



Adelaide Theatre Guide

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THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST

The University of Adelaide Theatre Guild

Little Theatre, University of Adelaide

Until 19 May 2007

Review by Fran Edwards

Some scripts are so well written no cast can truly destroy them. They are always funny. Wilde's "Earnest" is such a script. Put a script like this in the hands of a good cast and you have magic and that is exactly what the Guild are providing at the Little Theatre.

After being a little unsure of the set, which is Wiebkin's usual original potpourri of influences, the magic draws you in. Director June Barnes knows her craft, and with the aid of Ann Weaver, who is making her directorial debut, she has built a strong production.

Pam O'Grady is a delightful Lady Bracknell, not overpowering and bombastic but matriarchal and controlling, while Lindy LeCornu makes a precious Miss Prism full of warmth and confusion. Both of the young ladies are picture perfect and work well together. Marieka Hambleton is a wonderful Gwendolen making every one of the beautiful phrases count, nothing is thrown away. Abby Coleman, as Cecily, is innocence itself.

The boys do almost as well, though David Thring (Jack) could slow his delivery just a little in a few places to savour the words. Andrew Lawlor is bright and annoying just as Algernon should be and the two work well together. With such stalwarts as John Sharpe and Norman Athersmith in the smaller parts of Lane and Merriman and solid support from Gary George as Dr Chausible this production started ahead of the pack and the end result is a winner.

It is delightful to see a theatre classic given such a pleasant airing. If you are not familiar with the works of Oscar Wilde do yourself a favour and visit Earnest.