

**MERELY PLAYERS  
ANNOUNCES OPEN AUDITIONS FOR  
THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**

***A Trivial Comedy for Serious People*  
By Oscar Wilde**

**Monday and Tuesday June 1 and 2, 2026 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.**

Merely Players is excited to offer the opportunity for adult community members to work together once again as we produce this witty comedic classic. Open to adults age 18 and above.

**DESCRIPTION:** Filled with wit, mischief, and silly romance, *The Importance of Being Earnest* is a beloved and dazzling Oscar Wilde classic. In a world where identities are invented, manners are everything, and cucumber sandwiches are a battleground, nothing is quite what it seems—and that's exactly the point. It's an exquisite playground of sparkling language, elegance, and unapologetic ridiculousness.

The show is directed by Mona Wood-Patterson, with design and tech direction by Charles Ford.

**CHARACTERS**

**John (Jack) Worthing, male, Age range:** 25–40 presenting

A fundamentally decent man living a double life. Earnest (pun intended), responsible, and slightly repressed, but capable of dry wit. Must Pair with Gwendolen

**Algernon Moncrieff, male, Age range:** 25–45 presenting

Charming, idle, and gloriously unserious. A dandy with razor-sharp wit and impeccable timing. He treats life as a game and is very good at it. Must Pair with Cecily

**Gwendolen Fairfax, female, Age range:** 20–35 presenting

Elegant, poised, and absolutely certain of her own taste and judgment. She is romantic, but in a highly stylized, almost intellectual way. Must Pair with Jack.

**Cecily Cardew, female, Age range:** 18–28 presenting

Youthful, imaginative, and delightfully self-invented. She lives in a fantasy of her own making—and writes it down. Less “innocent ingénue” and more quietly subversive. Must Pair with Algernon.

**Lady Bracknell, female, Age range:** 55–75 presenting

A force of nature. The arbiter of taste, class, and morality—according to herself. Her authority is absolute, and her logic is hilariously skewed.

**Miss Prism, female, Age range: 50–75 presenting**

A governess with a moral backbone and a romantic past she'd rather not revisit. Earnest, proper, and prone to intellectual tangents. Must Pair with Rev. Chausuble.

**Rev. Chasuble, male, Age range: 50–75 presenting**

A kindly, somewhat absent-minded clergyman. Mildly flirtatious beneath a veneer of piety. He adapts his tone to suit the situation—often amusingly so. Must pair with Miss Prism.

**Lane (Algernon's servant)/ Merriman (Jack's butler) Age range: 40 – 75 presenting**

One actor will play both roles. Unflappable, discreet, and quietly observant. His dry delivery and subtle reactions set the tone early. The humor comes from understatement and precision.

**THEATRE TECHNICIANS**

We are also looking for fun and capable backstage technicians. No experience is necessary – we train. Those interested in tech are welcome to come on either date for a tech interview.

**REHEARSALS AND PERFORMANCE:**

**6 week rehearsal period**

Aug. 17 -20, M-Th; Aug. 24 - 27, M- Th; Aug 31 – Sept. 3, M-Th; Sept. 7 – 11, M-F; Sept. 14 -17 , M-Th; Sept 21 - 24, M -Th

**Show runs for 10 performances.**

Friday, Sept. 25; Saturday, Sept. 26; Sunday, Sept. 27 -matinee

Tuesday, Sept. 29; Thursday, Oct. 1; Friday, Oct. 2

Saturday, Oct. 3 – two shows – matinee and evening

Sunday, Oct. 4 – closing matinee

Please be sure to discuss any known conflicts with the director – sometimes, it's possible we can work around a conflict or two if we know in advance You will not be considered if you cannot make it to all rehearsals in the last two weeks and all performances.

**AUDITION DETAILS:**

Auditions are on Monday and Tuesday, June 1 and 2, 2026 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Everyone auditioning can appear at 6:00 on either date. Callbacks by invitation only may be slated later.

Your acting audition will consist of monologue sides and a cold reading. Choose one or two of the monologue sides for your audition. Memorization is required.

If you are unable to attend the audition in person, you may submit your audition by video to [merelydirectors@gmail.com](mailto:merelydirectors@gmail.com) You will also need to submit the audition form at that time. The deadline is June 1, 2026.

**AUDITION LOCATION:**

**MERELY UNDERGROUND – 789 Tech Center Drive**