure *Peter Stamper*

JOHN WORTHING J.P.,
his friend, another gentleman of leisure *Alex Nicoll*

LADY BRACKNELL, Mr. Moncrieff's aunt *Mary Morton*

Hon. GWENDOLEN FAIRFAX, her daughter *Jillian Binns*

MISS PRISM, a governess *Maureen Cheyney*

CECILY CARDEW, Mr. Worthing's ward *Jane Franklin*

Revd. CANON CHASUBLE, D.D., Rector of Woolton *Edward Haylock*

MERRIMAN, a butler *Frank Seward*

The Play Produced and Directed

by

MICHAEL DAY

ACT I

*An afternoon in June 1890 in the morning room of
ALGERNON'S flat in the Albany.*

ACT II

The garden at the Manor House Woolton — a day or so later.

ACT III

The morning room of the Manor House Woolton a few minutes later.

There will be an INTERVAL of 15 minutes between each Act.

Stage Manager MICHAEL CONNOLLY

Assistant Stage Manager JOHN HUNT

Stage Decor ANNE ROWE

Costume Design and
Wardrobe Mistress ANNE ROWE

Ladies Costumes made by JESSIE VELLA

Gentlemen's Costumes made by GREENBURGH BROS. and
P. CALLEJA

Set Design MICHAEL DAY

Make-up BETTY SANDHAM

Continuity ELIZABETH FOCKEN

Properties FRANCES SEWARD and
MOIRA HAYLOCK

Furniture in Act II BY DOLPHIN FORGE, III, MARINA, PIETA'.

Scenery built by SALVATORE TESTA

Box Office for M.A.D.C. DENNIS CARVER

Box Office for Manoel Theatre MARGARET DEGIORGIO

Head Electrician CHARLES TABONE

Assistant Electrician } Manoel
Theatre
Staff JOHN LAUS

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Mr. B. Sandham.

Miss E. Warren, M.B.E., (Hon. Secretary).

Club Headquarters: Santa Venera, Hamrun.

Hon. Secretary: Telephone: Rabat 107.

MANOEL THEATRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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Mr. MICHAEL KISSAUN -- *Manager*

Smoking is not permitted in the Auditorium, Boxes and the Gallery.

The Management reserve to themselves the right to make any change, vary or omit any part of the programme without previous notice.

Patrons are reminded that the taking of photographs during the performance is not allowed.

All seats bookable in advance (including gallery).

Seats can be reserved for organised parties on application.

F O R T H C O M I N G E V E N T S

Malta Choral Society on 2nd April.

* * *

G. Miliareisis — Celebrity Guitar Recital 8th and 10th April.

* * *

A Play by the Malta Drama League — "Il-Kerrejja" (Third Prize winning play in the M.T.M.C. Playwriting Competition) on 20th and 21st April.

* * *

A Play by Alvaro Fontana — "The Hands of Eurydice" by Pedro Block on 25th and 27th April.

THE M.A.D.C. SEASON 1962/63

Opening in October with Joseph de Piro's light comedy 'The Amorous Prawn' written by an old member, now professional Anthony Kimmins, the Club went on at mid December to present a farcical comedy, 'Breath of Spring', with Kathleen Warren producing and heading a fine team.

The M.A.D.C. next took the opportunity of producing a distinguished American play 'Winter Journey' under the direction of Edward Chittleburgh.

With the presentation of Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest' under Michael Day we give the public a different style of comedy, witty and very beautiful, from the point of view of stage presentation.

Dates from 6th to 11th May are reserved in this Theatre for 'Marching Song' by one of the younger playwrights, already famous for plays of ideas. John Whiting is the author, and the producer will be Francis Ebejer, himself the author of a prize winning Maltese play, and enthusiastic about this play, set in post war Europe.

The year 1963 marks the 25th Anniversary of the first play staged at San Anton Gardens. The play this year will be 'The Merchant of Venice' and will be produced by Hope Slessor, who played Rosalind and produced "As You Like It" in 1938.

It is hoped that this Festival attraction will cause many old members of the M.A.D.C. to visit Malta at mid-summer.



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