

HILLBILL

THE CENTER FOR THE ARTS



OSCAR WILDE'S



The Importance of Being Earnest



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The Hill School and the Ellis Theatre Guild present *The Importance of Being Earnest* on Wednesday, May 21, 2008 and Thursday, May 22, 2008 at 7:15 PM and on Friday, May 23, 2008 at 8:00 PM.

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HILLBILL

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CAST

Cast of Characters

Algernon Moncrieff	Max Barth
John Worthing, J. P. (Jack)	Drew Skitko
Rev. Canon Chasuble, D.D.	Pieter Ouwerkerk
Merriman	Robert Hirst
Lane	Mike Guzman
Lady Bracknell	Sierra Bintliff
Gwendolen Fairfax	Allison Holcomb
Cecily Cardew	Ellen Tamaki
Miss Prism	Eve Cremers

Musicians

Piano	Max Zhang
Cello	Emily Overholt
Flute	Melissa Lee

Assistant Directors & Stage Management

Nick Bessier, Chabrina Bruno, Zolzaya Erdenebileg, Elaine Han
and Sarah Horton

Crew

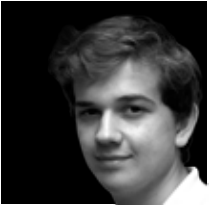
Kelly McNeil, Elliott Williams, Joe Donley, Josie Morgan,
Charlie Healy, Sam Steller, Erin Forester, Angelica Capone,
Will Duffield, Hope Robb, Liz Bevington, Enjolie Levengood,
and Jessie Fleck

CAST BIOGRAPHIES



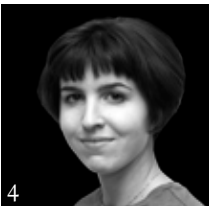
Drew Skitko
(Jack)
Sixth Form;
Pottstown, PA

In addition to playing Jack in *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Drew has held roles as Lamar in *Godspell*, Caphnit in *Babel's In Arms*, and Fred in *Kiss Me, Kate*. While at Hill, Drew has been a member of the Glee Club, Hilltones, The Hill School Magician's Society, the CAVE (Creative Artists' Venue), the Ellis Theatre Guild, and last and not least, JV girls tennis manager with his beloved roommate, Max Barth. Drew will be attending Westminster Choir College next year.



Max Barth
(Algernon/Earnest)
Sixth Form;
Limerick, PA

Max Barth was a Spanish conquistador. Barth accompanied Christopher Columbus on the latter's second voyage to the New World. He is also notable for his voyage to Florida, the first known European excursion there, as well as for being associated with the legend of the Fountain of Youth, which was said to be in Florida. In 1521, Barth organized an expedition landed on the southwest coast of Florida, in the vicinity of Caloosahatchee River or Charlotte Harbor. The colonists were soon attacked by Calusa Indians and Barth was injured by a poisoned arrow to the shoulder.



Allison Holcomb
(Gwendolen) Sixth Form;
Boyertown, PA

Allison is excited to make her final

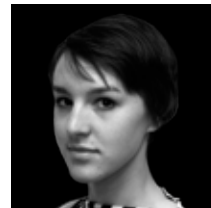
appearance on The Hill School stage after four years of great performances. Along with her role as Gwendolen, her favorite parts have been Luisa in *the Fantasticks* and Gertrude in *Fortinbras*. She has also enjoyed organizing and performing in the CAVE. While she will miss the drama program and the "acting crowd" at Hill, she is looking forward to studying dramatic writing at the Tisch School of the Arts at NYU this fall.



Ellen Tamaki
(Cecily Cardew)
Fourth Form;
Collegeville, PA

Before coming to Hill, Ellen was an active member of the Spring Ford Community Theatre where she played roles such as Laura in *The Glass Menagerie* and Emily in *Our Town*. At Skippack Playcrafters, she played Kate in *David and Lisa*. At Hill, she was involved with the winter musical, *Kiss Me, Kate*. Ellen would like to thank Mrs. Ortega for her devotion to the show and the cast for countless memories which have been dutifully entered into her diary.

Break a leg!



