



Stage Write

The Newsletter of **ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE**

Volume 16, Number 4

January 2007

Two young girls are wild about Ernest in Wilde's *Importance of Being Earnest*

by Bob Christiansen

Oscar Wilde's classic play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, has been delighting audiences for more than 100 years. This witty comedy, in which Wilde lampoons upper class society and exposes its trivialities, involves two young men, Jack and Algernon, who are taken with two charming young ladies, Gwendolyn and Cecily. The young ladies, however, can only love a man named Ernest.

Director Abby Lacey has chosen to put a delightful twist on this classic. Algernon and Gwendolyn are residents of New York instead of London, and Jack and his ward Cecily reside on the other end of Long Island, in The Hamptons. And instead of 1892 it is 1952.

Purists of Wilde's work should find much to like about OnStage's version, according to Lacey. "We are demonstrating that even when you change the time and place, Wilde's words and wit still ring true." Society has not lost its love of money and success. "Making trivialities important is just as common today as it was in Wilde's England and in America 50 years ago," Lacey points out.

Wilde's works are now in the public domain. Like other great plays of that period, notably those of Gilbert and Sullivan, they have lived on to delight many generations.

Our production of *Earnest* will feature two newcomers to our stage, Dustin Kisler and Enoch Wu, in the roles of Jack and Algernon. Two actresses who have appeared recently at OnStage, Layla

Stuckey (*Prelude to a Kiss*) and Jenna Dawsey (*Come Blow Your Horn*) will fill the roles of Gwendolyn and Cecily. Playing the social-conscious Mrs. Bracknell will be Kelly Lapczynski, who in 2005 was on our stage as Olive Madison in *The Odd Couple, Female Version*.

Rounding out the cast are Paola Hornbuckle as the proper and suspicious Miss Prism, and Bob Christiansen as the Reverend Frederick Chausible.

Please bring your friends and prepare to laugh at the delightful absurdities of this timeless classic. Reservations can be requested now on the web at www.onstageplayhouse.com or by telephoning (619) 422-RSVP [422-7787].



Jack and Algernon are in a quandry. The objects of their affection love them, but only if their name is Ernest. Layla Stuckey, Dustin Kisler, Enoch Wu, and Jenna Dawsey lead the cast. *Photo by Tony Eisenhower*

OSP Announces the 2007-2008 Season

by Teri Brown

Season tickets are not yet available for purchase, but we'd like to whet your appetite for our next season. I'm sure you will find it well-balanced and intriguing. We're presenting an outrageously silly farce, a Pulitzer Prize-winning black comedy, an American classic, a movie adaptation, a baseball-lover's comedy, and a musical retrospective of a well-loved comedian. Come play with us!

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) July 13-August 11, 2007

By Adam Long, Daniel Singer & Jess Winfield
Directed by James "Mike" McCulloch

An irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's plays. A mix of pratfalls, puns, willful misreadings of names and dialogue, clunky impersonations, clean-cut ribaldry, and broad burlesque.

HOW I LEARNED TO DRIVE Sept 7-Oct 6, 2007

By Paula Vogel. Directed by Carla Nell

Winner of the 1998 Pulitzer Prize, this is the story of a woman who learns the rules of the road and life from behind the wheel. A wildly funny, surprising and devastating tale of survival as seen through the lens of a troubling relationship between a young girl and an older man. (adult content)

NIGHT OF THE IGUANA Nov 2-Nov 30, 2007

By Tennessee Williams. Directed by Jennifer Jonassen

Tennessee Williams at his most poetic, emotionally wrenching, mordantly funny best. Four lost souls - a defrocked minister, a randy widow, a free-spirited girl and "the oldest living practicing poet" - commune one stormy night in a desolate Mexican hotel.

ORDINARY PEOPLE Jan 11-Feb 9, 2008

Based on Judith Guest's book, dramatized by Nancy Gilsean. Directed by Jay Mower

Conrad Jarrett had an older brother and now he's gone. What's left of Conrad's family, with his successful well-intentioned father and his organized and remote mother, is in terrible jeopardy, as is Conrad himself. They are all ordinary people, and they are each fighting a hard battle.

BLEACHER BUMS March 7-April 5, 2008

By Joe Mantegna & the Organic Theatre Co.
Directed by Bruce Wilde

In the bleachers at Chicago's Wrigley Field, die-hard Cub fans root for their team. They bet among themselves; go out for hot dogs, beer and frosty malts; and occasionally watch the game. Will the Cubs win the home game and who will the real winners turn out to be? Come to the game and find out!

GROUCHO: A LIFE IN REVUE

May 2-May 31, 2008

By Arthur Marx & Robert Fisher. Directed by Bob Christiansen

This inspired bio musical about The One and Only begins with Groucho as an old man doing his famous Carnegie Hall show. It then returns to the beginnings of the Marx Brothers and their struggles to make it in vaudeville, their rise to stardom, and their eventual break up.