Sierra Bintliff
(Lady Bracknell)
Sixth Form;
100 Acre Woods, PA

This is Sierra's second acting role at Hill—she previously played a maiden in *Fortinbras*, two years ago. She is delighted to be part of drama at The Hill again. She will be matriculating at Wesleyan University this fall, hoping to take classes in Theatre and Mathematics.



Eve Cremers
(Miss Prism)
Sixth Form;
Pottstown, PA

The Importance of Being Earnest is Eve's eighth play here at Hill. Eve loves

Oscar Wilde and is thrilled to be a part of this show. She found the role of Miss Prism rather more challenging than she anticipated but has benefited from the struggle. In addition to theater, Eve also runs Cross-Country, paints, is Co-Editor-in-Chief of the literary magazine, and recently completed the Boston Marathon. She intends to continue studying theater and literature at Barnard College next fall and looks forward to seeing some good shows in New York.



Pieter Ouwerkerk
(Chausible)
Sixth Form;
Chester Springs,
PA

From his roles as Hamlet in *Fortinbras* in the Fourth

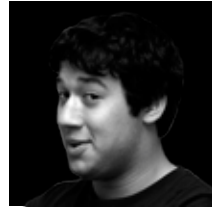
Form to Mortimer/"The Guy Who Plays Dead" in *The Fantasticks* last year, Pieter makes his sixth and final performance at Hill. Pieter's an active member of the Hill-tones, the Ellis Theater Guild, The CAVE, the Co-Editor-in-Chief of The Hill News, and the Head Peer Tutor of Hill's Peer Counseling program. Pieter will attend the University of Chicago in September.



Robert Hirst
(Merrian)
Fifth Form;
Lake Mary, FL

Besides performing in plays at the Hill, such as

Laertes in *Fortinbras*, and Dewey in *The Diviners*, and other plays at home such as *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* as Leroy Herdman, he also enjoys playing soccer, tennis, the guitar and piano in his spare time.



Michael Guzman
(Lane)
Fifth Form;
Baraboo, WI

Mike is thrilled to be participating in *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Play-

ing Lane has allowed him to expand his horizons in acting. Past roles include: Roger Hopewell in the musical comedy, *Murders of 1940*; Harold Hill in *The Music Man*; and most recently Gangster in the Hill School's production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. Sadly, this is Mike's farewell performance at Hill, as he will be returning to the cheese state. Thanks to the cast, crew, and Mrs. Ortega. Enjoy the show!



Max Zhang
(Pianist)
Fifth Form;
Nanjing, China

Max started playing the piano at the age of four and never quit. His pas-

sion of music—especially classical—and his devotion to piano got him involved in many musical events and programs. He is the pianist of The Hill School Orchestra, and represented Hill as the pianist for the District Orchestra. He played with the pit orchestra for the show *Kiss Me, Kate*. This time, Max composed all the music for the play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

LIST OF ACTS

Act One:

Lane, Algernon, Jack, Lady Bracknell, and Gwendolen

There will be a fifteen minute intermission between Acts One & Two

Act Two:

Miss Prism, Cecily, Chasuble, Merriman, Algernon, Jack, and Gwendolen

Act Three:

Gwendolen, Merriman Cecily, Algernon, Jack, Lady Bracknell, Chasuble, and Miss Prism

The Importance of Being Earnest is dedicated to one of the most earnest gentlemen on The Hill Campus:

Mr. Lou E. Jeffries

Performing in the play *The Importance of Being Earnest* allows us to embrace the challenge of portraying characters who live in a world very different from our own. Being undeniably 21st century teenagers, we often struggled during rehearsal to capture the Victorian posture and mannerisms while dressed in modern day clothes. It is difficult to feel the transformation take place onstage when you can't help but notice the word "Hill" printed on your sweatpants.

Costumes are an absolutely essential part of this play. Along with straightening our backs and making it very difficult to

breathe, they help us get into character and achieve a better understanding of this time period. It is thanks to Mr. Lou Jeffries' generous donation that we are able to reach this new level. He is one of the most thoughtful and knowledgeable people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. The success of *The Importance of Being Earnest* is largely because of his selfless gesture. On behalf of the entire cast, we are incredibly grateful and hope that you will allow us to dedicate our performance to you.

Written by Allison Holcomb

Sixth Form; Boyertown, PA

SPECIAL THANKS

The Importance of Being Earnest is presented through special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Dan Katzenmoyer

Kay and David Dougherty

Ned Barth

Burt Merriam

Joanne Egrie

Mike McKibben

Craig Strunk

Jennifer Gaenzle

Korinne Richardson

Memmy & Pappy's Place Stand

Chad Eline

Denise Spatarella

Chuck Garretson

Cathy and Andy Skitko

Highlights: Music of *The Importance of Being Earnest*

It is my great pleasure to compose music for the play, *The Importance of Being Earnest*. Originally, the director of the play, Mrs. Ortega, asked me to pick different classical pieces to underscore the show. Because putting the works of different musicians, from different time periods wouldn't unify the show, I decided to compose the music on my own.

The Importance of Being Earnest is set in London during the middle of the 1800s, or the Victorian period. In addition, the story follows the social interactions of upper-class families. Therefore, the music should be elegant and follow certain mannerisms.

The opening music of Act I is the skeleton of the whole composition and the opening of the play. While listening to that, I'd like you to imagine that you're on the street of the city of London, watching decorated wagons passing each other. Ladies and gentlemen dress up nicely, smiling, greeting each other, talking about the "changeable weather" in London. Then the scene changes to a nice grand mansion with a butler dressed up in a tuxedo—taking care of the living room. In this act, two main characters are introduced: Lady Bracknell and Gwendolen. Lady Bracknell is the matriarch of a wealthy and powerful family; she is serious and traditional. I wrote music for her using low-pitches for seriousness, performed on the piano and cello (Emily Overholt). Gwendolen, on the other hand, is young and pretty, since she is the daughter of this family. My music for her is mild and mostly

in the mid-high pitch range to assist the moderate melody composed for her.

Act II moves from the city of London to the nice countryside just outside of the urban setting. The third important character, Cecily enters in the opening scene of this Act. Cecily is young and innocent. The actress who plays Cecily, Ellen Tamaki, is also an energetic and outgoing person. To match them with the beautiful country view of England, the music is bright and jumpy. The melody of the opening music of Act II is played by flute (Melissa Lee), and accompanied by the piano. In Act II, there are several romantic scenes and the conflict of the play begins to reveal itself. To match all the different scenes, I wrote music in different key ranges with different speeds—this helps deliver the message to the audience.

Act III is the climax of the whole show, the place where all the conflicts meet at an ultimately happy ending. My favorite composition in Act III is the music of Miss Prism's confession. During that scene, my music will take you back 29 years along with Miss Prism's description, and play out what was happening.

In the end, my goal is for you to sit back and enjoy our performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*.

Written by Max Zhang
Fifth Form;
Nanjing, China



THE HILL SCHOOL AND ELLIS THEATER GUILD PRESENT

The Importance of Being Earnest

WRITTEN BY **OSCAR WILDE**

MUSIC BY **MAX ZHANG**

STARRING

MAX BARTH
SIERRA BINTLIFF
ELLEN TAMAKI
EVE CREMERS

DREW SKITKO
ALLISON HOLCOMB
PIETER OUWERKERK
ROBERT HIRST

AND **MIKE GUZMAN**

COMPOSER & PIANIST

MAX ZHANG

MUSICIANS

EMILY OVERHOLT & MELISSA LEE

COSTUMES

CHABRINA BRUNO

LIGHTING

JOE DONLEY

PUBLICIST & POSTER DESIGNER

PIETER OUWERKERK

TECHNICAL DIRECTOR & SET

MIKE McKIBBEN

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

ZOLZAYA ERDENEBILEG

STAGE MANAGER AND ACCENT COACH

NICHOLAS BESIER

PROPERTIES

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PHOTOGRAPHER

CHAD ELINE

CREW

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CHARLIE HEALY, SAM STELLER, ERIN FORESTER, ANGELICA CAPONE,
WILL DUFFIELD, LIZ BEVINGTON, ENJOLIE LEVENGOOD AND JESSIE FLECK,
PAINT HOPE ROBB

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

MARISA ORTEGA