Advertising Opportunities

Have you ever thought about putting your ad or business card in one of our programs? A business card is \$35 per program or \$200 for a whole season of six productions. A half-page ad is \$50 per program or \$250 for the season, and a whole page ad is \$100 per program or \$500 for the season.

We also need a sponsor for the back of our tickets which pays for the cost of printing them. Your coupon here is \$100 for the duration of the production which runs for 18 shows.

Our theatre seating capacity is 60 seats but when adding the cast, production crews and the three different volunteers for each night's show, your ad reaches even more people.

If you are interested in taking advantage of these opportunities, please call Janis Vanderford at 619-422-4065. Thanks. We would appreciate your consideration.

This issue of *Stage Write* was produced by the volunteer efforts of Janis Vanderford, Bob Christiansen, Teri Brown, and Betsy Keller.

President's Corner

By Betsy Keller

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful, joyous holiday and New Year.

OnStage is entering into the last half of our current season with *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Graduate*, followed by the hit musical, *Cabaret*. It is not too late to purchase your ticket or consider having a fundraiser for your special organization. Please contact me at 619-205-4113 for further details. Until then...see you at the theater!

OnStage to encore *The Vagina Monologues* to raise funds for a local charity

As we did last year, OnStage Playhouse will present three performances of *The Vagina Monologues* the weekend after Valentines Day. All proceeds will go to charity, the vast majority to a local organization that assists battered women. Performances are 8 pm February 16 and 17, 2 pm on February 18. All tickets are \$15.

This year's cast consists of ten outstanding local actresses, seven returning from last year, joined this year by Jo Dempsey, Kym Pappas, and Carla Nell. Reservations can be made on our web site and by telephone. Payment must be made in advance to guarantee seating. We now accept Master Card and Visa.

OnStage Playhouse now has a blog!

By means of a blog (which stands for web log), anyone can be a source of important (or in some cases, irrelevant) information. We now have our own OnStage Playhouse blog at <http://onstageplayhouse.blogspot.com>. A convenient link to our blog is on the home page of our web site (www.onstageplayhouse.org). Read our blog to get the inside scoop on some of the happenings at OnStage.

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE AUDITION NOTICE

The Graduate

Comedy by Terry Johnson

Directed by Daniel Zisko

Sunday, Jan. 14 and Tuesday, Jan. 16

(Note the change of dates from previously announced.)

The movie hit of the 60s is brought to life on stage. A college graduate is wooed by his father's best friend's wife.

Roles are available for 9 actors, male and female, ranging from college age to 50s. There will be no nudity in this production, but some actors will appear in underwear. A description of characters and further details may be found on the theatre web site, www.onstageplayhouse.org.

No reservations are required. Auditions will be held in the theater. Please arrive between 6:30 and 7:00 pm on either date or both. Auditions will be by cold reading from the script.

Around the County

We encourage you to support other community theatre companies in the county. Here are some of the upcoming shows being offered by our sister theatre groups in San Diego County.

Night Watch

PowPAC

January 19 - February 11

Call (858) 679-8085

Two For The Seesaw

Scripps Ranch Theater

February 9 - March 10

Call (858) 578-7728

Dracula

Coronado Playhouse

January 25 - February 24

Call (619) 435-4856

Cabaret

Patio Playhouse,

Escondido

March 2 - April 1

Call (760) 746-6669

Master Harold and The Boys

Community Actors

Theatre, San Diego

February 1 - 25

Call (619) 264-3391

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ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

P. O. Box 120044
Chula Vista, CA 91912

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE

Office Staff: Kimberly Garland
Technical Director: Chris Warner
Facilities Manager: Chad Oakley

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Lynne Batchelor	Charles Nichols
Bob Christiansen	Janis Vanderford
Rosemary King	Dan Zisko
Lisa Moctezuma	

Theater telephone: (619) 422-7787

Visit us on the web at

<http://www.onstageplayhouse.org>

email: OnStagePlayhouse@excite.com

PLAYING AT ONSTAGE. . .

The Importance of Being Earnest

by Oscar Wilde Directed by Abby Lacey

January 12 - February 10, 2007

The Graduate

by Terry Johnson Directed by Daniel Zisko

March 9 - April 7, 2007

Performances are Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings at 8:00 pm and Sunday afternoons at 2:00 pm

OUR THEATER IS LOCATED IN DOWNTOWN CHULA VISTA AT 291 THIRD AVENUE, NEAR F STREET. LOOK FOR THE GREEN AWNING

ONSTAGE PLAYHOUSE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY ORGANIZATION.

OnStage Playhouse is supported in part by a grant from Supervisor Greg Cox and the County Board of Supervisors.

Theatre renovation was made possible by a grant from the Colonel Frank C. Wood Memorial Fund at The San Diego Foundation.

The 2006-2007 Student Intern Program is funded in part by a grant from the Chula Vista Office of Arts and Culture.

This year's production of *Come Blow Your Horn* by Neil Simon was underwritten by a generous grant from The Parker Foundation.